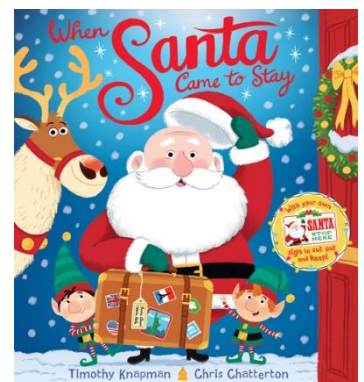




When Santa Came to Stay
written by Timothy Knapman,
Illustrated by Chris Chatterton

1 – Introducing the book

- Read the title of the book. Do you think you would like Santa to come and stay at your house? Why? Why not? As you read through the story, ask children if they have changed their minds. Is Santa a good house guest? What does he do to make things up to the children's parents? How do mum and dad feel at the end of the story? Do you think they will be looking forward to Christmas next year?
- As Santa's house has exploded, the elves will need a make-shift workshop to complete all the last minute present wrapping and sorting. Set up a 'Santa's workshop' role play area in the classroom where the children can pretend to be elves. You could provide a variety of boxes as well as sacks/stockings of different sizes (providing opportunities for children to develop their spatial awareness as they work out which box is the best fit for a particular toy and how many boxes will fit in the sack); lots of wrapping paper and scissors; gift tags and cards for writing; toy catalogues to be cut up to make Christmas lists and lego bricks for the elves to build the toys.

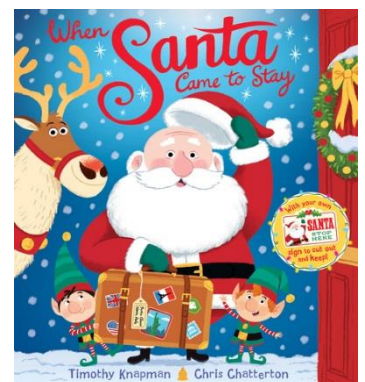




When Santa Came to Stay
written by Timothy Knapman,
Illustrated by Chris Chatterton

2 – Elfing About

- Provide a broad range of different 3-D shapes, decorated with bows to look like presents. Explain to children that when Santa's house went 'Kaboom', the presents were scattered everywhere and got muddled up. Invite the 'elves' to help sort the presents in different ways, for example by colour, by the number of edges or corners, whether they have curved sides or not etc. The elves should then count how many are in each group. You could use large Venn diagram hoops to support this sorting activity.
- On page 10, the Christmas tree gets knocked over. Your elves can help to make new 'candy cane' decorations for the tree using pipe cleaners and beads. Bend one end of the pipe cleaner over to make a cane shape, and then ask children to thread beads on to the pipe cleaner to help develop fine motor skills. The beads could be threaded in a simple red/white alternating pattern, or the children could be asked to create repeating colour patterns of their own. Alternatively, they could be tasked with making canes with a specified number of beads to practice counting skills. Extend their thinking by asking questions such as how many have you threaded now? How many more will you need to add so that you have ten beads on your cane etc.





When Santa Came to Stay
written by Timothy Knapman,
Illustrated by Chris Chatterton

3 – Reindeer fun

- Make simple reindeer hats for the children by cutting bands of brown paper to fit around their heads. Stick googly eyes onto the band and paint a red Rudolf nose. Ask children to draw round their hands on another piece of brown paper and cut around the outlines to create antlers which can be fixed in position.
- In the story, the reindeer need lots of exercise. Provide a range of different items of P.E. equipment for the children to devise reindeer obstacle races.
- After all that exertion, the reindeer will need some food. Children can practise measuring skills by weighing or spooning out appropriate quantities of oats, bird seed and food sprinkles (these are more environmentally friendly than glitter!). Put the reindeer food into clear plastic food bags, secure the top with an elastic band and then wrap a brown pipe cleaner around. Twist the ends to look like antlers and then glue googly eyes and a red pom-pom on the front of the bag.

