

The 12 Days of a Nativity Christmas (Lesson Plans & Instructions)

1	Mary	Additional Supplies: Tape or stapler	Birthday Countdown Chain: Connect the paper chain in numerical order. Every day for the rest of the countdown, take off one of the chains & explain how we are counting down to Jesus's birthday.
2	Joseph		Nativity Vocab Cards: Go through cards with child and have them say the names of each part of the Nativity.
3	Donkey		Journey to Bethlehem Map: Have your child use their finger to trace the path that Mary, Joseph, and the Donkey had to take to get to Bethlehem.
4	Stable Animals		Stable Rhyme Game: Using the enclosed picture cards, have your child find matching words and fit them in the stable squares.
5	Sheep	Additional Supplies: Dry rice, beans, or corn, Pyrex dish	Nativity Sensory Activity: Cover enclosed Nativity characters with rice in a Pyrex dish and have them find the different parts of the Nativity. As they find the different pieces, re-emphasize their names and create the Nativity scene on the table or floor next to the sensory dish.
6	Shepherds		Nativity Matching Game: Take the matching cards and lay them out on the table or floor with your child. Let your child match up the pictures and/or letters for the different parts of the Nativity.
7	Wise Man (1)	Additional Supplies: Crayons or pencils	Letter to Jesus: Have child write or draw what their gift is going to be for Jesus this year. Keep letter somewhere where it can easily be seen (under tree, by stockings, etc.)
8	Wise Man (2)		Nativity Movement Cards: Going through each of the included cards, read each one with child and have them repeat whatever action or noise is included on the card.
9	Wise Man (3)	Additional Supplies: Wooden/toy blocks	Nativity Blocks: Attach the different sections of the Nativity to different sized blocks and allow child to explore and play with the different parts of the Nativity story, talking to them about the different parts as appropriate. This could also be done with magnets or tape on a fridge if you don't have any blocks on hand.
10	Angel	Additional Supplies: Finger paints OR crayons OR glue & paper scraps	Fill the Star: Allow the child to fill/color in the star on the included sheet with provided supplies.
11	The Star		Star Hunt Game: "Hide" the included stars around a room and have the child help to gather all of the stars together in one place. Once gathered, line the stars in numerical order and read the message with your child. (Should say "Jesus is Born when complete")
12	Baby Jesus	Additional Supplies: Crayons, also see "Nativity Play Instructions"	Nativity Coloring Sheet and/or Nativity Play: Have child color in full Nativity coloring sheet. If your family/group is large enough, complete the Nativity play (instructions included). If your group is smaller, another option is to use an actual child friendly nativity (Little People, Melissa & Doug, etc.) and have the different characters play out the story.