

THEME: Presents

It was some time after Jesus' birth that the Wise Men brought gifts to the Holy Family. Gold, frankincense and myrrh had special meanings, this Programme links the time of Epiphany with presents the Squirrels may have received themselves.

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	<p>GAME: Guess the Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Divide the Drey into teams, if you have 2 teams have 2 sets of wrapped presents (include easy presents like a book, a ball, DVD and some more difficult ones to keep it interesting)</i> ○ <i>The teams move around each set of presents with an adult who is responsible for writing down their guesses</i> ○ <i>At the end a Leader opens each present in turn</i> ○ <i>Make sure that the children understand that these are your toys. If you want to let the children open the gifts, it is better to let the whole team do it together, so no-one thinks the gift is for them!</i> ○ <i>Keep selotape handy to stick any paper that starts to tear</i> 	<p>Prepare a number of parcels by wrapping toys well in old Christmas paper, number each one Paper & pencils Selotape</p>
10	<p>GAME: Pass the Parcel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Drey sits in a circle and passes the parcel clockwise</i> ○ <i>A Leader stands with their back to the circle and calls 'stop'</i> ○ <i>The child holding the parcel removes a layer and picks a forfeit from the container</i> ○ <i>After the forfeit has been read out everyone does the action</i> ○ <i>The game continues until the last layer is removed and the sweets are shared amongst all the Squirrels!</i> 	<p>Wrap a bag of sweets in several layers of paper Container with forfeits – make a funny face, jump up and down, touch your nose with your tongue!</p>
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Thank You Letter</p> <p>This is an opportunity for the whole Drey to thank Santa for all the wonderful presents they received on Christmas morning.</p> <p>Lay a long length of paper on the floor with 'Dear Santa, Thank you for.....' written at the top. The Squirrels can draw pictures of their favourite things that Santa brought them and then they can all sign their names at the bottom of the letter!</p> <p>Emphasise that it is always good manners to say 'thank you' when given something and don't forget about 'please' and 'excuse me' too!</p>	<p>Long length of paper Art materials</p>



10	<p>CRAFT: Pretty Parcels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give each child a parcel picture and invite them to decorate it with a collage of small torn up pieces of brightly coloured wrapping paper ○ The act of tearing is good for the manipulative skills of this age range and making their own selection of colours and patterns promotes creativity ○ Add some curling ribbon or a parcel bow to complete the pretty parcel picture! 	<p>Print or draw a basic parcel shape on A4 paper for each child Old wrapping paper Wide curling ribbon or stick-on parcel bows Glue</p>
10	<p>GAME: Coloured parcels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Attach the coloured ‘parcels’ around the meeting place walls</i> ○ <i>The parcels can be a definite shape and each one a different colour, for example – blue teddy, red ball, green boat, orange car, etc.</i> ○ <i>A Leader calls out either the colour or the gift and the Squirrels run, hop, jump, etc. to the correct picture!</i> 	<p>Draw some different shaped parcels onto coloured paper Bluetack</p>
5	Closing, Home	

