

LEARNING TIME

Twelve Little Festive Frogs By Hilary Robinson and Mandy Stanley

We meet our twelve little frogs again, this time in a festive adventure with their version of the 12 days of Christmas.

The bright and colourful illustrations are of a winter Christmas with the ground and trees covered in snow and each frog wearing a red Santa hat. With lots to spot and discuss on every page, this book enhances language development, numeracy and memory skills.



Rare and interesting words: festive, parcel, golden, clementines, ruby, frosty, holly leaves, squirrels, jingling.

Key Message for Parents | Children are born ready to use and learn mathematics

Mathematics is all around us and regularly exposing toddlers to mathematical language, such as numbers and counting, will mean they have the necessary vocabulary base to draw on in their conversations

Some ideas to share with parents/carers are:

- Encourage children to count with their fingers. Research shows that fingers have an important role in mathematical development and should be encouraged.
- Sing songs that have numbers, counting and repetition such as Five little ducks, Ten in the bed and Hickory Dickory Dock.
- Point out numbers when you see them out and about on signs, letterboxes etc and make counting part of your everyday by counting fingers and toes, trees at the park, steps to walk to the front door etc.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Educators can support children to become effective communicators by;

- providing a literature rich environment. Have lots of books and other texts like magazines, newspapers, junk mail etc available that children can reach and model reading throughout the day.
- Provide picture books with lots of interesting and rare words to build vocabulary
- Allowing time during and after reading for reflections and discussion. Practice turn taking when having a conversation and listen carefully to children's ideas and reflections.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



You may like to introduce the book at this stage or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.

Song

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings to you,
And all of your kin,
Good tidings for Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
We all know that Santa's coming,
And soon will be here.

Good tidings to you,
And all of your kin,

Good tidings for Christmas,
And a Happy New Year

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year

Before Reading

Set up a comfortable area to read the story. Once all the children are seated run through the guidelines of Storytime. Letting children know your expectations the beginning of the session means there are no surprises for them, and they are more likely to engage with the session.

- Has everyone got their listening ears on- turn them on by squeezing your ear lobes.
- Open your watching eyes
- Hands in your lap

Start your session by reading the title and author. What do they think the story will be about based on the cover and title?

Do the children know what the word festive means? Count the frogs on the cover. Point and name the other things on the cover, snowflakes, robins, pinecones, tree stump, pine tree, snow. This will help add to children's vocabulary. Is there anything they can see that they don't know the name of?

Read the blurb on the back. Have the children heard of the 12 days of Christmas? Point and name the other pictures on the back cover, tree, deer, ruby berries.

During Reading

Encourage the children to join in and repeat back the lines as they are repeated each verse.

Frogs are doing their yoga poses. Point these out and name the poses.

There are lots of things to count on each page. Point to each and count ie two rocking robins, three dancing deer etc.

After Reading

Read

Read about the meaning of the 12 days of Christmas.

Read more Christmas picture books.

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/books-online/booktopia-gift-guide/just-for-kids/christmas-books-for-kids/c53EK-p1.html>

Sing

Sing the original version of the 12 days of Christmas
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyEyMjdD2uk>

Sing some other fun Christmas songs

I'm A Little Pine Tree (to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little pine tree – as you can see.
All the other pine trees are bigger than me.
Maybe when I grow up – then I'll be
A great big Merry Christmas tree

10 Little Frogs

1 little, 2 little, 3 little frogs

4 little, 5 little, 6 little frogs

7 little, 8 little, 9 little frogs

10 little festive frogs

10 little, 9 little, 8 little frogs

7 little, 6 little, 5 little frogs

4 little, 3 little, 2 little frogs

1 little festive frogs

Clap the
rhythm on
knees or
lap

Talk

Talk about gift giving. When do you give gifts to people? Christmas, birthdays, graduation, wedding, christening, Mothers and Father's Day. What are some other things you can give to people that aren't presents- time, hug, love?

Play

Make Christmas paper by painting or drawing onto plain paper or use Christmas stamps to decorate the paper.

Wrap up boxes to make pretend presents

Play pass the parcel.

STEM Focus

Counting, matching and sorting are important stem skills for children to learn before they learn to read and write. Playing games with numbers is a fun way to incorporate counting, sorting and matching into a child's day.

- Count how many trees in the yard?
- How many doors in the house?
- How many books on the shelf?
- Label bottles with numbers and have the kids count and drop pom poms (or any small object) in
- Make a simple grid on the sidewalk with numbers and find that many objects from nature!

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. Raising Literacy Australia suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Ten Little Yoga Frogs** by Hilary Robinson and Mandy Stanley
- **Pete the Cat's 12 groovy days of christmas** by Kimberly and James Dean
- **Green is for Christmas** by Drew Daywalt

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) or your choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!