

# Community of Practice Tip Sheet

## AN INCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS



Celebrating different cultures during Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to create an inclusive environment that ensures all children feel valued and respected. Early Years Teachers have a unique role in fostering this inclusivity, which includes honouring the diverse cultural backgrounds represented in their settings. It's essential to engage with parents and families thoughtfully to understand and respect their traditions, creating a meaningful and respectful celebration for everyone.

This festive period offers a valuable chance to engage children in learning about the rich variety of traditions and practices from cultures around the world. By doing so, we not only celebrate the holiday season but also teach children important lessons about diversity, respect, and community. Much like the thoughtful approaches shared by participants in the LINC+ CPD Community of Practice for celebrating children's birthdays, this time of year can inspire creative and inclusive ways to bring everyone together in meaningful celebration.



An action song to sing at circle time.

Teacher wears a Santa hat and shakes jingle bells as she moves around the circle stopping at each child to get on the sleigh.

*"Here comes Santa on his Sleigh  
Hooray Hooray for Christmas Day  
Clippity dop Clippity dop  
Where will Santa's reindeer stop?"*

**Babies**  
**Sensory Christmas Bottles:**  
 Fill clear bottles with festive items like sparkly tinsel, bells, colored water, or glitter. Babies can shake and explore these safe, sensory-filled objects.  
**Festive Texture Boards:**  
 Create tactile boards with a variety of materials: soft felt, shiny foil, rough tree bark, or fluffy cotton "snow."  
**Jingle Bell Shakers:**  
 Use bells secured inside child-safe containers for babies to shake and make music.  
**Gentle Christmas Lights Exploration:**  
 Allow babies to observe twinkling, colorful lights (supervised) for visual stimulation.  
**Christmas Sing-Along:**  
 Sing simple festive songs, incorporating actions or finger plays (e.g., "Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star"). Try incorporating other languages and include Lamh



### Inclusive Ideas to bring your whole setting together

**Cultural Celebration Wall:**  
 Create a collaborative mural showcasing festive traditions from all cultures represented in your group.

**Community Tree:**  
 Children can each decorate a paper ornament representing their family or culture to hang on a shared tree.

**Music and Movement:**  
 Incorporate songs from various traditions with simple instruments like tambourines, drums, or maracas.

**Sensory Holiday Scents:**  
 Provide opportunities to explore holiday scents (e.g., cinnamon, vanilla, pine) using cotton pads or sachets.



### Young Children

**Holiday Card Making:**  
 Encourage children to make cards for family members or local community services (e.g., nursing homes).

**Festive Role-Playing:**  
 Create stations for traditional festive activities like decorating cookies, wrapping presents, or acting out holiday stories.

**Around-the-World Festivities:**  
 Have children "travel" to different countries through themed activities:

- Make paper lanterns for Lunar New Year.
- Create dreidels for Hanukkah.
- Learn a simple dance from another culture.

**Winter Art Projects: Always being mindful of process over product**  
 Create snowmen with cotton balls, paint winter landscapes, or make snowflakes with craft sticks and glitter.  
 Create a wrapping station with paper, scissors, empty boxes and lots of sticky tape

**Outdoor Fun:**  
 Build a snowman, collect natural materials to make festive wreaths, or go on a "holiday treasure hunt."

**Festive Yoga or Movement:**  
 Introduce themed poses or movements (e.g., "star stretch," "tree pose") for a calming holiday activity.



**Light Exploration:**  
 Use child-safe lanterns or project holiday-themed lights onto walls for sensory play.

**Create a Festive "Loose Parts" Tray:**  
 Fill a tray with natural materials (e.g., pinecones, ribbons, small stones) for children to build and create.

Create an "ELF" station where children could clean/fix toys to give to charity shops