

Circle Time Lessons

Day 1 Introduction

Introduce the new unit: **Christmas**.
Take a poll of favorite things to do at Christmas. Sing the Christmas song.

Day 2 Decorations

Practice concepts of print and sight words by creating a pocket chart poem.

Day 3 Presents

Giving and receiving presents is a way to show you care. Sing a fun song about presents under the tree.

Day 4 Visiting Santa

Visiting Santa is a highlight of the season. Take a poll and sing a repeating song about Santa.

Day 5 Elves

Everyone needs help from time to time. Santa's elves are his best helpers. Sing a movement song and search for the missing present.

Christmas Time

Activate Background Knowledge

Day 1 lesson plans

Introduce the new unit (Christmas) to the students. Bring in a few things that can be representative of Christmas: Santa hat, gift wrap, presents, bells, and an ornament. Engage in discussion questions.

Objectives:

- The students will recognize and label their preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show the real life objects and Christmas photographs.
- Discuss what students do to celebrate Christmas.
- Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. What is your favorite thing to do at Christmas?
- Sing the Christmas "First" song. Use picture cards and have students act out each verse.

Extension Idea: Teach the ABC sign for Christmas.

Christmas: Make a "C" with your hand. Move hand from shoulder across upper body.

Decorations

Making the Season Bright

Day 2 lesson plans

Decorations come in many shapes and colors. People may hang lights outside their homes and decorate a tree inside their homes. What kinds of decorations do you put up for Christmas?

Objectives:

- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters of decorating the tree and Christmas lights to the students. Ask students if they have started decorating for Christmas.
- Read the "I See Christmas" poem. Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers.

I See Christmas

_____	lights	tree
_____	ornaments	tree
_____	tree	tree
_____	stockings	tree
_____	Santa	tree
_____	Christmas	tree

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Presents

Giving and Receiving

Day 3 lesson plans

Giving and receiving presents is a way to show others you care. Gifts can be homemade or purchased at a store. Have you ever given a gift to someone?

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will notice similarities and differences.

Activities:

- Show the photograph and ask if they have ever made a present for someone.
- Give each child a character card. Have students close their eyes and give the present to one child. Sing "Who Put the Presents in the Sack." Continue until present is found.
- Read "Santa's Workshop" to the class. Place cards (and the carpet). Students choose two and see if they match or do not. Remove cards and replace with new cards. If they match, turn them back over and continue playing.

Extension Idea: Create a bow string for students to give to Santa as a gift. Attach a gift bow to the end of a wadded stick and use card, pom-pom, and ribbon to the finished Santa's workshop.

Who Put the Presents in the Sack?

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Visiting Santa

He's Making His List and Checking It Twice

Day 4 lesson plans

Santa is very busy this time of year! From visiting kids to making toys, he's got a lot to do to get ready for the big day. Have you seen Santa yet?

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Ask the students, "What are you asking Santa for this year?"
- Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for what you written a letter to Santa?

Have you written a letter to Santa?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Elves

Santa's Best Helpers

Day 5 lesson plans

A lot of preparation goes into having a great Christmas Day. Everyone needs help sometimes, including Santa! 44 elves help make the day go smoothly.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify numbers.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Ask the students, "Have you ever helped someone?"
- Sing the song, "Elf Jingle." Act out the motions in the song using attached job cards.
- Play "The Last Present" game.

Extension Idea: Students can help Santa out together by helping with the job cards. Print an outline and cut out. Place each piece in a baggie for students to complete during class, or send home for families to complete together.

To Play the Game:

- Use all the elf cards and identify the numbers.
- Take the bag under one of the elves and recite the poem to the elf.
- Children guess where the bag is by identifying the number.

Elf Jingle

The Last Present

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Circle Time Lessons

Day 6 Reindeer

Identify rhyming words and sing a movement song about reindeer.

Day 7 Stockings

Get moving by singing "Hang the Stockings," then practice counting with a cute chip clip poem.

Day 8 Getting Ready for Santa

Discuss different ways we prepare for Santa's arrival. Play a letter identification game.

Day 9 Christmas Day

Celebrate the big day by singing a movement song and playing a pattern game.

Day 10 Conclusion

Review all you've learned during the unit. Create a class chart of the students favorite things to do during the Christmas season.

Reindeer

Santa's Best Mode of Transportation

Santa travels to all the houses for Christmas on a sleigh pulled by his magical flying reindeer. Do you know all of Santa's reindeer's names? ("Dasher," "Dancer," "Prancer," "Vixen," "Comet," "Cupid," "Dancer, Blitzen," "Rudolph")

Objectives:

- The students will recognize rhyming words.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Ask the students to list characteristics of reindeer. (large antlers, thick coat, give each child a jingle bell or set of bells. (Alternatively) they clap their hands instead of using a bell.) (Display or reindeer pairs. If the pictures rhyme, tell the students bells. If the pictures do not rhyme, they should keep the picture. Read one verse of the reindeer poem and display the picture. Students act out motions with each verse.

Extension Idea: Teach the sign for Reindeer. Open your hands with thumbs on head, bowtie hands, away from your head like antlers.



Day 6 lesson plans

Stockings

Getting Ready for Santa

The tradition of hanging stockings goes back many centuries. Small gifts and trinkets are left in stockings to be found on Christmas morning. Sometimes the gifts are wrapped and sometimes they are not.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will count sets to 5.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Engage in discussion questions. Does your family hang stockings? Are gifts wrapped in your stockings?
- Sing the "Hang the Stockings" song. Students act out motions for each verse.
- Recite "5 Hanging Stockings" chip clip poem. Add a stocking to the fireplace as the poem counts up.

Extension Idea: Hang the Stockings! (Use a small basket like the picture below as a model for the stockings. Hang the stockings.)



Day 7 lesson plans

Getting Ready for Santa

It's Almost Here!

Many children in the United States leave milk and cookies out for Santa. In Finland, many children leave treats such as carrots or apples in their shoes as a treat for Santa's reindeer. How do you get ready for Santa?

Objectives:

- The students will recognize and label their preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Engage in discussion questions. What do you do to get ready for Santa?
- Sing "Santa Day."
- Play the "Christmas Train" game.

Extension Idea: Create a cookie and/or candy. Play Center. Students make cookies to get ready for Santa's arrival.

To Play the Game:

- List up the train cars and identify the letters. Have the present under one of the cars and recite the poem to the children guess where the present is hiding by identifying the letter.



Day 8 lesson plans

Christmas Day

The Main Event

The big day has arrived. The stockings are filled, presents are under the tree, and Santa has come and gone. What kinds of things does your family do on Christmas day?

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters. Engage in discussion questions. Does your family have any Christmas Day traditions? Sing "Silent Night" or "O Christmas Tree" a motion for each verse.

Extension Idea: Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



Day 9 lesson plans

Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

To conclude the unit, ask the students to discuss their favorite parts of the Christmas season.

Objectives:

- The students will respond to comments and questions.
- The students will draw something and name what it is.

Activities:

- Show real-life photographs. Engage in discussion about some of the students favorite parts of Christmas.
- Invite students to list their favorite things about Christmas. Students may draw pictures or dictate to a teacher to transcribe what their favorite thing is about Christmas. Hang on chart paper or send home for families.
- Sing "Christmas Time is Here" together as a class.

Extension Idea: Students "Sign of Christmas" scavenger hunt around the neighborhood, or send the attached letter home for families to complete together.

To Play:

- Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



Day 10 lesson plans

Christmas Time

Day 1
lesson
plans

Activate Background Knowledge

Introduce the new unit (Christmas) to the students. Bring in a few things that can be representative of Christmas: Santa hat, gift wrap, presents, bells, and an ornament. Engage in discussion questions.

Objectives:

- The students will recognize and label their preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the real life objects and Christmas photographs. Discuss what students do to celebrate Christmas.
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to “vote” for their answer on a bar graph. What is your favorite thing to do at Christmas?
3. Sing the “Christmas Time” song. Use picture cards and have students act out each verse.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **Christmas**. Make a “C” with your hand. Move hand from shoulder across your body.



Christmas Time

(to the tune of “Frère Jacques”)

Wrap the presents.
Wrap the presents.

It's Christmas time. It's Christmas time.
Santa Claus is coming.
Santa Claus is coming.
Rudolph too!
Rudolph too!

Repeat with:

- bake the cookies
- decorate the tree
- write your list



Mitch



Tamar



Pacey



Kyle



Joey

Jack

Andi



Decorations

Making the Season Bright

Decorations come in many shapes and colors. People may hang lights outside their homes and decorate a tree inside their homes. What type of decorations do you put up for Christmas?

Objectives:

- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will demonstrate an understanding of print concepts.

Activities:

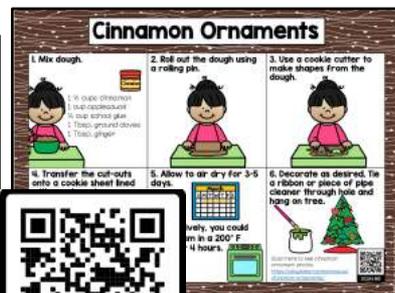
1. Show the photograph posters of decorating the tree and Christmas lights to the students. Ask students if they have started decorating for Christmas.
2. Read the "I See Christmas" poem. Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Use the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.



Extension Idea:

Create cinnamon ornaments using the attached instruction guide or send home for families to create together.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/cinnamon-ornaments/>



Presents

Giving and Receiving

Giving and receiving presents is a way to show others you care. Gifts can be homemade or purchased at a store. Have you ever given a gift to someone?

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will notice similarities and differences.

Activities:

1. Show the photographs and ask if they have ever made a present for someone.
2. Give each child a character card. Have students close their eyes and give the present to one child. Sing "Who Put the Present?" as a class. Continue until present is found.
3. Read "Santa's Workshop" to the class. Place cards face down on the carpet. Students choose two and see if they match. If they do, remove cards and replace with new cards. If they do not match, turn them back over and continue playing.



Who Put the Present?
(To the Tune of "Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar")

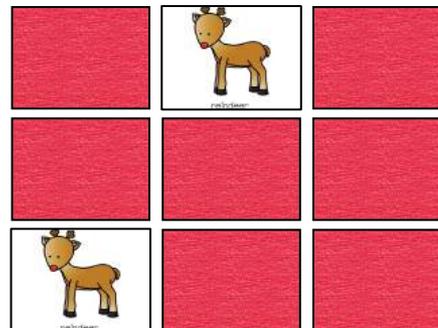
Who put the present under the Christmas tree?
Sister put the present under the Christmas tree!
 Who me?
 Yes, you Couldn't be!
 Then who?

Repeat with new verses!

Extension Idea:

Create a bow painting for students to give to families as a gift. Attach a gift bow to the end of a wooden stick and use as a paintbrush. Add ribbon to the finished canvas and a gift tag to complete the gift.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/christmas-painted-canvas/>



Santa's Workshop
Concentration Game

Santa's workshop is a mess
 He'll have trouble making toys.
 We can help him clean it up.
 There will be happy girls and boys.

Match two cards
 Which will it be?
 Turn them over
 Let's look and see!

Visiting Santa

He's Making His List and Checking It Twice

Santa is very busy this time of year! From visiting kids to making toys, he's got a lot to do to get ready for the big day. Have you seen Santa yet?

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters. Ask the students, "What are you asking Santa for this year?"
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. Have you written a letter to Santa?
3. Sing the S-A-N-T-A song in the tune of "Bingo".
 - Display the letters S-A-N-T-A and sing the song.
 - After singing the song for the first time, turn over letter S. Sing second verse as "*Ho!*-A-N-T-A".



Have you written a letter to Santa?



Yes, I have.

No, not yet.



Karin

Joe

Archie

Terence

John

Ray

Annie

Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **Santa**.

Cup your hand near your chin, then bring it down like you are touching Santa's beard.



Elves

Santa's Best Helpers

A lot of preparation goes into having a great Christmas Day. Everyone needs help sometimes, including Santa! His elves help make the day go smoothly.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify numbers.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters. Ask the students, "Have you ever helped someone?"
2. Sing the song, "Elf Jingle." Act out the motions in the song using attached job cards.
3. Play "The Lost Present" game.



Extension Idea: Students can help Santa put together the toys using the toy puzzles. Print on cardstock and cut apart. Place each puzzle in a baggie for students to complete during class or send home for families to complete together.

To Play the Game:

- Line up the elf cards and identify the numbers.
- Hide the toy under one of the elves and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the toy is hiding by identifying the number.



Reindeer

Santa's Best Mode of Transportation

Santa travels to all the houses for Christmas on a sleigh pulled by his magical flying reindeer. Do you know all of Santa's reindeers' names?

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolph

Objectives:

- The students will recognize rhyming words.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills.

Activities:

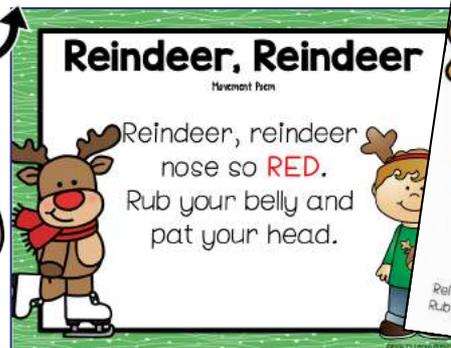
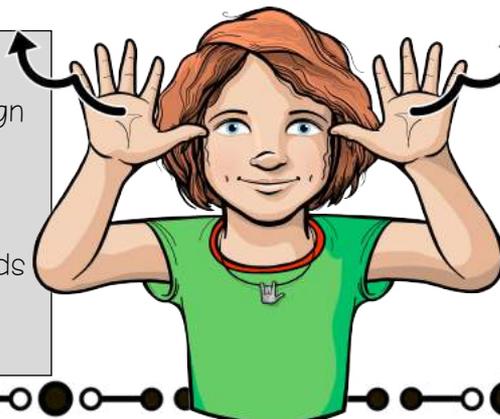
1. Show the photograph posters. Ask the students to identify characteristics of reindeer. (large antlers, thick coat, 4 legs, etc.)
2. Give each child a jingle bell or set of bells. (Alternatively, you can have them clap their hands instead of using a bell.) Display one of the reindeer pairs. If the pictures rhyme, tell the students to ring their bells. If the pictures do not rhyme, they should keep the bells quiet.
3. Read one verse of the reindeer poem and display the matching picture. Students act out motions with each verse.



Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for **reindeer**.

Open your hands with thumbs on head. Bounce hands away from your head like antlers.



Stockings

Getting Ready for Santa

The tradition of hanging stockings goes back many centuries. Small gifts and trinkets are left in stockings to be found on Christmas morning. Sometimes the gifts are wrapped and sometimes they are not.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will count sets to 5.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters. Engage in discussion questions. Does your family hang stockings? Are gifts wrapped in your stocking?
2. Sing the "Hang the Stockings" song. Students act out motions for each verse.
3. Recite "5 Hanging Stockings" chip clip poem. Add a stocking to the fireplace as the poem counts up.



gifts in your stocking.



Many people hang their stockings on the fireplace mantle.

Hang the Stockings

To the Tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Hang, hang, hang the stockings
We're excited for the day!
Santa's coming and we're ready.
Hip, hip hooray!

Repeat the verses:
• socka / cookies
• write / list
• wrap / presents

Extension Idea:

Copy lacing sheets on cardstock and use a hole punch to cut out circles. Provide students with a card and ribbon. Students lace from one hole to the next, strengthening their eye-hand movement.



5 Hanging Stockings

Chip clip poem

One sleepy child,
yawning by the tree,
Hangs up a stocking,
How many do you see?
(Keep counting up to five.)

All the Christmas stockings,
Are hanging by the tree,
Santa Claus is here!
How many does he see?

sing the songs

Getting Ready for Santa

He's Almost Here!

Many children in the United States leave milk and cookies out for Santa. In France, children may leave treats such as carrots or apples in their shoes as a treat for Santa's reindeer. How do you get ready for Santa?



Some people leave notes and treats for Santa's reindeer.



People may leave treats out for Santa.

Objectives:

- The students will recognize and label their preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters. Engage in discussion questions. What do you do to get ready for Santa?
2. Sing "Santa Day."
3. Play the "Christmas Train" game.



Extension Idea:

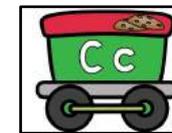
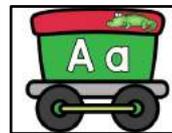
Create a cookie shop
Dramatic
Play Center.
Students make cookies
to get ready for
Santa's arrival.
<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/cookie-shop-dramatic-play/>



SCAN ME

To Play the Game:

- Line up the train cars and identify the letters.
- Hide the present under one of the cars and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the present is hiding by identifying the letter.



Christmas Day

The Main Event

Day 9
lesson
plans

The big day has arrived. The stockings are filled, presents are under the tree, and Santa has come and gone. What kinds of things does your family do on Christmas day?

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

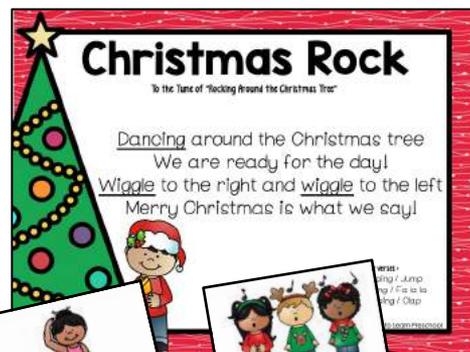
1. Show the photograph posters. Engage in discussion questions. Does your family have any Christmas Day traditions?
2. Sing "Christmas Rock". Students act out motions for each verse.
3. Play the Christmas Grid Game.



On Christmas we open presents and celebrate with family.

Extension Idea:

A Christmas memory tray will work on concentration and memory skills. Put 4-6 Christmas objects on a tray. Have students look away and remove one item. Students guess what item is missing.



dancing

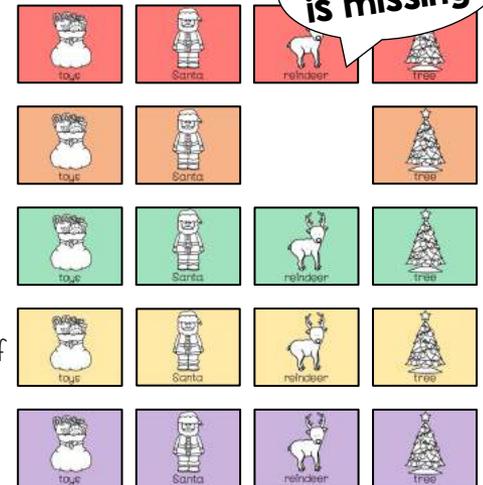
singing

hopping

clapping

To Play:

1. Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
2. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
3. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

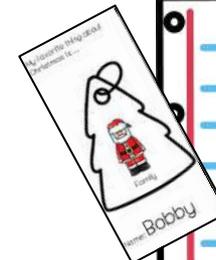
To conclude the unit, ask the students to discuss their favorite parts of the Christmas season.

Objectives:

- The students will respond to comments and questions.
- The students will draw something and name what it is.

Activities:

1. Show real-life photographs. Engage in discussion about some of the students favorite parts of Christmas.
2. Invite students to list their favorite things about Christmas. Students may draw pictures or dictate to a teacher to transcribe what their favorite thing is about Christmas. Hang on chart paper or send home for families.
3. Sing "Christmas Time is Here" together as a class.



Extension Idea:

Go on a "Signs of Christmas" scavenger hunt around the neighborhood, or send the attached sheet home for families to complete together.



Centers

- Visual Discrimination
- Line Tracing
- Cutting Practice
- Push Pin Letters
- Letter Writing
- Writing Practice
- Beginning Sound Sort
- Counting Reindeer
- Word Wall Cards
- Christmas Patterns
- Book Recommendations

Visual Discrimination

Fit Folders Game

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the items.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards: glue the large pictures (first 2 pages) inside a file folder. Cut and laminate the smaller pictures.

Procedure: Students place matching pictures together.

Cutting Practice

Objective: The students coordinate eye-hand movement and control the small muscles in their hands.

Preparation: Print a cutting page for each student. Demonstrate cutting along the lines with scissors.

Procedure: Cut along the bottom of the lines.

Letter Writing

Objective: The students will draw and imitate the act of writing.

Preparation: Print a page for each student.

Procedure: Students can draw a picture or write what they would like Santa to bring them for Christmas.

Line Tracing

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.

Preparation: Print and laminate these tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom onto the lid of the marker for the students to use as an eraser!)

Procedure: The students will trace the dotted lines from left to right to practice fine motor skills.

Push Pin Letters

Objective: The students will manipulate objects with hands.

Preparation: Copy each page onto cardstock. Provide push pins (**Supervise students appropriately**) and a carpet square or foam mat to place underneath.

Procedure: The students strengthen their fine motor skills and alphabet knowledge by performing the letters using a push pin (or golf tee or a toothpick).

Beginning Sound Sort

Objectives: The students will identify the beginning sound of each word.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the cover on the front, and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.

Procedure: Students sort the pictures by their beginning sound.

Word Wall Cards

Use the cards in a pocket chart to make an animal word wall.

Provide pencils, crayons, paper, markers, etc. in the writing center and encourage the students to write letters and words from the wall.

Writing Practice

Objectives: The students will trace the words.

Preparation: Copy each page and place into a plastic sleeve and laminate.

Procedure: Students use a dry erase marker to trace the words.

Reindeer

Game

Count and recognize picture cards. Glue the card. Cut and laminate.

Count and choose the correct reindeer.

Christmas Patterns

Objective: The students will identify and extend simple patterns.

Preparation: Print the pattern cards and pieces, mat, laminate and cut out.

Procedure: Students identify the pattern and extend it by placing the next correct piece.