

## THEME: Nativity

The birth of baby Jesus is at the core of this Programme with novel stable building to set the scene, add a few snowy activities in the hope that there might be a white Christmas!

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a ‘joining-in’ style game, such as ‘The farmer wants a wife’ or a circle format ball game.

Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	ACTIVITY: Build a Stable The Squirrels will have fun creating a stable from materials provided – make this big enough so that everyone can sit on the floor inside to listen to a story!	Chairs and tables Blankets, throws, etc.
10	STORY: Tell your own simple version of the birth of Jesus or invite a Minister or Sunday School teacher to come along. Or read one of the many Nativity stories available from libraries or Christian book shops. ‘The Cat in the Manger’ by Michael Foreman published by Andersen Press Ltd. ISBN 978 1842709665 ‘The Fox’s Tale’ by Nick Butterworth and Mike Inkpen published by Collins Picture Lions ISBN 0 551 02877 7	Story
10	GAME: Nativity Relay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Pre-prepare a set of Nativity characters for each team</i></li> <li>○ <i>The Nativity characters could be drawn freehand onto card, adapted from the many sources available at bookshops (‘Make and Colour Christmas Decorations’ by Clare Beaton published by B Small Publishing ISBN 1 874735 74 3 has a simple collection which could be copied and coloured) or print from websites (visit <a href="http://www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/felt">www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/felt</a> for a Christmas Nativity scene of felt board fun templates)</i></li> <li>○ <i>You might like to create small stables from cardboard boxes where the Squirrels can place the Nativity characters</i></li> <li>○ <i>Ensure that there will be a character for each member of the Drey when divided into teams. If numbers are small, children could run twice or if large add extra items such as sheep and camels!</i></li> <li>○ <i>Divide the Drey into teams at one end of the hall</i></li> <li>○ <i>Place a set of Nativity figures for each team at the other end</i></li> <li>○ <i>In turn the Squirrels run, hop, jump, etc. to collect a character from the Nativity</i></li> <li>○ <i>When everything has been collected the children can create their own Nativity scene and talk about the different characters!</i></li> </ul>	Set of Nativity characters for each team Stables (optional)



10	<b>CRAFT: Christmas Cards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Give each child a prepared pop-up Christmas card to decorate as they please</li> <li>○ Leaders can help them write to.... and from.....</li> </ul>	Printed pop-up cards Art materials Cotton wool Glitter & glue
10	<b>GAME: Snowfall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Divide the Drey into pairs and give each pair a blown up white balloon, they have to try and keep the balloon up in the air for as long as they can by patting it with their hands or blowing it!</i></li> </ul>	Balloons (white if possible)
5	Closing, Home	

## Pop Up Snowman Card

Cut down centre of card to snowman's hat, then around figure to fold line. Fold card over to create 'pop up' effect, the gap at the centre of the back can be secured by selotape!

