

GET OWT!

OUTSIDE WITH TODDLERS



Nativity Session

Leader's Notes

This session is designed to enable families to explore the Christmas story in the outdoors. It consists of a Nativity trail, nature crafts and a shelter making activity.

Nativity trail:

- For the Nativity trail you could use your own Nativity figures, e.g. large wooden or knitted ones, or print out the large versions of the clipart characters included with this resource.
- A pack of 144 Nativity (children's reward) stickers are available from Amazon for approximately £3, or you may like to source some elsewhere.

Nature crafts:

Wise Men crowns

For this craft you will need:

- Blank crowns, or you can cut your own out from A2 paper – a simple zig zag shape will work well.
- Double-sided tape all the way around outside of the crown.
- Large jewels

Stick stars

For this craft you will need:

- Six lengths of string in each pack (one to hang it up)
- Your choice of berries and leaves, gold ribbon and bells or
- self-adhesive pom poms etc to decorate.

Nativity sticker scene

Print the colour-in stable on thin card so it could be folded to stand up. Nativity foam stickers are available from Baker Ross. Put them in separate small bowls or pots along the Nativity trail for families to collect as they read each part of the story.



Make a shelter

For this activity you will need:

- Foil tray/paper plate or something similar to work on.
- Playdough (Imagination Tree website has a good recipe)
- Sticks – could be collected from outside area if not too wet.
- Hessian fabric cut into roof-sized pieces.
- Simple Mary, Joseph and Jesus figures – wooden peg dolls, laminated cut outs, or clay to make their own.

Other ideas

- Think about what other decorations you could put up around the trail to make it feel special.
- You could invite children to come dressed up as nativity characters, e.g. angel wings, tea towels and dressing gowns for shepherds, animal ears (anything which will fit over the top of coats and warm clothes of course).
- Could you play Christmas music/carols from a speaker or better yet, get a small ensemble together? Be sure to check with the latest guidelines relating to singing/music making.

