

## Early Years Foundation Stage

### Unit title: Celebrating Special Times

#### What happens at Christmas

##### Context

- Christmas is a Christian festival
- Christmas is celebrated on 25 December by most Christians
- At Christmas Christians remember the stories about the birth of Jesus
- Christians believe that God came into the world in the person of Jesus: this is called 'incarnation'
- At Christmas, Christians go to church, tell the stories about Jesus' birth, light candles and sing carols

##### Key underlying ideas/concepts

- Birth and growing up:** Jesus is celebrated as a baby but is remembered because of his life as an adult
- Jesus as a special baby:** for Christians, Jesus is God's Son
- Symbols of Christmas:** Light, a symbol of joy but also of God's presence
- Gifts:** a reminder of the gifts given by the Kings, by the children and their families and also a reminder that for Christians, Jesus was God's gift.

##### Links to Early Learning Goals

- Knowledge and Understanding of the World: Strand F: cultures and beliefs
- Personal, social and emotional development: Strand E: spiritual development

##### Main elements of the unit

##### Suggestions for practical activities

##### Babies and growing

##### Use photographs of babies, children and adults to explore

- the love of a family for a new baby
- the concept that babies grow and can gradually do more things

##### The story about the Birth of Jesus

Use the Story Sack

##### Tell the story about the birth of Jesus using a Big Book/Children's Bible

- Use at Christmas cards to identify different parts of the story
- Use nativity figures/role play/puppets to retell parts of the story
- Discuss with the children the feelings associated with the characters eg Mary wondering where her baby will be born, the excitement of the shepherds/Kings

##### How Christians celebrate Christmas

##### Focus on objects and activities of the Christmas festival

- Collect examples of Christmas lights: candles, including Advent candles
- Collect/make Christmas cards representing the story and with Christmas greetings
- Discuss gifts/presents which the children would like to give/receive
- Learn a Christmas song/carol

### Unit title: **Celebrating Special Times**

#### **What happens at Christmas?**

##### Key questions to ask

- Why are babies special?
- What stories do we tell about Jesus being born?
- Why was Jesus a special baby?
- What happens at Christmas?

##### Story sack

- Story of the birth of Jesus
- Christmas cards which illustrate parts of the story
- A candle
- A pretend present