

*Tionscadal Léirithe um Theiripe ar Scoil agus Tacaíocht na
Luathbhlianta*



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

**Demonstration Project on In-school and Early Years Therapy
Support**

Christmas

Games

for all the family



Santa Says

This is a more festive version of 'Simon Says!'

How to play:

One person is 'Santa' and the others are players. Santa tells the players what to do but they must only follow the commands that begin with the words 'Santa Says'.

Example commands:

- Jump up and down
- Stand on one foot
- Wave at the window
- Stamp your feet
- Clap your hands
- Touch your toes
- Do a twirl
- Hands on your head
- Touch your nose
- Freeze like a statue
- March on the spot



You can make this game harder by adding a 2nd or 3rd part to the instruction e.g.

'Clap your hands and then touch your nose.'

'Jump up and down, touch your toes and then clap your hands.'

What Time is it Mrs. Claus?

Played like 'What time is it Mr. Wolf?'

How to play:

One person is 'Mrs. Claus' and the rest are the 'elves'. Mrs. Claus stands at one end of the room with her back to the elves.

- The elves call out 'What time is it Mrs. Claus?'
- Mrs. Claus turns to face them and shouts a time (e.g. 2 o'clock).
- The elves then take the same number of steps as the time (e.g. 2 steps).
- Mrs. Claus turns her back again for the elves to call out 'What time is it Mrs. Claus?'
- When the elves get close to Mrs. Claus she shouts out 'Christmas time' and chases them back to the start line (their den!).
- If an elf gets caught, they become Mrs Claus.



Would you Rather?

Get the whole family talking (and laughing!) with the fun Christmas themed questions below:

Would you Rather...

- Have elf ears or a Santa beard?
- Be an elf or a reindeer?
- Live in a giant Gingerbread house or Santa's Toy Shop?
- Have a carrot nose or reindeer feet?
- Have a snowball for a head or jingle bells for hair?
- Be on the naughty or nice list?
- Fly in an airplane or a sleigh?
- Meet Santa or Rudolph?
- Be a star or an angel on the Christmas tree?
- Watch Christmas movies or sing Christmas songs?



You might like to make up your own questions too!



I Spy with my Little Eye

This is a good game to play during car or bus journeys.

See if you can spot any Christmas things along the way!



How to play:

One person picks an item and gives a clue for everyone else to get what it is.

Example Christmas Clues:

I spy with my little eye...

- Something shiny (Christmas lights)
- Something tasty (chocolate)
- Something round (baubles on a Christmas tree)
- Something that twinkles (star)
- Something with a red suit (Santa)
- Something with antlers (reindeer)
- Something that has a flame (candle)
- Something that has branches (Christmas tree)
- Something with a red belly (Santa or a robin!)



What's in Santa's Hat?

How to play:

Get a Santa hat and hide something inside it.

It could be something like a Christmas tree decoration, spoon, cup, toy car or any of your child's other toys.

Ask your child to feel the **outside** of the hat (without looking) and guess what's inside.



Don't forget to give the child a turn to hide something inside the hat for the adult to guess!

Musical Statues

How to play:

Turn on some Christmas music and get the whole family up to dance around the room!

When somebody stops the music, everybody has to freeze like a statue.



To change this game a little you could pretend to:

- Tiptoe like Santa
- Fly like a fairy
- Prance like a reindeer
- Do star jumps
- Crawl like a polar bear
- Skip like an elf