



Merry Christmas



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Merry Christmas

Enrichment Opportunities

Songs



Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Little Donkey

Story



Wrap up your Christmas books and ask a child to unwrap at story time

Outdoors



Sleigh building

Investigation



Make artificial snow

Sand



Build 'sandmen'

Water



Replace water with polystyrene balls and hide Christmas trinkets

Life Play



A Christmas tree for children to redecorate

Maths



Make a bauble number line. Create the numbers on the baubles using glue and glitter.

Creative



Paperchains with repeating patterns

Physical Movement



Invent their own actions to traditional Christmas songs



Activity 1

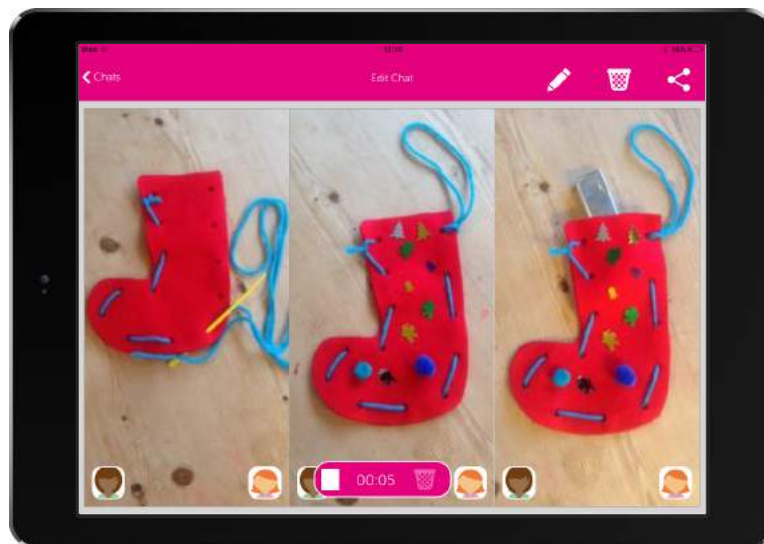


Look at some Christmas stockings with the children. Do any of the children have a Christmas stocking? Where do they put them and why?

Children make their own mini Christmas stockings. Give the children two pre-cut stocking shapes (felt or card) with punched holes along the edges. Using a blunt tapestry needle children thread wool in and out of the holes to fix the stocking pieces together. Children decorate their stockings with felt/pictures/gems etc. Fill with a small treat.



Take photographs of the beginning/middle/end of the stocking making process. Can the children describe the various stages. Did they find anything tricky? Adult can help model sequencing language, for example, 'First', 'then', 'in the end'.



Writing/speaking activity: Can they talk/write about their Christmas wish list?



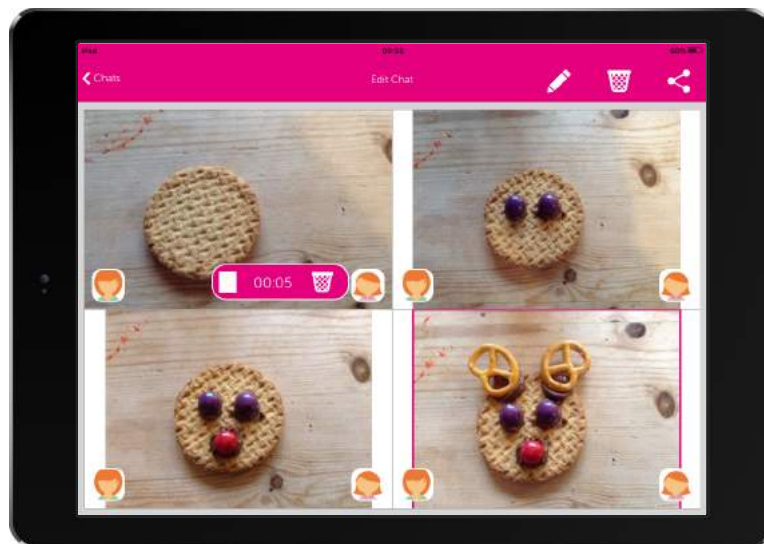
Activity 2



Sing Rudolph the red nosed reindeer with the children. Look at some images of real reindeers. Talk about the things that make them a reindeer. Make some Rudolph biscuits. Take a plain biscuit/cracker and make a reindeer face by using blobs of chocolate spread to 'glue' on sweetie eyes and nose and pretzel antlers.



Take photographs of different stages of the making of the Rudolph biscuits. Children describe how they made their plain biscuit into Rudolph! The adult can model new vocabulary such as pretzel and antlers.



Writing/speaking activity: Children can use their biscuit to practise using positional language such as, the nose is in the middle, the antlers are on the top....



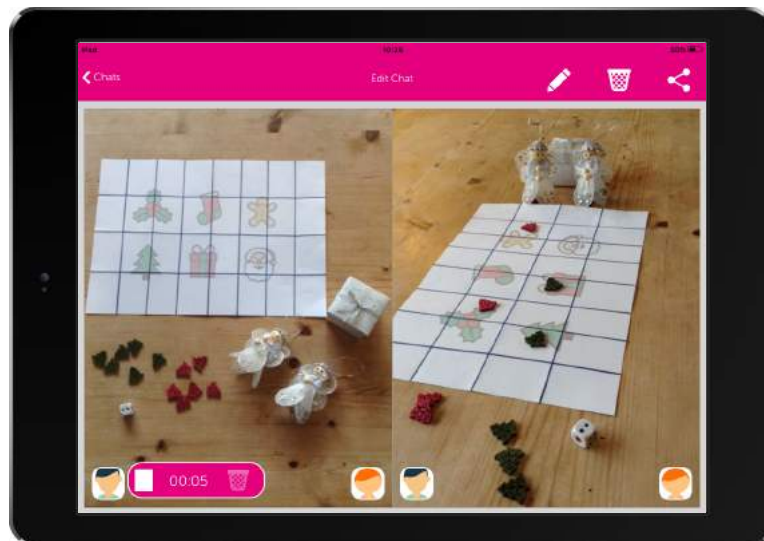
Activity 3



This activity can be tailored to suit the needs of the children in your setting. Provide the children with a grid (dimensions appropriate to the children involved) and some Christmas 'counters' and Christmas themed objects. It is a game for two or more players. The children take it in turns to roll the dice and move their counters accordingly. The aim of the game is to be the first player to get all their counters to their Christmas angel (who could house the counters in a lovely box!). The beauty of this game is how adaptable it can be, for example the size of the grid, the number of counters involved. As well as providing opportunities for turn taking and sharing, the game also offers scope for children to create their own rules. The theme of Christmas can also easily be transferred to other topics.



The open ended nature of this game provides plenty of opportunities for children to talk about their experience. They could, for example, describe the objects involved in the game, who they played with, how they decided who would go first, and the rules of the game.



Writing/speaking activity: Children could describe the rules of their game to other children. They could write their rules if able.



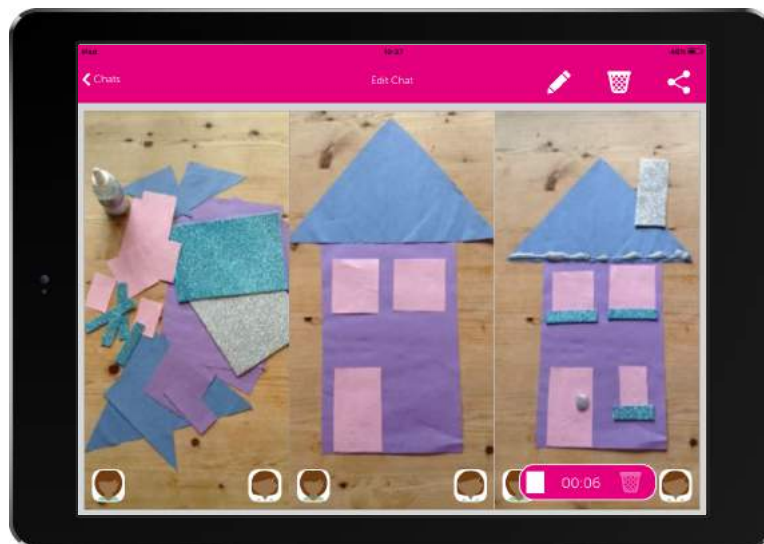
Activity 4



This activity is best undertaken during a cold spell of weather. You could arrange a short walk around some local footpaths to look at the houses in the frosty weather. Back in the setting children create their own 'frosty' houses using coloured shapes (squares/rectangles/triangles) and glitter. Using shades of purples, pinks and blues and a mixture of metallic materials makes for an interesting effect.



Take photographs of the materials on offer to the children and children's houses at various stages of the making process. Children talk about the shapes they chose and what part of the house they became. Does their house look frosty? Why?



Writing/speaking activity: Children label the different parts of the house.

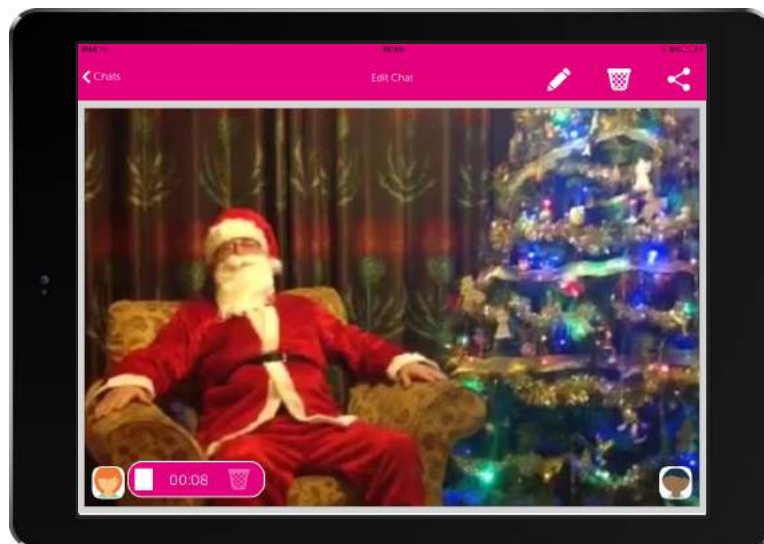
Activity 5



Invite Father Christmas to your setting (a willing volunteer!). This could be a magical experience for the children if your chosen individual really gets into character. This would provide lots of opportunities for the children to listen to what Father Christmas is up to at the moment and they could ask him any questions too.



Take photographs of Father Christmas visiting your setting for children to reflect on. What do they remember about what Father Christmas said?



Writing/speaking activity: What would they like for Christmas?

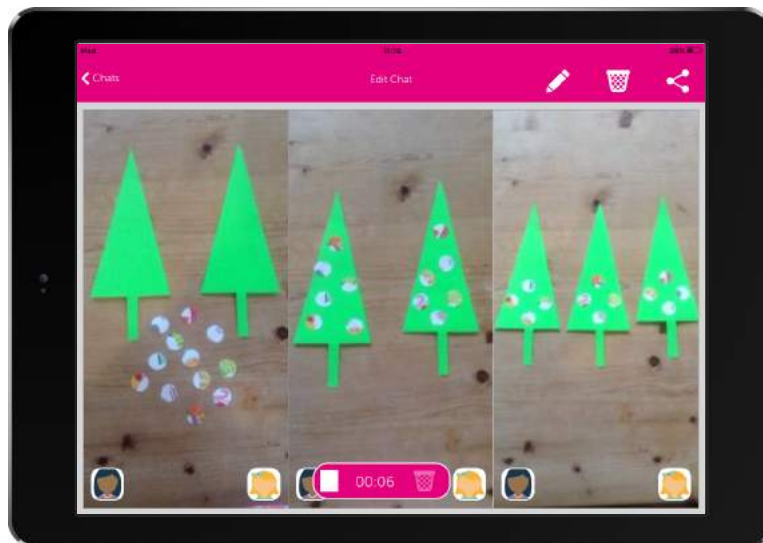
Activity 6



Children have to share a given number of 'baubles' between a number of Christmas trees. For example you could start by giving the children 12 baubles to share equally between two Christmas trees. The activity can easily be adapted to suit the needs of the children by giving them more or less baubles. The activity can be extended by introducing another Christmas tree once the baubles have been shared. It may be appropriate to use numbers of baubles that cannot be shared equally to encourage talk on how to solve this particular issue. It may also be appropriate to provide one tree for a child to simply decorate which can be photographed and reflected upon later.



Take photographs of the problem. Can the children describe how they solved the problem? Did the Christmas trees get the same amount of baubles in the end?



Writing/speaking activity: Do they have a tree at home? What is it like?

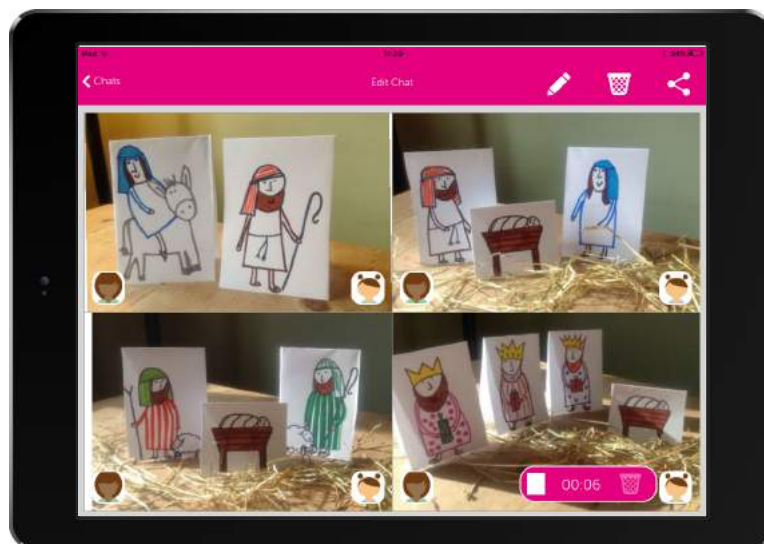


Activity 7



Read the children a simple version of the Nativity story or tell it simply using pictures and props. Discuss the characters and what happens at different parts of the story.

Take photographs of the beginning, middle and end of the story. Talk with the children about the story, sequencing it together. Model the language needed to describe the different sections of the story. Can the children retell the story using the sequenced images as prompts?



Writing/speaking activity: What present would they give to baby Jesus?



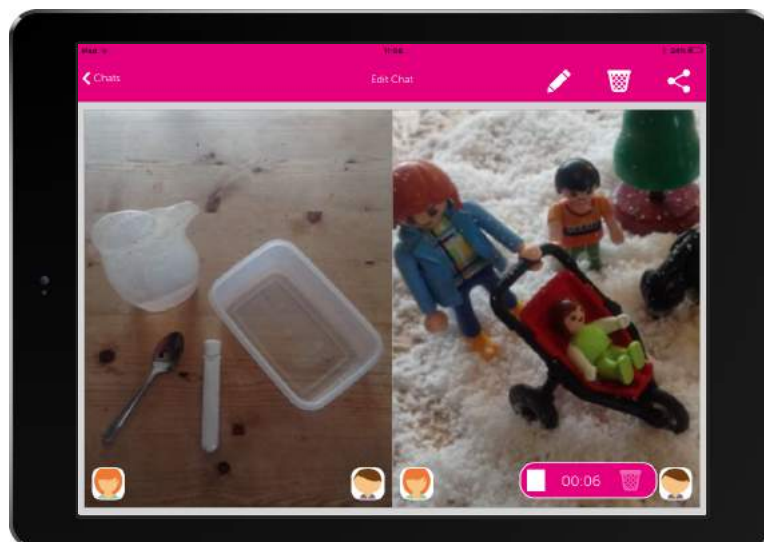
Activity 8



Prepare a feely box (cardboard box with small hand sized hole) containing artificial snow. Invite the children to feel what is inside. Help the children describe what they can feel. Reveal the 'pretend' snow. Children experiment making their own artificial snow by adding water to the mixture. The pretend snow can then be used for their small world play.



Take photographs of the 'pretend' snow being made. With modelling and support the children explain the process of making the snow and how it felt in the end.



Writing/speaking activity: Children play with the snow, making up 'stories' using the small world characters.



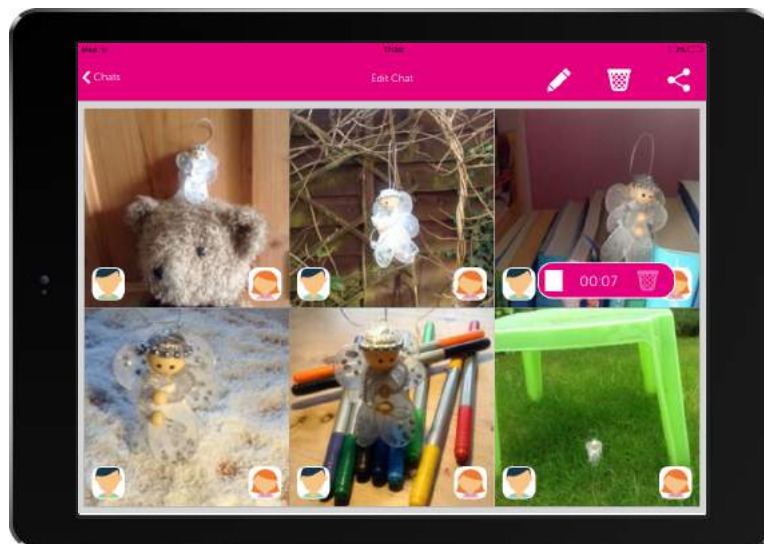
Activity 9



One morning show the children a Christmas fairy that has 'appeared' somewhere in your setting. Describe where she is and discuss with the children where she may have come from. Over the following days, place the fairy in a different part of your setting. The children should enjoy looking for her and this activity provides plenty of opportunities for discussion and wonderment!



Take photographs of the fairy in her different locations, in and out of the setting. Use the images to reflect upon where she was found. The photographs could be used to model positional language.



Writing/speaking activity: Write messages to the fairy and leave them out for her to read.





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