

## Christmas story stones Christmas Letter Detectives

Create your own Christmas story stones this festive season to provide useful and low cost resources to enhance your Christmas stories.

### Learning aims

- Enjoy a range of a stories and books
- Support children's creativity
- Engage in imaginative play
- Develop communication and literacy skills.

### Resources

- Stones or pebbles
- Black fine liner
- Chalk pens
- Felt tip pens
- Paints (acrylic paint works best on stones)
- Clear varnish.



### Activity Outline

- Collect a range of pebbles and stones that are a suitable size, shape and texture for drawing on
  - Flat grey pebbles are ideal - You can either purchase stones on-line, at home improvement stores, local builder's merchants or collect them naturally. If collected naturally, wash and dry these before use
- Decide which story characters you want to create
  - For example, to support the story of the Nativity, you will need to create: baby Jesus in a manger, Mary, Joseph, the three kings or three wise men, the shepherds, sheep, an angel, a star and a donkey
- Use the black fine liner or white chalk pen to draw the story characters on the stones - black works best on lighter stones and the white chalk pen on darker stones
- Complete the characters using felt tip pens or paint and leave to dry
- Coat with clear varnish to seal and once dry your story stones are ready to use
- Introduce the story stones with the relevant book and allow children to take turns playing different characters each time you read the story - children can move the stones about on the floor acting out each part of the story as you read it.

## Extending the activity

- Place the story stones in your small world area to enhance imaginative play
- Allow children to create their own story stones for their favourite story
- Take the story stones outdoors where children could re-create stories on a larger scale.

## Special considerations

*Not all children and families celebrate Christmas. Think about this when planning to ensure your practice is inclusive of everyone.*