

Tips to help at Christmas

Your child has no interest in writing cards to friends, teacher and relatives..... Don't expect too much, perhaps forget about writing who the card is to, as you can ask your child who it is for and write this on the envelope for them, or ask a teacher for a class list to print and stick on the envelope? Make a stencil for your child to use to sign their name you can do this for free at <http://online.rapidresizer.com/make-name-patterns.php>, (copy the image to word and shrink to as suitable size, print and stick on to card then cut with a sharp craft knife to make a the letters as a stencil) you could use glitter or paint to be more exciting and your child will be happy to keep writing their name! or you could use a personalised stamp or make one from a potato.

Here's an example..... FROM TIM

We have also seen some super homemade cards using silver or Christmas colours - stamp/stencil the name of the person the card is too as the Christmas message on the front of the card. Sign or stamp who it is from inside....



Prepare Christmas Cracker Jokes One of our children surprised us by reading confidently the joke from their cracker, when congratulated in private they explained that they had memorised a joke from a previous time and it was not what was written on the paper slip. This worked well, here are a few jokes that you could practice with your child to use if everyone is reading out their cracker jokes and they want to join in without asking for help....

Why did the turkey join the band?

Because it had the drumsticks!

How do snowmen get around?

They ride an icicle

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite!

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

They always drop their needles!

Christmas CarolsOne of our children wanted to join in with singing Christmas Carols but found it hard to read quickly enough to sing the words before everyone has moved to the next line, just listening to some carols leading up to Christmas will familiarise the child with the words they are looking at so they can join in at school and enjoy singing with everyone, here is a link to a few well known carols that you could down load and play in the car or around the house.....

http://www.audiosparx.com/sa/search/home_srchpost.cfm?topsearch=1&target=choral+carols&ismeth=2

Games at Christmas.... involving words can be difficult, try setting games up so everyone plays in pairs and pair your child with someone who understands them... For charades have a few pre prepared to use so your child can join in even if it is not the film or book they have on the paper they have been given (only you and they will know!). A great game for all ages is 'guess who'.... have pictures of famous characters cut out of magazines, the players then stick these to a hat or head band without looking at them, the players than are allowed to ask questions in turn to try and work out who they are, for example 'am I a cartoon character?' 'am I an animal?' etc. If the answer to your question is 'yes' you get to ask another question, if the answer is 'no' the next person has a chance to start asking questions. The winner is the first person to guess who they are! If you have time try making your own board game version <http://www.four.co.nz/Homemade-Guess-Who-Game/tabid/1895/articleID/94019/Default.aspx>

