

Christmas and Winter Themed Party Games

Part 2: Co-operating, thinking and quieter games



Wrap the Snowman



You need: Cheap, new, white toilet rolls. A selection of card or sugar paper and material. Scissors and sticky tape.

Setting up the game: Divide the children into teams and give each team 4 toilet rolls and a share of the craft supplies.

Playing the game: The children must first make buttons, a carrot nose and a hat from the card. They then need to wrap up a team-mate in the toilet roll.

Game objective: To be the team with the most convincing snowman.

Safety Note: Children should be closely supervised throughout this activity. They should not wrap tightly around the neck area (we'd advise telling them not to do it at all). If faces are to be covered, this should be done at the end. Some children will not want their faces covered, so a mask could be used as an alternative.

Wrap the Christmas Tree

You need: Cheap, new, green toilet rolls. A selection of card or sugar paper and material. Scissors and sticky tape. Optional extra = tinsel.

Setting up the game: Divide the children into teams and give each team 4 toilet rolls and a share of the craft supplies.

Playing the game: The children must first make decorations for their tree. They then need to wrap up a team-mate in the toilet roll and add the decorations.

Game objective: To be the team with the most convincing Christmas tree.

Safety Note: Children should be closely supervised throughout this activity. They should not wrap tightly around the neck area (we'd advise telling them not to do it at all). If faces are to be covered, this should be done at the end.

Who am I?

You need: Stickers with different Christmas-y characters or objects written on them such as Santa, holy, donkey, Mary, baby Jesus, Rudolph, presents.

Playing the game: Stick one sticker on each child's forehead, making sure that they have not seen it. The players must ask each other questions to try to work out who they are.

Making it harder: Players can only answer 'yes' or 'no' to the questions.



A Story Based Pass the Parcel

You need: Several wrapped presents (some can be small sweets, balloons, badges or stickers that might normally go inside a pass the parcel). Alternatively you can ask children to bring their own small gift (but make sure the number of left and rights don't equal each other!).

Playing the game: Tell a story featuring the word 'left' and 'right'. Each time 'left' or 'right' is mentioned the people holding the present should pass the present in that direction.

Winning: Whoever is left holding the present at the end of the game gets to keep it.

Possible stories: If you search the internet for 'Christmas left right stories' you will find several suggestions. At the time of writing there is a left right story based on the night before Christmas here: <http://www.santalady.com/xmasgame/lftrt.html> This page contains 5 left right stories and a story for a more complicated version of the game: <http://www.scoutingweb.com/ScoutingWeb/SubPages/ChristStryRL.htm>

Guess the Shapes in the Stocking

You need: Lots of wrapped objects placed in a box at one end of the room.

Setting up: Divide the children into teams and give each team paper and a pencil. (If playing with younger children an adult will need to write.)

Playing the game: One child from each team runs up to the box. They take out one object and feel and look at it. They run back to their team and tell the person writing what they think the object is. Another person from each team runs up. This is repeated until a time limit is reached or a team believes they have identified all the presents. The presents are then unwrapped to see which team correctly identified the most.

Game objective: To correctly identify the most presents.

Alternative version: Make the children rely entirely on touch by keeping the presents inside a sack. The children must not look at them but make their guess based on feeling the shape of the object. Presents may be unwrapped (easier) or wrapped (very hard!).

Present Peak (easier version)

You need: Wrapped 'presents'.

Setting up: Lay the 'presents' out in a separate room.

Playing the game: Divide the children into pairs or teams. The children should go into the room to look at the presents. They will have a set time in the room. During this time they should remember as much as possible about the presents. When everyone has been into the room, give each team paper and a pencil (or an adult to make notes for them). Ask questions such as 'how many blue presents were there?'.

Game objective: To be the team that correctly answers the most questions.



Present Peak (harder version)

You need: Pictures of different coloured and shaped, wrapped presents with numbers next to them.

Setting up: Divide the children into teams and give each team a copy of the present sheets.

Playing the game: Each team will have a certain number of minutes to remember as much as possible about the presents. Make sure they know they need to remember the number as well as what the present looks like. When the time is up, take away the sheets and give each team a piece of paper and a pen. Ask a series of questions based on the presents. (e.g. 'Which number had blue wrapping paper and a gold bow?', 'How many purple presents were there?', 'What colour was the bow on the red wrapped parcel?'.)

Game objective: To be the team that correctly answers the most questions.

Alternative version: Give each team a sheet(s) with the presents on a time limit for the whole team. Then take the sheet(s) away and ask the questions.

For Christmas we would like...

You need: Nothing!

Playing the game: Sit the children in a circle. The first person says, "for Christmas we would like [name something]. The second person says "for Christmas we would like [whatever the first person said] and [they should name something]. This continues with the list getting longer each time. If a player has trouble remembering everyone should help them out.

Christmas Card Search

You need: Old Christmas cards, cut in 2 pieces (so that each child can have 1 piece).

Setting up: Give each child a piece of Christmas card. If there is an uneven number of children an adult will also need to play.

Playing the game: Each child tries to find the person with the other half of their card.

Harder Alternative: Cut the cards into more than two pieces.

Suggestion: This can be a good way to sort children into random pairs/groups as a pre-cursor to another game.

