

Holiday Fun Week Ideas

Monday Theme: Christmas Trees (wear green!)

Christmas Tree Craft Station

- **What to Do:**
 - Provide green paper triangles or foam tree cutouts as the base.
 - Set out craft supplies like pom-poms, stickers, mini paper ornaments, and glue for kids to decorate their “trees.”

Christmas Tree Shape Game

- **What to Do:**
 - Play a matching game where kids identify and match triangle "tree" shapes of different sizes to build a tree.
 - Add "ornament" shapes like circles and stars for extra matching fun.

Christmas Tree Freeze Dance

- **What to Do:**
 - Play holiday music like *O Christmas Tree* or other festive tunes.
 - When the music stops, kids “freeze” like a Christmas tree pose with their arms out or up.

Storytime Under the Tree

- **What to Do:**
 - Read a Christmas tree-themed story (near the Christmas tree for an added touch), such as:
 - *Pick a Pine Tree* by Patricia Toht
 - *The Littlest Christmas Tree* by R.A. Herman
 - *The Christmas Tree Who Loved Trains* by Annie Silvestro

Christmas Tree Relay

- **What to Do:**
 - Create a relay where kids “decorate” a pretend tree by running to place paper ornaments or decorations on it.

Tuesday Theme: Reindeer Helpers (wear red!)

Reindeer Ring Toss

- **What to Do:**
 - Use a set of reindeer antler headbands (or a cone decorated like antlers) as the target.
 - Provide rings made from pool noodles, plastic, or rope for kids to toss onto the antlers.

Reindeer Obstacle Course

- **What to Do:**
 - Create a course where kids:
 - Jump over “snowdrifts” (pool noodles or pillows).
 - Crawl under “low-hanging branches” (string or streamers).
 - Deliver “presents” (beanbags) to a sleigh or box.
 - Turn it into a Reindeer Relay Race

Reindeer Freeze Dance

- **What to Do:**
 - Play holiday music, like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.
 - When the music stops, call out a reindeer-related pose, such as:
 - “Fly like Rudolph!” (arms stretched out like wings)
 - “Prance like a reindeer!”

Reindeer Feeding Frenzy

- **What to Do:**
 - Set up a beanbag toss where kids “feed” reindeer by tossing beanbags (representing hay or carrots) into buckets or boxes decorated as reindeer heads.
 - Use different-sized buckets for varying difficulty levels.

Reindeer Name Matching Game

- **What to Do:**
 - Create cards with the names of Santa’s reindeer and matching images.
 - Kids match the names to the correct pictures.

Wednesday’s Theme: **Gingerbread Fun (wear brown!)**

Decorate a Giant Gingerbread Man

- **What to Do:**
 - Provide large gingerbread cutouts (paper or cardboard) and craft supplies like pom-poms, buttons, markers, and stickers.
 - Let kids decorate their own "giant gingerbread man" to display in the classroom or take home.

Gingerbread Puppet Craft

- **What to Do:**
 - Provide gingerbread templates, craft sticks, and decorations so kids can make their own gingerbread puppets.
 - Use the puppets for a simple class play or storytelling activity.

Gingerbread Man Hide-and-Seek

- **What to Do:**
 - Hide small gingerbread cutouts or figurines around the classroom.
 - Give kids clues to help them find the hidden gingerbread men.

Run, Run, as Fast as You Can!

- **What to Do:**
 - Set up a race or relay where kids pretend to be the Gingerbread Man running away from "baker" (teachers or classmates).

Pin the Button on the Gingerbread Man

- **What to Do:**
 - Use a large gingerbread man poster and let kids take turns pinning (or sticking) buttons, eyes, or a smile in the right spot while blindfolded.

Gingerbread Toss Game

- **What to Do:**
 - Use a large cardboard gingerbread man with holes cut out and let kids toss beanbags or small balls through the holes.

Read Gingerbread Stories

- Suggested books:
 - *The Gingerbread Man* (classic tale).
 - *The Gingerbread Girl* by Lisa Campbell Ernst.
 - *Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett.

Make a Gingerbread Story

- **What to Do:**
 - Start a story as a group, with each child adding a sentence to create their own version of *The Gingerbread Man*.

Gingerbread Counting Game

- **What to Do:**
 - Use gingerbread men cutouts with numbers on them and let kids match them to the correct number of "buttons" (pom-poms or counters).

Gingerbread Freeze Dance

- **What to Do:**
 - Play *Run, Run, as Fast as You Can* (or holiday music) and let kids dance like gingerbread men.
 - When the music stops, they "freeze" in gingerbread poses.

Thursday's Theme: **Winter Wonderland** (pajama day!)

Snowman Craft Station

- **What to Do:**
 - Have kids create their own snowman using simple materials:
 - Googly eyes, orange paper for a carrot nose, and buttons/stickers for decoration.
 - Add a scarf made from yarn or ribbon.

Snowman Storytime

- **Books to Read:**
 - *The Biggest Snowman Ever* by Steven Kroll.
 - *Sneezy the Snowman* by Maureen Wright.

Snowball Toss Game

- **What to Do:** Set up buckets or baskets
 - Use soft white balls for tossing.
 - Award points for each successful toss.

6. Snowman Freeze Dance

- **What to Do:** Play winter-themed music (e.g., *Frosty the Snowman*) and have the kids dance.
 - When the music stops, they “freeze” like snowmen.
 - Add fun prompts like, “Melt like a snowman in the sun!” or “Build your arms like a big snowman!”

Snowman Science Experiment

- **What to Do:** Build a “melting snowman” using baking soda and water to create snowman shapes.
 - Add vinegar to make the snowman “melt” and fizz.

Make Your Own Snowflake

- **What to Do:**
 - Provide white paper and help kids fold and cut to make their own unique snowflakes.
 - Display the snowflakes in the classroom or let kids take them home.

Snowflake Movement Game

- **What to Do:**
 - Play music and let kids “float” like snowflakes.
 - When the music stops, call out actions like “freeze on the ground” or “twirl like you're falling.”

Snowflake Matching Game

- **What to Do:**

- Create snowflake cards with pairs of matching designs.
- Kids can play a memory-style matching game to find pairs.

Snowflake Storytime

- **Books to Read:**

- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin.
- *The Secret Life of a Snowflake* by Kenneth Libbrecht.

Snowflake Sensory Bin

- **What to Do:**

- Create a sensory bin with cotton balls, plastic snowflakes, and tongs for kids to "pick up snowflakes."
- Add treasures for kids to find.

Friday's Theme: Elf Workshop (holiday sweater day)

Elf Wrapping Station

- **What to Do:**

- Give kids scrap paper, crayons, markers, and recyclable materials to "wrap" classroom presents (learning materials)
- Vary the sizes of the items so they have increasing challenges

Elf Obstacle Course

- **What to Do:**

- Set up an "Elf Training Academy" where kids:
 - Crawl through tunnels (chimneys).
 - Balance on a beam (like walking on rooftops).
 - Toss presents (beanbags) into a "toy sack."

Elf Freeze Dance

- **What to Do:**

- Play holiday music and let kids dance as happy elves.
- When the music stops, call out silly elf poses like "wrapping a gift" or "climbing a ladder."

Elf Storytime

- **Books to Read:**

- *How to Catch an Elf* by Adam Wallace.
- *The Littlest Elf* by Brandi Dougherty.

Elf Hide-and-Seek

- **What to Do:**

- Hide small pictures around the classroom for kids to find.

- Provide clues to make it a scavenger hunt.