Holiday Bundle Sample



Getting Started

We hope that you and your children enjoy the experiences included in this <u>sample</u> of the Gee Whiz Holiday Bundle. This sample includes just a few of the activities and printables includes in the full bundle which is ONLY available to Gee Whiz subscribers. Interested in subscribing? <u>Check out our Holiday Special Offer on the last page of this sample!</u>

Your sample bundle includes:

- 1 page of Holiday Material Ideas
- Hidden Elves Printable
- Our Giving Tree Activity
- Infant/Toddler Exploration Activities

The FULL bundle (<u>for Gee Whiz customers only</u>) includes these additional materials:

- 2 additional pages of Holiday Material Ideas
- Coupon Book
- Holiday Handprints
- Holiday Patterning
- Reindeer Food Recipe
- Gingerbread Find 'N Count
- Holiday Lotto Game



Holiday Material Ideas

Gift Wrap & Boxes

Set up a gift wrapping center and include gift wrap, boxes, tape, child-safe scissors, tags, etc. This is a fun way for children to engage in dramatic play while building fine motor skills. Wrapping boxes also requires children to problem-solve! Not only will they have to figure out how to get the wrapping paper on

the box, they will also need to figure out what size of box to use for the "gift" they choose to wrap!



Gift Wrap Collages

We all end up with odds and ends when wrapping gifts. Add these scraps to your art center so children can use them as they create. Ask families to send in gift wrap scraps as well. The more...the better!

Gift Wrap Match Up

Create a matching game by cutting two rectangles from assorted wrapping paper designs. Mount these to index cards. Then, the children can match the patterns. This is an excellent way for them to build visual discrimination skills, review colors and perhaps even talk about shapes!

Hidden Elves

Purpose: As the children participate in the main experience planned for this material, they will need to practice self-regulation skills and cooperation. In addition, the children will develop gross motor control, build both expressive and receptive language skills and explore positional concepts during the game.

Preparation:

To prepare, print out the elves on the next two pages and cut apart by following the dotted lines. If desired, tape each elf to a block. Hide the elves around the room.

Use:

Introduce the game, "Hidden Elves." Tell the children that you heard that some little elves just might be hiding around the room. Challenge the children to find the hidden elves. As the do so, describe the locations where the children find the elves using positional words. For instance, "Oh, Jose...you found an elf under the pillow!" or "Talia...you found an elf behind the bookcase." This is a meaningful way to help the children become familiar with positional concepts. After all of the elves have been found, have the children compare and contrast them. How are they the same? How are they different? Finally, invite each child to share which elf is his/her favorite and why. If the children enjoyed the game, hide the elves again for them to find.

Alternate Use: Print out two copies of the elves (so you have 2 of each elf) and have the children match them. This will be challenging because the elves are very similar. In doing so, the children will hone their visual discrimination skills.





Our Giving Tree

Purpose: The purpose of this experience is to help children become more familiar with the concept of giving. During the activities designed around this concept, the children will have the opportunity to share their ideas with others, express kindness, build fine motor control, language skills and much more.

Preparation:

Locate a small tree branch (a pine branch would work very well), a plastic flower pot and sand. Put the sand in the flowerpot and then add the tree branch to make the "Giving Tree."

Use:

Show the children the, "Giving Tree" and invite them to explore it. As they do so, challenge them to use their senses of touch, smell, and sight. Explain that you are calling this tree a, "Giving Tree" because they are going to make ornaments to go on the tree that they will then give to family members. Next, have the children hold hands as they circle the "Giving Tree" while singing the song below. After singing, have the children use art/collage materials to create ornaments for the, "Giving Tree." Keep this part of the experience open-ended, inviting the children to express their own creative ideas through art. As the children make their ornaments, be sure to engage them in conversations.

THE GIVING TREE

(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

On the Giving Tree you'll see, Gifts to you that come from me. When I give a gift to you, I feel good, it is so true. On the Giving Tree you'll see, Gifts to you that come from me!



Infant/Toddler Exploration Activities

Purpose: These experiences invite infants and toddlers to learn more about their world through the use of their senses. As you describe the items as well as the infant or toddler's actions, you also help the infant/toddler build receptive language skills and future vocabulary.

Sparkle Sensory Bag

To Prepare: Locate a gallon-sized freezer bag and fill with clear hair gel and your choice of sparkly material (e.g., glitter, confetti, sequins...). Zip the bag to seal and then wrap all sides plus the top with duct tape.

Use:

Put the bag on the ground or on the infant/toddler's high chair tray and invite him/her to explore. Talk about how the items in the bag look and feel while the infant/toddler does so. Be sure to supervise directly and put out of reach when finished.





Box of Bows

To Prepare: Locate a plastic tub and fill with bows. Make sure to cover any staples on the backs of the bows with masking tape.

Use:

Put the box of bows on the ground and invite the infant or toddler to explore. Talk about the colors of the bows as well as the texture as the infant/toddler explores them. This is an excellent way of building receptive language skills.

Wrapping Paper Rumble

To Prepare: Cut off a large piece of wrapping paper and use blue painter's tape to attach to the floor. (Test the tape first to make sure it will not harm the floor's surface).

Use:

Invite the infant or toddler to crawl on the wrapping paper. As the infant or toddler does so, talk about the sound created by the paper. In addition, describe the colors and design of the paper. This is a meaningful way to expose infants and toddlers to colors, shapes and patterns.



Holiday Special Offer!

The Gee Whiz Education Curriculum is designed specifically for FCC programs and:

- Includes activities for **ALL ages** in one curriculum
- Is **open-ended** and encourages children to learn through exploration
- Is aligned with state/national standards and approved in many states for QRIS programs
- Uses common household materials to save you money
- Provides access to training webinars...at additional no charge!

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^{*}Discount can not be combined with other offers. Valid for new, or returning, Gee Whiz customers only. After first monthly, quarterly or yearly payment, customer will be charged at regular rate (\$18.95/month, \$53.95/quarter or \$192.95/year) until the customer cancels.