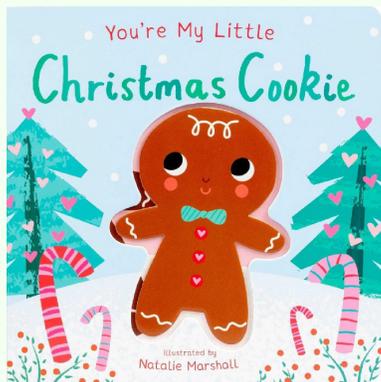


Merry Christmas

Book to add to your child's library: *You're My Little Christmas Cookie* by Nicola Edwards



BABY GAMES & LANGUAGE

Holiday Word Play

Repeat simple Christmas words slowly and clearly: tree, light, bell, star, Santa, red, green. Pause between words and watch baby's mouth, eyes, and expressions as they listen.

Name the Sound

Ring a bell softly and say, "Bell!" Pause, then repeat. Try again with a crinkly ribbon or soft fabric.

Where Is...? (Christmas Edition)

Point to a Christmas object and ask, "Where is the star?" Then answer warmly: "There it is!" This builds early receptive language.

Color Talk

Hold up red and green items and say the color name clearly: "Red stocking. Green tree."

Song Echoes

Sing a short line from a Christmas song, then pause to let baby coo or respond. Imitate their sound back to them to encourage early conversation.

Gentle Narration

Describe what baby is doing: "You're touching the soft stocking." "You hear the bell." "You're smiling."

EXPLORATION

Christmas Sensory Basket

Include a soft blanket, plush stocking, fabric tree, ribbon, and a baby-safe bell. Explore one item at a time.

Holiday Sounds

Hum familiar carols quietly or play instrumental Christmas music at a low volume.

Texture Talk

Describe what baby feels: "soft," "warm," "smooth," "cozy."

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Here is the Chimney

Here is the chimney (make fist with thumb inside),

Here is the top (put other hand over fist)

Open the lid (remove hand from fist),

And out Santa will pop (pop up thumb from fist).

Twinkle, Twinkle, Christmas

Lights (Tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Twinkle, twinkle, Christmas lights,
Shining softly in the night.

Red and green and yellow too,
Christmas time is here for you.

Twinkle, twinkle, Christmas lights,
Glow with love on cozy nights.

Santa's on His Way

(simple chant)

Santa's on his way tonight,
Ho ho ho and sleep so tight.

Snuggle close and rest your head,
Dream sweet dreams in your warm bed.

Christmas Time

See the snowflakes falling (use fingers to make dancing snowflakes),

See the candles glow (hold up index finger like a candle),

See the wreaths upon the door (form wreath shape with fingers),
It's Christmas time I know!

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING / BONDING

Baby Closeness

Hold baby close during songs and play. Rock gently. Make eye contact and smile. Speak softly and use baby's name often. Let baby feel the rhythm of your voice and the comfort of your presence.

Narrate the experience with reassuring words:

"You're safe."

"You're loved."

"This is a cozy moment together."

These peaceful interactions help babies associate the holiday season with warmth, security, and love—laying the foundation for joyful memories long before they understand the celebration itself.