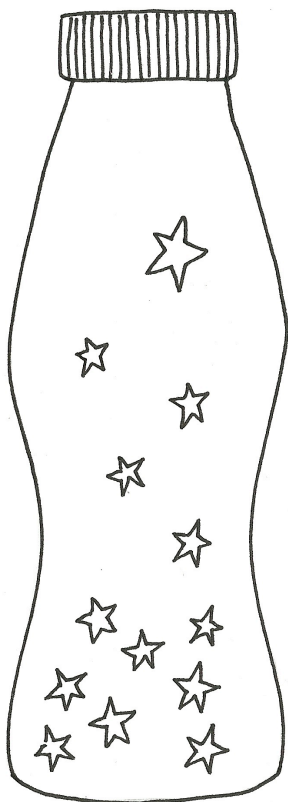


Scented bottles

(for the wise men story)

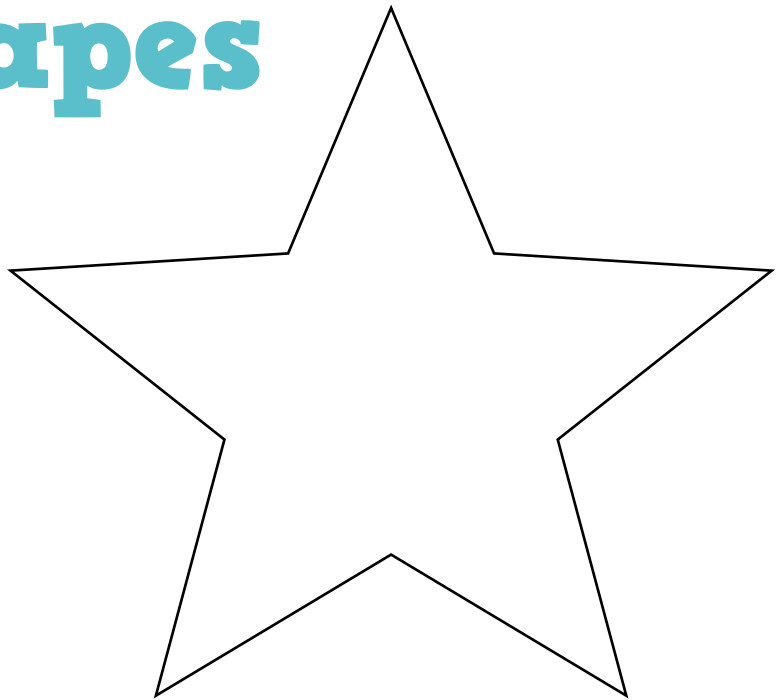
- Thoroughly clean and dry a small bottle with a sports cap (like a Fruit Shoot).
- Fill with something highly scented, like cinnamon sticks, cloves, cocoa powder, coffee beans or cotton wool soaked in fragrance. One scent per bottle is plenty! (We're just using Christmassy smells rather than buying frankincense and myrrh!)
- Seal the bottle and open the cap - check the strength of the smell and adjust your filling.
- Seal bottle firmly. Don't use glue as this will affect the scent - do be extra vigilant if your child plays with the bottle.



Twinkly stars bottle

- Thoroughly clean a small see-through plastic bottle (small Lucozade bottles are good as the label doesn't leave any stickiness).
- Add some metallic star confetti and fill almost to the top with water.
- Add a small amount (a couple of tbsp) of Glycerin (which can be bought from a pharmacy - even the Glycerin with lemon cough mixture is fine!). This helps the stars swoosh nicely and prevents them clumping together.
- Seal the bottle lid using Uhu glue.
- This makes a lovely shaker and is great to roll along the floor.

Star-shapes



Star decorations

- Cut out star shape.
- Decorate with glitter, paint, crayons, etc.
- Add a loop of cotton or wool with sticky tape and hang up.

Star badge

- Cut out and decorate the star or use coloured card or paper.
- Create a loop with sticky tape to fix the star onto clothing as a badge.

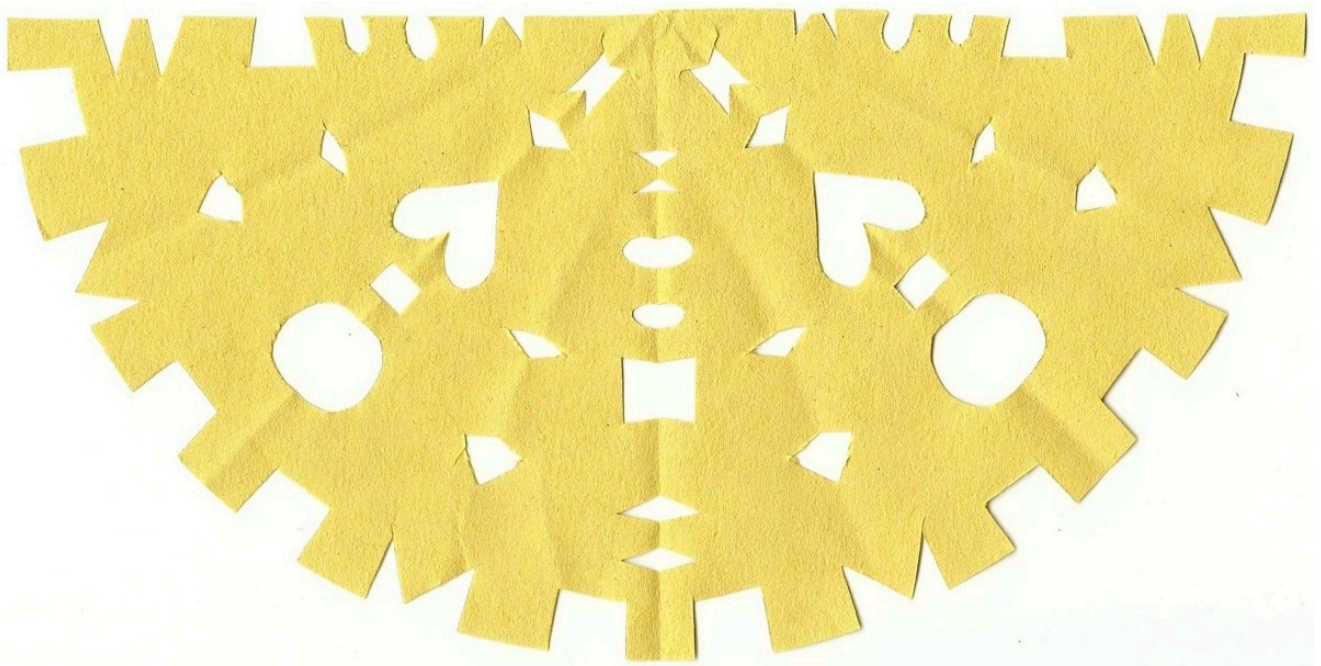
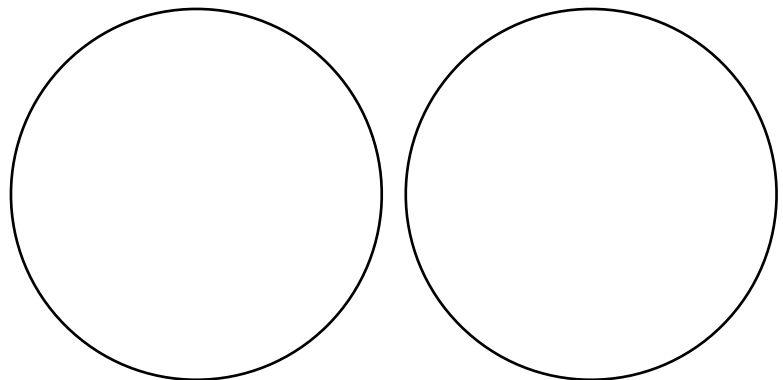
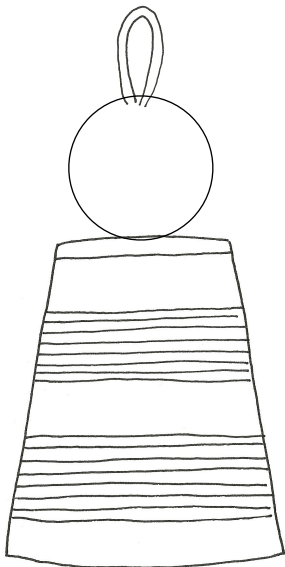
Follow that star!

(Use with the Wise men story)

- Cut out the star and decorate.
- Attach the star to a pencil using cotton or wool and sticky tape

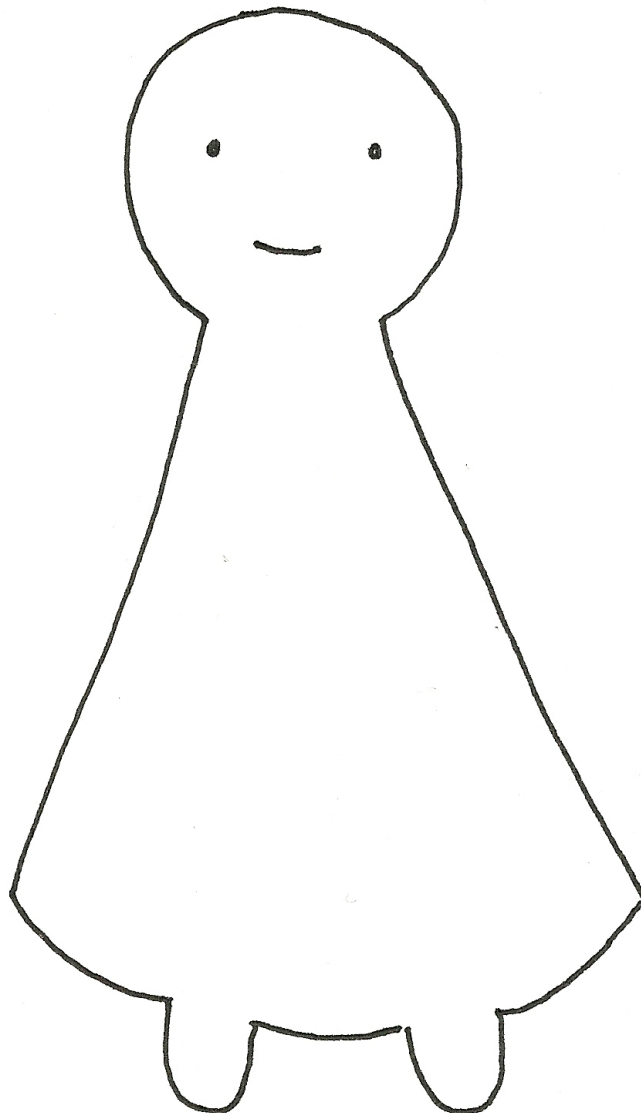
Snowflake angel

- Decorate a disposable plastic cup with stickers, glitter, wrapping paper, foil, etc.
- Make a hole in the base with a pencil or needle and feed a large loop of wool or cotton through, knotting inside the cup with a few knots. There should be about 8cm of loop at the top of the cup.
- cut out angel faces and decorate - draw a face, add some wool for hair or some tinsel.
- stick the two pieces of the head around the loop at the top with enough loop above the head to use to hang your angel up.
- make a snowflake and cut in half or cut out the one below.
- Stick snowflake onto cup to make wings.



Handprint angel

- Help your child draw round their hands and decorate the shapes or do handprints with paint and glitter.
- Decorate the angel body.
- Cut out hand prints and angel body.
- Stick hands to the back of the angel to make wings.
- Tape a loop of cotton or wool to the angel's head if you want to hang it.



Buttery Shortbread

Preheat oven to 180°C and grease a baking tray.

120g plain flour
80g softened butter
1 tsp vanilla extract
40g caster sugar

- Rub butter into flour until it resembled breadcrumbs.
- Mix in the vanilla and sugar.
- Roll out and cut into shapes.
- Cook on a greased baking sheet for 12-15 mins.

Gingerbread Biscuits

Preheat oven to 190°C and grease a baking tray.

350g plain flour
1 level tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 level tsp ground ginger
120g butter
170g soft brown sugar
4 tbsp golden syrup
1 egg, beaten

- In a big bowl sift the flour, soda and ginger together.
- Add the sugar and mix.
- Add the egg and the syrup (it's sometimes easier to warm it slightly to make it a bit runnier) and mix together until it forms a ball.
- Roll the dough and cut into shapes.
- Cook for 10 mins and decorate when cooled.

Doughnut Muffins

makes 12

175g softened butter
200g caster sugar
2 eggs
375g plain flour
3/4 tbsp baking powder
1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1/2 tsp grated nutmeg
250 ml milk

(for topping)

Butter, caster sugar and cinnamon

- Line a 12 cup muffin tin with paper cases and preheat the oven to 180°C.
- If you're letting your children help, it's always easier to get everything weighed and in separate bowls ahead of time!
- Cream the butter and sugar then add the eggs a little at a time mixing between additions.
- In a separate bowl sift flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and nutmeg.
- Add half the flour mixture and half the milk to the butter mixture and fold in.
- Bit by bit add the rest of the flour and milk and mix gently.
- Spoon batter into cases until about 2/3 full. Add a tsp of jam to each cup and push it into the batter slightly.
- Cook for 15-20 minutes until lightly brown and firm to the touch.
- While the muffins are still warm, spoon melted butter over the top of each muffin. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon.

advent calendar

date	Object	Activity
1	Bits for making Nativity characters	Colour and make Mary and the angel.
2	A newborn size nappy	Visit a friend who is expecting a baby
3	A wrapped up treat - e.g. mini smarties	Labour the idea of surprise!
4	A scan picture	Chat together about waiting for a baby
5	Strips of paper with the children's names on	Talk about the meaning of their names and the meaning of Jesus' name.
6	Bits for making Nativity characters	Colour and make Joseph and Jesus.
7	Baby socks or teether	Get a present ready for a baby and deliver it.
8	A little baby brush or doll clothes	Spend time taking care of a baby or dolls.
9	A pack of raisins	Get ready for a picnic and a pretend journey around the house.
10	An item of clothing your child wore as a baby	Look at things that remind you of when they were born.
11	A photo of your child as a baby	Talk about what it was like when they were a baby. Compare with Jesus.
12	Little rescue vehicle (e.g. fire engine)	Play with the toy and talk about Jesus coming to the rescue.
13	Bits for making Nativity characters	Colour and make shepherds and sheep.
14	Metallic star confetti	Make a twinkly star bottle together.
15	A little cone of paper	Make a megaphone and use it!
16	A paper snowflake	Make a snowflake angel.
17	An invitation to a crib service	Decorate the invitation and take it round to a friend
18	Cotton wool	Get ready for a hurried journey! Run like the shepherds ran to Bethlehem!

date	Object	Activity
19	Bells	Sing songs about Jesus and pretend to be the excited angels!
20	Photo of Granny and Grandad (or anyone you're visiting over Christmas) plus bits for making nativity characters.	Talk about waiting to see G&G. Colour and make Simeon.
21	A picture of a swing	Promise a trip to the park and wait with excitement until it happens!
22	Superhero mask / little figure of a fireman	Play at being rescuers.
23	A bauble	Put up some decorations and get excited waiting for Christmas!
24	An invitation written to them	Go to a crib service together.
25	Their real stocking!	Have fun celebrating Jesus' birthday!
26	A ziplock bag with sand in it	Have a long journey pretending to be wise men. They'll hear about them tomorrow!
27	Bits for making Nativity characters	Colour and make the wise men.
28	Star-shaped biscuit cutter	Make shortbread stars.
29	A gold star made out of paper or card	Play "follow that star!"
30	A gold chocolate coin	Find shiny, precious things and talk about presents.
31	A cinnamon stick	Make a scented picture to remind you of frankincense and myrrh.

nativity characters

visit:

**www.playontheword.com/resources
to download the pdf for characters**