

Chat, Play, Share

Santa is back

Two merry brown eyes, a cute little nose.

A long snowy beard, two cheeks like a rose.

A round chubby tummy, a big heavy sack.

Hooray for old Santa, we're glad that he's back.

(Rhyme- no music)

Younger children

Say the rhyme slowly to your child and point to the corresponding body parts as they are named in the rhyme. Give your child a big smile and tickle as you say the last line.

Depending on the age of your child, see if they can point to their own body parts or those on a doll or toy as you name them.

Older children

Learn the rhyme with your child. Have fun together making up actions to add into the rhyme. Suggest your child listens to each line before showing an action. If the action is logical, you know they have listened well to what you've said! If your child learns the rhyme off by heart, they might like to recite it to other family members.



At Christmas there is often a lot of emphasis on children talking about what presents they would like to get. How about chatting with your child about what presents they would like to give if they could choose anything? Name different family members and give your child chance to think and then tell you what they would like to give and why. If they find it tricky you could make suggestions first.

Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a Christmas story together and chat about the pictures and story.

Examples of stories:

- Hurray Santa! by Julie Sykes
- The stinky sprouts in a rather smelly Christmas tale by Stuart Lynch
- Shhh Santa by Julie Sykes
- The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher
- Dear Santa by Rod Campbell
- The Christmas bear by Ian Whybrow
- Is it Christmas yet? by Jane Chapman
- The snow angel by Christine Leeson

Why not visit your local library to see if they are running any Christmas activities or to see if they have any Christmas books to read or borrow?

Christmas Kim's game

Kim's game is a good game to play to help your child develop their attention and observation skills. Collect some Christmas related items and lay them out. Look at and name the items (vary the number of items depending on the age of your child and how easy they find it). Cover the items with a cloth and discretely take one away. See if your child can work out what is missing.



Jingle bells hide and seek



This variation on an old favourite is great for helping children to develop their listening skills. Teach your child to play hide and seek in the traditional way first. Once they understand how to count and then look for you, challenge them to find you by listening for you rather than just looking. Set your child off to count, then go and hide, but with a set of bells, another musical instrument (or even a ringtone on a phone). Once you are hidden start to make a sound for your child to follow. Give them lots of praise for good listening when they find you. Gradually hide further away or in less obvious places. Let them take turns to hide.