

CHRISTMAS PARTY

FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

This project presents a description of a 3 hour event in which children take part in a number of activities related to the Christmas theme in order to acquire English. This is highly engaging and hands-on learning experience which is easy to adapt to different ages, proficiency levels and can even be spread out over a series of lessons.

Rationale: Learning about and experiencing foreign and local traditions in childhood helps children develop a greater understanding of the world around them and accept and appreciate differences between cultures and peoples. In addition, Christmas is a time that as people typically give and receive gifts. This provides us with the opportunity to work with the concept of generosity towards others. It is also the perfect context for learning vocabulary and structures related to the symbols of Christmas that the students may come across in their daily lives outside the classroom (depending on the country you teach in).

Age: 3-7 years old

Number of participants: up to 36

Duration: 3 hours

Activities:

This project provides a variety of different learning opportunities:

- Cookie decorating;
- Christmas songs in English;
- Art and craft;
- Physical movement games;
- Sensory games;
- Donation of toys.

See examples on the last page of this document.

Aims:

- Create a positive attitude towards and interest in learning English;
- Recognize and produce the words and structures that are presented
- Learn the lyrics of typical Christmas songs.



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Suggested Sequence of Activities

1. (40 minutes) Arrival

- Greet children and generate interest in the theme by letting them dress up and tak photos in Photobooth using themed props (see examples below).
- Bring the group together for a game of Hide and Seek. The children will have to try to find Christmas Elves that were previously hidden around the space.

2. (20 minutes) Welcome Circle

Welcome and explanation of Christmas.

Present the vocabulary in a playful way (for example, below).

Explain how the party will be organized and explain demonstrate how to play with the materials at each activity center.

3. (60 minutes) Guided Play in Activity Centers

Around the room you will have previously set up play centers with different theme based activities. (see examples of the centers below). The teachers (and English speaking assistants for large groups) monitors and provides language support where necessary, eliciting the target language. A signal such as the sound of a ghost or Santa's laugh is played after 15 minutes to indicate that they have 1 minute to tidy up the activity. A second signal is played to change to a new activity center. Repeat in all centers.

4. (15 minutes) Learn a Christmas Song

5. (15 minutes) Wrap donated toys and place under the tree.

6. (15 minutes) Try some thematic Christmas food

7. Free play until the end of the lesson!



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Ideas for the Photobooth:

www.etsy.com (PartyGoodies)

www.brit.co/holiday-photo-booths



Activity Centers:

Fine motor & Sensory

Playdough Christmas Tree Decoration: <http://bit.ly/2hZfow5>

Peppermint Rice: <http://bit.ly/2AhVOTT>

Magnet Sensory Bin:

Christmas Tree Ball Sort: <http://bit.ly/2neoD0T>

Pinecone Trees: <http://bit.ly/2jtq1OA>



Craft

Homemade clay ornaments: <http://bit.ly/2AkzzNs>

Star Ornament: <http://bit.ly/2nebepw>

Potato Print Wrapping Paper



Cookie Decorating

