Nursery Rhyme Nativity

The story of Jesus's birth for EYFS

Guidance for teachers/leaders

Nativity plays provide a wonderful opportunity to retell the story of Jesus' birth, as described in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Our Nursery Rhyme Nativity is suitable for EYFS/pre-school and SEND/ALN children. It employs a simple teacher-led script and easy-to-learn songs, all of which use traditional nursery rhyme melodies.

We encourage you to involve as many children as possible (there are no specific numbers of shepherds, angels, and wise men in this nativity) and add percussion, costumes, dance and movement as appropriate.

We are very grateful to Mrs Sandra Hamilton who kindly gifted Nursery Rhyme Nativity to Mission Together. As a stand-alone piece using traditional rhyme melodies there is no copyright for performance.

Song lyrics can be found from page 4. They can also be found in an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Please note; each song has a short introduction.

SONGS

1. Hey there! (To the tune of *Hey Diddle Diddle*)
2. The angel said to Mary (*The Wheels on the Bus*)
3. Bethlehem bound. (*Here we go round the Mulberry bush*)
4. Knock, tap, bang. (*Oh dear, what can the matter be*)
5. Mum in a million. (*Rock a bye baby*)
6. Honky Tonk Shepherds. (*If you're happy and you know it*)
7. Dance with me angels. (Row*, row, row your boat*)
8. Have you seen Him? (*Alice the camel*)
9. Baby King. (*Twinkle, twinkle*)

Leader: It's almost Christmas, a time of great joy!
As we honour the birth of God's own baby boy.
At Christmas we gather to celebrate and sing,
the birthday of Jesus, our Lord and our King.
So sit back and listen, and join in our play,
and let's all remember the *first* Christmas Day.

Song 1. Hey there! (To the tune of *Hey Diddle Diddle*)

Narrator: One day God sent His angel to a lady called Mary. God had chosen Mary to be the mother of His son, Jesus. The angel then visited Joseph. Mary and Joseph were happy that God had chosen them to be the parents of Jesus, Our Lord.

Song 2. The angel said to Mary. (*The Wheels on the Bus*)

Narrator: Sometime after, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. This made Joseph worried. How would Mary manage? Luckily, he found a donkey to carry Mary, but he still wondered whether the journey would be too hard for them.

Song 3. Bethlehem bound. (*Here we go round the Mulberry bush*)

Narrator: When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, it was very busy. There were no rooms to stay in - not even for one night. Joseph had to knock and tap on every door to find a place for them to stay.

Song 4. Knock, tap, bang. (*Oh dear, what can the matter be*)

Narrator: Finally, a friendly innkeeper let Joseph and Mary stay in his stable. There Mary gave birth to Jesus, Our Lord. Joseph made a warm and safe bed for Jesus in the hay, and Mary gently laid Jesus there.

Song 5. Mum in a million. (*Rock a bye baby*)

Narrator: God sent His angels to share the joyful news of Jesus' birth with shepherds on a hillside. The angels said, "Do not be afraid. Go to Bethlehem where you will find God's Son, Jesus."

Song 6. Honky Tonk Shepherds. (*If you're happy and you know it*)

Narrator: The shepherds did as the angels had said and found baby Jesus lying in a manger. As they did so, the angels filled the sky with joyful songs of praise. The angels sang together 'Glory to God.' It was a very happy time.

Song 7. Dance with me angels. (Row, *row, row your boat*)

Narrator: Far away, some wise men saw a bright star in the sky. They knew it was a special star that would take them to Jesus. The wise men followed the star over many miles until it led them to Bethlehem.

Song 8. Have you seen Him? (*Alice the camel*)

Narrator: The wise men found Jesus in the manger. When they saw him, they were filled with wonder. They knew Jesus was God's Son. Then they gave him special gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This was a blessed day!

Song 9. Baby King. (*Twinkle, twinkle*)

Leader: Now that we have come to the end of our Christmas story, let us join our hands in prayer and reflect on the lessons we can learn from our time together. We'll begin with the sign of the cross and then close our eyes as we listen carefully to our prayer:

Sign of the cross

Heavenly Father,
this Christmas help us to be,
thankful, like Mary.
Caring, like Joseph.
Joyful, like God's angels.
Good listeners, like the shepherds.
Generous, like the wise men.
And loving, like Jesus,
Our Lord.
Amen.

Nursery Rhyme Nativity lyrics

Song 1: Hey there! Sung to the tune of *'Hey Diddle diddle'*.

Hey there and welcome,
to angels and shepherds,
to Joseph and Mary too.

We've wise men and kings,
and lots of good things.
And a camel who thinks he's a horse.

Song 2: The angel said to Mary. Sung to the tune of *'The wheels on the bus*.'

The angel said to Mary,
I bring you joy, bring you joy, bring you joy.
God's blessing you with a baby boy,
Jesus his name.

The angel said to Joseph,
I bring you joy, bring you joy, bring you joy.
God is blessing you with a baby boy,
Jesus his name.

Song 3: Bethlehem bound! Sung to the tune of *'Here we go round the mulberry bush*'.

We must go to Bethlehem, to Bethlehem, to Bethlehem.
We must go to Bethlehem to pay our tax.

Little donkey will take us there, will take us there, will take us there.
Little donkey will take us there, to Bethlehem.

Joseph says he knows the way, he knows the way, he knows the way.
Joseph says he knows the way, to Bethlehem.

Mary is having a baby boy, a baby boy, a baby boy.
Mary is having a baby boy, in Bethlehem.

Song 4: Knock. Tap. Bang! Sung to the tune of *'O dear. What can the matter be?*'.

Knock, knock, what can the matter be? x3
Have you a room to stay?

Tap, tap, what can the matter be? x3
Have you a room to stay?

Bang, bang, what can the matter be? x3
Have you a room to stay?

Song 5: Mum in a Million. Sung to the tune of *'Rock a bye baby*.'

Mum in a million we love you so.
Mum in a million heaven does know.
Your little baby sleeps in the hay,
He's King forever, this we do pray.

Mum in a million we love you so.
Mum in a million heaven does know.
Your little baby, Jesus his name.
He's King forever, this we do pray.

Mum in a million we love you so.
Mum in a million heaven does know.
Your little baby sleeps in the hay,
He's King forever, this we do pray.

Song 6: Honky Tonk Shepherds. Sung to the tune of *'If you're happy and you know it'*.

If you're happy, dancing shepherd, clap your hands x 2
If you're happy dancing shepherd then the angel has a message.
If you're happy, dancing shepherd clap your hands.

If you're happy dancing shepherd, skip and jump x 2
If you're happy dancing shepherd then the angel has a message.
If you're happy, dancing shepherd skip and jump.

If you're happy dancing shepherd, greet the King x 2
If you're happy dancing shepherd then the angel has a message.
If you're happy, dancing shepherd greet the King.

Song 7: Dance with me angels! Sung to the tune of *'Row, row, row your boat'*.

Dance, dance, dance with me.
Ding a ding a dong.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily.
Glory is our song.

Sing with small number of angels dancing clockwise in a ring. Repeat the verse, adding more angels to the dance. When you run out of angels, all children fall down.

Song 8: Have you seen him? Sung to the tune of *'Alice the camel'*

Have you seen a camel with three humps x 3
We want to follow the star.

Have you seen a camel with two humps x 3
As we are travelling far.

Have you seen a camel with one hump x 3
As we don't have a car.

Have you seen a camel with no humps x 3
Yes, but it's a horse!

Song 9: Baby King. Sung to the tune of *'Twinkle, twinkle'*.

Twinkle, twinkle, baby King.
Happy Christmas we now sing.
Angels from the world so high.
Singing in the starry sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, baby King.
You our love, our everything.

Fundraising ideas

Mission Together is Missio for children, the Pope's charity for world mission. Thanks to donations from schools in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid for children around the world.

Carol concert or Nativity play: These are much loved Christmas events often with many people keen to attend, ask visitors to make a donation towards Mission Together to share the love of Christ at Christmas with children overseas..

Christmas crafts: get the whole school involved in making and selling ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together.