

GET READY

The Get Ready Activity is planned to take place sometime in December, before Christmas. The idea is that in running an event for children, probably on a Saturday afternoon, that you will help families by giving them some child free space to do their own Christmas preparations.

The overall plan of the event is up to you, but this is my suggestion.

EVENT RUNS FROM 2.30-5.00pm

2.30-2.45 Get ready to decorate – have an unadorned Christmas tree up and a selection of decorations they could make fairly quickly to put on it as everyone is arriving. Doily stars, paper chains, brown paper reindeer.

2.45- 4.00 Introduce Advent with a game. Laminated pictures of Christian and secular Advent images. Children work in pairs or small groups to put them in the order that they think goes from very important to not important. Encourage (but don't demand) some comment about why they've chosen this order. Blu-tak each group's response with their names to a table/wall etc and don't comment on what you think of their order.

Explain that Advent is a time of Getting Ready so all the activities are about that.

1. GET READY TO GIVE – Brown paper, potato prints – take paper home when dry and use it to wrap a special present for someone.



2. GET READY TO CELEBRATE – Make a headdress that you can wear to be one of the characters in the Nativity Play.



6. "Get Ready" by Sara Brown – Children's Adviser
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3. GET READY TO PROMISE – Often the most special gifts are not something you give, but something you do. You could promise to tidy your room, or empty the dishwasher, or even to give someone a break and come to the after Christmas event. Use one of the hearts to write your promise gift to someone.



4. GET READY TO WAIT – Walking Water science experiment. There are lots of conversations you could have about this – how when we are Christians we want Christ's love to reach everyone , but it might not happen straight away.

5. GET READY TO REMEMBER IMMANUEL, GOD IS WITH US, – use cardboard boxes, lego or fabric plus little figures as in the Bible Boxes. Tell the nativity story to each other and remember how amazing it is that Jesus came to earth from heaven for us. If possible take some photos of your scene.



At 4.00 tidy up and show any that people are especially proud of. Have another look at the order of your pictures. Do you want to move any in the list? Why?

4.15

Play **“ADVENT Pictionary”** and use this to remind the children of what Advent is really all about!

Have two teams, two flip charts and pens and two adults to give the next word when it has been guessed correctly.

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Eg **WAITING** – who are we waiting for, and why is this when he was born so long ago.

PREPARE = how do we prepa?

WREATH ETC

4.30 If possible give some tea. If you have somewhere to cook, perhaps pizzas and some carrot/cucumber sticks might be easiest. The ideas is that it gives parents one less thing to do later.

Perhaps choc ices, cookies and or fruit might be good for afters and squash/water to drink.

(Watch “Advent – Waiting for Jesus” on You Tube, Dublin Diocese

As parents arrive make sure they have a notice to take with them telling when the crib service and the January event is.

Supervise each child leaving with the correct adult!

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IDEAS FOR SIMPLE DECORATIONS TO MAKE AS EVERYONE IS ARRIVING

1. HAND SHAPE REINDEERS

You need:

- Brown card
- Glittery pipecleaners
- Green and red ribbon
- Wiggle eyes
- Tiny jewels and/or mini pompoms
- Pencils, scissors, glue and hole punch



To Make:

- a) The children draw around their hand with a pencil and cut out the shape (adult help for younger)
- b) They use the pipecleaners, jewels and eyes to decorate
- c) Punch a hole in the back of the reindeer and tie a ribbon to hang on the tree (adult help maybe needed)

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2, SNOWMAN LOLLYSTICKS

You need:

- Large lolly sticks (painted white if you have the time and inclination)
- Scraps of fabric and fabric scissors (adult help needed)
- Mixed buttons
- Orange card triangles
- Fine black felt pen
- String or thin ribbon to hang on tree.



To Make

- a) Make a face on one end of the lolly stick.
- b) Add the orange carrot nose
- c) Glue on a fabric scarf
- d) Stick buttons on.
- e) Glue or tape ribbon or string to the back to hang up.

3. TRIANGLE TREES

You need:

- Lolly sticks (just green or multi-coloured)
- Glue
- Small pompoms
- Brown card
- String

To Make

- a) Glue three lolly sticks together to make a triangle.
- b) Stick a brown rectangle on one of the sticks to be a tree trunk.
- c) Glue pompoms on the sticks
- d) Tie string around the top corner of the tree.



4. MERRY MATCHBOXES

You need:

- Craft matchboxes (from



<http://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-matchboxes-1> price 12p each)

- Assorted Christmas wrapping paper – choose a small design and aim to cut into rectangles which will wrap around the box to cover it.
- Christmas stickers/stars
- Narrow ribbon and tape
- If you would like to – small sweets to hide in the matchbox

To make

- a) Glue chosen Christmas paper around the matchbox
- b) Add some Christmas stickers and/or stars.
- c) Tape a ribbon on the back.
- d) Maybe put some tiny sweets in your matchbox!

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