

Cumbria County Council

# Chat Play Share

## Rhymes and songs

### Five Little Christmas Trees

Five little Christmas Trees

Standing all alone

Their hearts were very sad

'Cause they hadn't found a home

Then chop went the axe

And down fell the tree

And off she went with a happy family!

O Tannenbaum 🎄

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PamrmrVB5Mo>

### Birth – 2 years



Hold your baby in your arms or link hands with older children and dance around your Christmas tree to the rhythm of the words. Kneel down or fall (carefully) to the floor when the tree is chopped down. Follow your child's gaze and talk about the decorations or lights that capture your child's interest. Gently touch the branches and discuss the textures you feel.

### 2-3 years



Join in with the actions for the rhyme. Hold up five fingers, make a sad face as the trees are all alone. Next, swing and make a chopping motion with your arms as you chop a tree down. Clap your hands loudly as the tree falls to the ground. Cheer and make a happy face when the tree gets taken home. Use your fingers to count down or use number cards and turn over as the trees find new homes.

### 3-4 years



Make five paper Christmas trees and stick them on the front of something free standing that can be pushed over e.g. cardboard rolls from toilet rolls or wrapping paper, a tower of wooden bricks or plastic bottles waiting to be recycled. Use a toy or teddy to act out the rhyme. Emphasize the rhythm and the words that rhyme. Have fun cutting (knocking) the trees down and recount how many trees you have left standing.

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

Share a book together about Christmas trees.

Chat about the pictures and story. Make comments and ask simple questions.

- The Last Christmas Tree by Stephen Krensky
- A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree by Colleen Monroe
- The littlest Christmas tree by Janie Jasin

**Fun fact:** The tradition of bringing a tree into the house at Christmas originated in Germany. Tannenbaum is German for Christmas tree.

O Tannenbaum 🎄 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PamrmrVB5Mo>

Can you learn some words or greetings in other languages? Research shows that learning a second language boosts problem-solving, critical-thinking, and listening skills, in addition to improving memory, concentration, and the ability to multitask. Buon Natale!



### Christmas trees

Final verse of the rhyme-

No little Christmas Trees

Standing all alone

Their hearts were very happy

'Cause they all found a home"

Talk about your own Christmas tree or phone a friend or family member and ask them about theirs. See if you can spot any trees when you are out and about. Discuss the decorations, shapes, size, colours and most importantly, what is on the very top of the tree. Check out the link below and have fun making your own trees out of a variety of media.

<https://www.sharingourexperiences.com/christmas-tree-crafts-ideas-for-toddlers-and-preschoolers/>

### Christmas wishes

Discuss what makes you happy or sad. Talk about all the things you are thankful for. Write a wish and hang it from your tree or write it on a coloured circle and stick it on your paper tree as a bauble.

