

# EARLY LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS

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## Christmas Activities That Build Literacy Skills

*The festive season is the perfect time to rummage through the 'junk' drawer, pull out some glue sticks, scissors and pencils, and get creative!*

Christmas is a great opportunity to celebrate with fun, hands-on, literacy based activities. Here are a few fun holiday activities designed to keep your child entertained and practice important literacy skills, while getting into the festive spirit. Enjoy!

### **Create a Christmas Scrapbook**

Flip through newspapers, catalogues and magazines together and find things that remind you of Christmas to paste into a Christmas scrapbook. You can add your own drawings and family photos too! Get your child to label each of the things they have included in their scrapbook and encourage them to 'write'. For example, if you choose a photo of snow, have them try to write, "snow" as a caption. Afterward, say the words aloud or show them how to write it.

### **Make Home Made Christmas Cards**

Use construction paper, glue, glitter, stickers to make Christmas cards for your child to hand out to family & friends. Have them 'sign' the cards with their name. As children begin to become interested in writing, practice writing their name will help them master it quickly. You can make dots for them trace, as they begin, to help them.

### **Write to Santa**

Let your child practice their letter writing by reviving this traditional Christmas pastime! Get your child to draft a wish list. They can choose from pictures & you can write the name of what they have chosen. Seeing that written words can describe things is a great connection for them to make as they expand their writing skills. You can even get them to personalise the letter with information about themselves and sign their name!

### **A Christmas Poem**

Get your child to brainstorm things that remind them of Christmas. Encourage them to think about items, animals, foods, activities and emotions (e.g. excitement, surprise, happiness). Once they've thought up a good list of Christmas-related things, help them compose a two-verse poem, verse one beginning with the words "It's Christmas outside when..." followed by some descriptive sentences, and the second verse beginning with "It's Christmas at home when..." followed by more sentences.





## Frosty the Snowman

Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul  
 With a corn cob pipe and a button nose  
 And two eyes made out of coal

Frosty the snowman is a fairy tale they say  
 He was made out of snow, but the children know  
 How he came to life one day

There must have been some magic in that old silk cap  
 they found

For when they placed it on his head  
 He began to dance around

Frosty the snowman was alive as he could be  
 And the children say he could laugh and play  
 Just the same as you and me

Thumpety, thump, thump; Thumpety, thump, thump,  
 look at Frosty go.

Thumpety, thump, thump; Thumpety, thump, thump,  
 over the hills of snow!

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I'm a Little Christmas Tree

(Sung to I'm A Little Teapot)

I'm a little Christmas tree, pretty as can be.  
 Standing in the window for all of you to see.

Watch my lights twinkling, oh, so bright.

With My decorations, I'm a lovely sight!



You're never too old,  
 too wacky, too wild,  
 to pick up a book  
 and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss