

Christmas celebration

OBJECTIVE: A fun time at Christmas.

5 minutes

Opening: Hop, flag break and welcome

5 minutes

Game: Cut the Christmas cake

Stand the Joeys in a circle, except for one who stands in the middle as IT. They all sing the rhyme *Clap your hands together* (clap), *Give yourself a shake* (shake), *Make a happy circle* (hold hands), *Then IT cuts the cake* (IT chops a hand down on two hands held together). When the Joeys have their hands chopped, one runs one way round the circle and the other runs the other way. The last one back to their place becomes IT.

10 minutes

Story: *The Christmas Story*

retold by Marjorie Newman

or any good children's version of the story.

15 minutes

Activity: Christmas wreath

Have the Joeys make Christmas wreaths using wire coat hangers, red and green cellophane, white foam packing and red and green ribbon. See the instructions on the sheet provided.

10 minutes

Let's have a party

The Joeys should bring a plate of food for a shared meal. You may like to arrange a little gift for the Joeys, such as a special pencil and some lollies.

10 minutes

Song: *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

You can have the Joeys act the animals in an Australian version of a well loved carol. The words are given overleaf.

5 minutes

Closing: Hop, and lower the flag

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We are happy at Christmas because it's your birthday, Jesus. Thank you for coming to be with us. Thank you for Christmas trees and presents and bright lights and good things to eat.
Thank you Lord.

Amen.

Farewell and any notices.

RESOURCES

You will need a Christmas story, cellophane, wire coat hangers, a box of foam packing, red and green ribbon, cordial and some food for the shared meal. Tell the Joeys at the previous week's meeting that they will need to bring food to share.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

(Reproduced with the permission of Ms June Williams)

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me
an emu up a gum tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me
two pink galahs
and an emu up a gum tree.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me
three jabirus,
two pink galahs
and an emu up a gum tree.

(Continue the song up to the twelfth day, adding one animal with each day)

four kookaburras

five kangaroos

six platypuses

seven koalas climbing

eight possums playing

nine wombats working

ten lizards leaping

eleven numbats nagging

twelve parrots prattling

Christmas wreath

1. Cut a large amount of red and green cellophane into approximately four centimetre squares.
2. Foam packing is rubbish so people will be glad to give it to you. Most of it is white. It is good for the environment to recycle this stuff. It looks like little bows.
3. Cut a 50cm piece of wire for each Joey and put a loop in one end. Talk to the Joeys about safety. Explain that the sharp end of the wire is dangerous, so they must hold it between their finger and thumb when not threading it.
4. Thread the red cellophane, then the green and then the white foam.
5. When the wire is full, thread the wire end through the wire loop and secure it. Then put ribbons on it.

