



DIY ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE ADVENT CRECHE

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Illustrated by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Many families have a creche or nativity scene, but they are not often suitable to touch or for play. This Advent, create an additional nativity just for children. This activity is designed to be created between Advent 2 and 4 with baby Jesus added on Christmas Eve and the three kings added on Epiphany, January 6.

In Advent we prepare for the coming of the Lord as we would prepare for the coming of a new member of our own family. How can we get ready for the birth of our Savior in a way that enables him to grow and thrive like all newborns? We have identified nine gifts for growth that every child needs in addition to love and adoration. Why not give these gifts to baby Jesus as well. The nine gifts are Nutrition, Music, Play with Grownups, Listening, Playing with Peers, Bond, Prayer, Language and Patience.

Blessing of a Creche

Lord, bless all who look upon this creche;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
keep our thoughts on him this season,
and gifts of growth he and all children need to thrive.
Amen.

How to create your creche:

Here are three ways to create a creche with rocks, blocks, or sticks including the gifts of growth.

Materials needed for all three creches:

Print one copy of Holy Family, shepherds, animals, and kings

Print one copy of the nine Gifts for Growth

White paper

Scissors

Mod Podge

Paintbrush

Cut apart images to fit on the rocks, blocks, or sticks. Glue images on with Mod Podge and apply a second coat over image to seal.

You can purchase the items by clicking on the following links:

Wooden Block Creche

[Wooden blocks](#)

Rock Creche

[Flat river rocks](#)

Stick Creche

[Craft sticks](#)

Pro Tip: To reduce the size of the images, lower the % in the print settings to less than 100%.



How to Create a DIY Manger

Materials Needed:

- Craft sticks
- Hot glue gun
- Hot glue sticks

Cut two or three sticks for each side and three legs. The important thing here is to glue on the legs so they don't bump into each other when you put the two sides together. You can glue on two legs toward the middle and two toward the outside. Slide together and hot glue in the center. Crumple up construction paper for the hay.



Gifts for Baby Jesus

Here is a suggested schedule of when to add the people and the gifts of growth they bring to baby Jesus.

Second Sunday in Advent

Create Mary and Joseph who bring gifts of bonding, listening, and play with grownups.



Third Sunday in Advent

Add the shepherds and animals who bring the gifts of nutrition, play with peers, and patience.



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Create baby Jesus and the three kings who will bring gifts of music, prayer and language.



Create a puzzle from your completed creche

Materials needed

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Glue
- Printed photo of your creche or use this one

Make sure the cardboard is thin enough that you can cut it easily with scissors.

Add the glue to the back of the cardboard, and then press your picture onto the cardboard.

On the back of the cardboard, draw your puzzle pieces. You can draw them by hand or use another puzzle as a template. Next, cut your puzzle pieces out with scissors.







NUTRITION



PATIENCE



PLAY WITH GROWNUPS



LANGUAGE



PLAYING WITH PEERS



MUSIC



PRAYER



BOND



LISTENING



NUTRITION



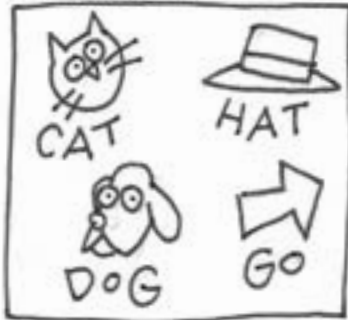
PATIENCE



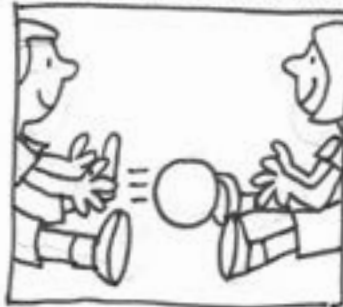
PLAY WITH GROWNUPS



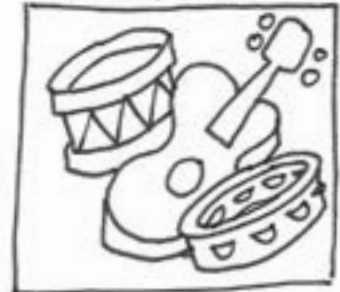
LANGUAGE



PLAYING WITH PEERS



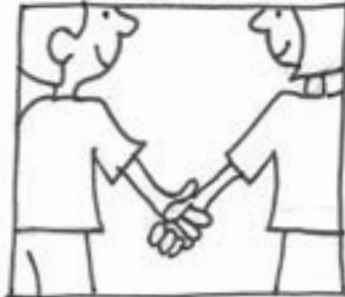
MUSIC



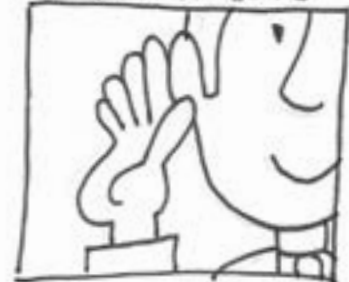
PRAYER



BOND



LISTENING



MINISTRY PARTNERS

PRIMARY CAREGIVERS



SECONDARY CAREGIVERS



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROMOTERS



FAITH LEADERS



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



PARTNER FIELD OFFICERS



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP



DONORS



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT STAFF



CHURCHES



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEERS



BISHOP CURRY



MINISTRY PARTNERS

<p>PRIMARY CAREGIVERS</p> 	<p>SECONDARY CAREGIVERS</p> 	<p>EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROMOTERS</p> 	<p>FAITH LEADERS</p> 
<p>EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</p> 	<p>PARTNER FIELD OFFICERS</p> 	<p>NATIONAL LEADERSHIP</p> 	<p>DONORS</p> 
<p>EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT STAFF</p> 	<p>CHURCHES</p> 	<p>EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEERS</p> 	<p>BISHOP CURRY</p> 