



Children's Christmas Songs, Carols, Rhymes & Fingerplays

Lyrics & Activities to the songs on the CD
LITTLE CHRISTMAS
by
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Lyrics and Activities for LITTLE CHRISTMAS (also known as “A MOTHER GOOSE CHRISTMAS”)

1. CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING English folk tune, words adapted by MaryLee Sunseri © 1993

Activity: Many instruments are named and heard in brief solos. Spanish guitar, Romanian pan flute, Persian tambourine, Italian/Spanish violin, and cello. In a classroom of children, separate into five groups. Each group will represent an instrument. Have the children stand when they hear their instrument and sit when they don't hear it.

A soft guitar was playing on Christmas Day, Christmas Day
A soft guitar was playing on Christmas Day in the morning

A sweet pan flute was playing on Christmas Day, Christmas Day
A sweet pan flute was playing on Christmas Day in the morning

A tambourine began to play, Christmas Day, Christmas Day
A tambourine began to play, Christmas Day in the morning

A violin played way up high Christmas Day, Christmas Day
A violin played way up high Christmas Day in the morning

A cello answered deep and low, Christmas Day, Christmas Day
A cello answered deep and low, Christmas Day in the morning

The instruments played on and on, Christmas Day, Christmas Day
The instruments played on and on, Christmas Day in the morning

2. WHEN SANTA COMES *traditional*

When Santa comes to our house (*fingers of both hands touch to make a “rooftop”*)
I'd love to take a peek (*hands cover eyes and open to “peek”*)
But I know he'll never come (*gesturing with index finger as if to say “no”*)
Unless I'm fast asleep (*palms together on side of face, head tilted as if sleeping*)

3. BRUSH YOUR TEETH *traditional*

Use an index finger for a toothbrush and make a “ch ch” or teeth brushing sound

Well, you wake up Christmas morning, and it's quarter to one
And you wanna have a little bit of fun, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

Well you wake up Christmas morning and it's quarter to two

And you don't know just what to do, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

Well, you wake up Christmas morning, and it's quarter to three
And you've got a great big smile for me, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

Well you wake up Christmas morning, and it's quarter to four
And you hear a great big knock on the door, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

Well you wake up Christmas morning, and it's quarter to five
And you're so happy to be alive, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth, baby
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch, you brush your teeth
Ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

4. THE CHRIST CHILD LOVED THE ANIMALS (*words & music by MaryLee Sunseri ©1993*)

Originally written as "St. Francis Loved The Animals"

The animal kingdom rejoices at the birth of the Messiah. Have children listen carefully for the animal names and join in singing!

The Christ Child loved the animals and the animals loved him
And their songs were carried heavenward on the Spirit of the wind

And the lambs sing, (bah...)
And the cows sing, (moo...)
And the horses sing, (neigh...)
And the lions sing, (roar...)

The Christ Child loved the animals and the animals loved him
And their songs were carried heavenward on the Spirit of the wind

And the birds sing, (tweet...)
And the goats sing, (mah...)
And the ducks sing, (quack...)
And coyotes sing, (howl...)

The Christ Child loved the animals and the animals loved him
And their songs were carried heavenward on the Spirit of the wind

And the mice sing, (squeak...)
And the cats sing, (meow...)
And the dogs sing, (woof...)
And the roosters sing, (cock-a-doodle-doo...)

The Christ Child loved the animals and the animals loved him
And their songs were carried heavenward on the Spirit of the wind

5. STARS SHINE BRIGHT *words & music by Nancy Stewart ©1992*

Cut a Christmas tree from fabric and lay flat on a flannel board. Cut colored stars of felt (blue, red, yellow...) and place them on the "tree" one at a time with the corresponding color in the song.

Stars shine bright on my Christmas tree
Tell me what color star you see
Blue star shine, blue star shine
Blue star shine on my Christmas tree

Stars shine bright on my Christmas tree
Tell me what color star you see
Red star shine, blue star shine
Red star shine on my Christmas tree

Stars shine bright on my Christmas tree
Tell me what color star you see
Yellow star shine, blue star shine
Yellow star shine on my Christmas tree

TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR *traditional (a fingerplay)*

Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star *(hands open/shut, open/shut)*
How I wonder what you are *(index finger to the forehead)*
Up above the world so high *(hands open/shut stretched high above head)*
Like a diamond in the sky *(diamond shape: thumbs and index fingers touching)*
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas Star *(hands open/shut, open/shut)*
How I wonder what you are *(index finger to the forehead)*

6. GLORIA/THE BOAR'S HEAD CAROL *words: traditional, music: Wynken De Worde (16th century), arranged with "Gloria" by MaryLee Sunseri (a feasting song)*

Prepare an elegant children's feast (fresh fruit, vegetables, soup, sandwiches, cookies...) when plates are filled, march them regally to your own beautifully decorated spot to "feast."

Glo—--ria ! Hosanna in excelsis!
Glo—--ria ! Hosanna in excelsis!

The boar's head in hand bring I
Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary
And I pray you, my masters, be merry⁰¹
*Quot estis in convivio*⁰²
Caput apri defero
*Reddens laudes Domino*⁰³
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino

Glo---ria, Hosanna in excelsis
Glo---ria, Hosanna in excelsis

The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the finest dish in all the land,
Which thus bedeck'd with a gay garland
Let us *servire cantico*.⁰⁴
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino

Glo---ria, Hosanna in excelsis
Glo---ria, Hosanna in excelsis

01. Or: And I pray you, my masters, merry be.

02. Translation: As you all feast so heartily.

03. Translation of Chorus:

Lo, behold the head I bring

Giving praise to God we sing

Another translation:

The boar's head I bring,

Giving praises to the Lord.

4. Translation: Let us serve with a song.

7. JINGLE BELLS *James F. Pierpont (the dance...)* choreographed by MaryAnn Schaupp Rousseau

(Form a circle holding hands; step lively to the left)
Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh
(Change direction, circle right)
O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way
(Walk to center of the circle, holding hands up high)
Bells on bobtail ring
(Circle widens out, again)
Making spirits bright
(To the center again!)

What fun it is to ride and sing

(Circle widens out, again)

A sleighing song tonight

(Stand in place & clap hands with jingle bell wrist bracelets-)

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (hey!)

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (hey!)

A day or two ago, I thought I'd take a ride,
And soon Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side
The horse was lean and lank, misfortune seemed his lot
We got into a drifted bank and then we got upsot

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (hey!)

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (hey!)

Now the ground is white, go it while you're young
Take the girls tonight and sing this sleighing song
Just get a bob-tail bay, two-forty for his speed
Then hitch him to an open sleigh and "Crack!" you'll take the lead

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (hey!)

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (hey!)

8. PAT-A-PAN *traditional*

March along with real or imaginary instruments!

We'll be joyous as you play! Too ra loo ra loo, pat-a-pat-a-pan
We'll be joyous as you play on a merry Christmas day

Willie take your little drum, Robin bring your flute and come
We'll be joyous as you play, too ra loo ra loo, pat-a-pat-a-pan
We'll be joyous as you play on a merry Christmas day

When good folks in olden days gave the King of Kings their praise
They had pipes on which to play, too ra loo ra loo, pat-a-pat-a-pan
They had drums on which to play with joy on Christmas Day

God and people now become joined as one with flute and drum

Let the happy tune play on, too ra loo ra loo, pat-a-pat-a-pan
Flute and drum together play as we sing on Christmas day

We'll be joyous as you play! Too ra loo ra loo, pat-a-pat-a-pan
We'll be joyous as you play on a merry Christmas day

9. CHRISTMAS IS COMING *traditional*

This is an old English round. A ha'penny (pronounced "hayp-nee") is an English half penny.

Christmas is coming; the goose is getting fat
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat

If you have no penny, a "ha'penny" will do
If you have no "ha'penny" then God bless you!
If you have no "ha'penny" then God bless you!

10. CHRISTMAS SLEIGH RIDE *words & music by MaryLee Sunseri ©1993*

Activity: Clap hands on , "sleigh ride."
Give yourself a hug on, "cuddle up."
Clap hands three times after, "mittens will clap."
Stamp feet three times after, "boots will stamp."
Stand up on, "up on the hills."
Sit down on, "down n the dales."
Raise hands up high on, "out in the woods."
Clap hands on, "sleigh ride."

We're going on a Christmas sleigh ride out in the winter weather
We're going on a Christmas sleigh ride, we'll cuddle up together

Well our mittens will clap (clap, clap, clap)
And our boots will stamp (stamp, stamp, stamp)
Up on the hills and down in the dales
And out in the woods on a sleigh ride

We're going on a Christmas sleigh ride, gliding along in the white snow
We're going on a Christmas sleigh ride, there's lots of room we can all go

Well our mittens will clap (clap, clap, clap)
And our boots will stamp (stamp, stamp, stamp)
Up on the hills and down in the dales
And out in the woods on a sleigh ride

We're going on a Christmas sleigh ride, wish we were home by the fire
We're going on a Christmas sleigh ride, singin' old songs by the fire

Well our mittens will clap (clap, clap, clap)
And our boots will stamp (stamp, stamp, stamp)
Up on the hills and down in the dales
And out in the woods on a sleigh ride

11. WHAT IS SNOW? *words & music by MaryLee Sunseri ©1993*

Up from the ground or down from the sky? Try some "free" expressive snow dancing.

What is snow? Something cold, something white, soft and light
Crystal ice in the sky falls to earth as snow

Over the hills on a sled we ride pulled by my darling daddy
Out in the night see the stars shine bright, sliding, gliding, riding in the snow

What is snow? Something cold, something white, soft and light
Crystal ice in the sky falls to earth as snow

Out in the woods there's a frozen pond filled with the lovely skaters
They figure 8 and they spin around, twirling, whirling, swirling in the snow

What is snow? Something cold, something white, soft and light
Crystal ice in the sky falls to earth as snow

Ooooooo—snow.

12. CANZONE D'I ZAMPOGNARI *traditional song of the Sicilian bagpipers*

In Sicily, at Christmastime, the shepherds come down from the winter pastures in the hills and into the cities playing their bagpipes. Bagpipes are found in many countries: Turkey, Spain, Scotland, Ireland...This folk melody inspired George Frederick Handel to adapt it into his oratorio "Messiah." It's melody is used in "He shall Feed His Flock."

The night a child was born in Bethlehem afar
All through the night there shone as bright as day a star
Never so lightly, never so brightly
Shone a star as on that night
This gleaming star was sent
A beacon to the wise men in the Ori-ent

Quanno na scette nino a Beteleme
Era not-te pa-re a miezo giorno
Ma-je-le stel-le lu-ste-re bel-le

Se ve-det-te ro ac-cu-si
La chiu lu cen-te
Jet-tea chiamma li magi in or-i-en-te

13. IT'S THE THOUGHT by MaryLee Sunseri ©1983 *Apologies to Dr. Seuss*

A poem in the style of Dr. Seuss about the age-old saying, "It's the thought that counts."

Christmas is time for gifts in a box
Like lots of warm socks, or toys for the tots
Or big diamond rocks, or puppies with spots
Or green satin ties with little red dots
Or paper back books with mysterious plots
Or dolls with big eyes and long curly locks
Or pictures of families in one step snap-shots

But all I could muster this year were some thoughts...

So don't be surprised when you look in this box
To find that it's— empty, except for the thoughts

And I know that you know the what's from what not's
'Cause we've always been told that what counts are the thoughts!
Not the socks or the rocks, or the long curly locks
Not the spots or the dots or the one-step snap shots
What counts? The thoughts...in this little box:

"Merry Christmas! Lots and lots!"

14. PACHELBEL'S CANON IN D Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Johann Pachelbel, a composer of the Baroque Era of Western Music, lived in Nuremberg, Germany where he composed this beautiful and timeless canon for the organ. Christmas phrases have been added by MaryLee:

"Alleluia" - Hebrew origin - meaning "Praise Ye, Jehovah!"

"Hosanna" - Hebrew origin - meaning "Praise and adoration!"

"In Excelsis" - Latin origin - "In the highest!"

"Noel" - Latin/French origin - from the word "natalis" meaning birth

15. WHAT MONTH IS CHRISTMAS DAY IN? traditional African/American Spiritual adapted by MaryLee Sunseri ©1993

Memorize the months of the year dreaming of Christmas! This is an African American Spiritual with a minor adaptation to anticipate the coming of Santa Claus.

Tell me what month is a'Christmas Day in?
(What month?)

Last month of the year

Tell me what month is a'Christmas Day in?
(What month?)

Last month of the year

Well you got January, February, March, oh, Lord

You got a'April, May and June

You got July, August, September (all year you wait)

October and November (all year you wait)

You got the twenty-fifth day of December

Last month of the year

Tell me what month is a'Santa comin'?

(What month?)

Last month of the year

Tell me what month is a'Santa comin'?

(What month?)

Last month of the year

Well you got January, February, March, oh, Lord

You got a'April, May and June

You got July, August, September (all year you wait)

October and November (all year you wait)

You got the twenty-fifth day of December

Last month of the year

16. DONA NOBIS PACEM *Anonymous, 16th Century, meaning "Give To Us Peace"*

Musicologists believe that "anonymous" works denote women composers who were not allowed in olden days to read, write or compose music.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem

Dona nobis pacem, pacem...