

**Chat,
Play,
Share**

**Twinkle twinkle Christmas
star**

**Twinkle twinkle Christmas
star,
Way up high is where you are.
Shining bright for all to see,
On the top of our special tree.
Twinkle twinkle Christmas
star,
Way up high is where you are.**



Younger children

If you have a Christmas tree, (even without a star on the top) turn on the lights. Hold your child in your arms and rock them side to side as you softly sing the song. Older babies may like to lie down next to you looking up at the tree whilst you sing the song slowly, before lying and just quietly watching the lights.

Sing the song to your toddler (don't be surprised if they join in with words from Twinkle twinkle little star initially!) and make up your own actions. Gradually see if they start to join in with any of the new words and actions if you keep repeating the song. If you see a Christmas tree with a star when you're out and about, point this out and sing the song together.

Older children

Teach your child the words to the song by singing it to them and then with them. They could sing it as an extra verse alongside the ordinary version of 'Twinkle twinkle little star'. See if they can make up their own actions for the words. Being able to sing simple songs from memory is a good way of developing language skills. Perhaps your child would like to sing it for other family members at Christmas?

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

Share a story together about a Christmas star... perhaps you could read it by a Christmas tree? Chat about the pictures and story. Examples of stories:

- Suzy Goose and the Christmas Star by Petr Horacek
- The Christmas Star by Hilary Robinson
- Little Owl and the Christmas Star by Mary Murphy
- Laura's Christmas Star by Klaus Baumgart
- Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd Jones

Some children prefer to look at or listen to information books. Can you find one about stars or space to look at together? There is lots of child friendly information on stargazing on cbeebies which you could watch and talk about together.

[Space - CBeebies - BBC](#)



Christmas hide and seek

Find a set of bells, a Christmas decoration with a bell (or you could use a Christmas song/sound on your phone). Play the bells for your child so they recognise the sound. Ask your child to close their eyes and wait or to count slowly to 10. Find somewhere to hide then start shaking your bells or playing music. See if your child can find you? Games like this are good for developing your child's listening skills. Can they still find you if you play the

Initial sound hunt

If your child has started to show an interest in letters and sounds, see if they can find other items around home starting with the same initial sound as star (s)? They don't need to be Christmas related but this could lead to discussions about different words for the same thing, for example, 'Santa' instead of 'Father Christmas'. Happy hunting!

