

Christmas Treasure Baskets

Encourage children to explore new sensory objects and experiences in our Christmas-inspired activity.

Resources

- A small Santa hat
- A small snow globe
- Tinsel
- Ribbon
- Bells
- Decorations made from different materials
- Wrapping paper
- Card
- A square of fleecy fur material
- A square with fur on one side/silk on other
- Pine cone
- Wooden bark type whistle
- Wooden bell type rattle
- Bubble wrap sewed into a voile square
- Wooden Santa figure
- A sparkly glitter ball
- Mirrors/ mirrored ornaments
- Bags filled with spices.
- A sturdy low sided basket (wide-based, shallow at the sides and sturdy as not to tip if children lean on it).



Try to provide a range of objects of different texture, colour, size, shape and weight for exploration.

Activity Outline

- Add your chosen items to your basket
- Prepare a quiet space with room for children to sit and explore (remove/minimise all other distractions)
- Put the basket on the floor for children to independently explore.

The adult should be on hand to supervise and ensure safety during exploration of the items.

Special considerations

- *Be sensitive to children's feelings and emotions as they settle; note specific times that may raise children's anxiety levels. For example, lunchtime can be noisy and busy; some children may worry if they do not like the food*
- *Using the toilets in a new setting can be difficult for some children; particularly if they have moved from nursery to school where they may have had a lot of support*
- *Activities, such as circle time, puppets and stories, give children the opportunity to express themselves in a safe environment*
- *Focus on children's reactions, body and facial language through your everyday observations.*