

Let your light shine this Christmas!

Decorations

1. Red, green, and yellow helium balloons with glow sticks inserted
2. Red and green table cloths
3. Christmas lights

Opening activities:

- 1) Make party bag with light bulbs stickers and markers
- 2) Lite brite center (older kids)
- 3) We Wish You a Merry Christmas Wii
- 4) Lego Center
- 5) Nativity play area (puzzles, play set, felt boards)

Icebreaker: Let Your Light Shine

Preparation. Write each of the following words on six index cards. You will need one card for each young person. If you have more than forty-eight participants, add different kinds of lights. If you have fewer than forty-two, eliminate the appropriate number of lights. Mix up the cards before distributing them.

- ⊗ candle
- ⊗ flashlight
- ⊗ lightbulb
- ⊗ streetlight
- ⊗ night-light
- ⊗ refrigerator light
- ⊗ laser light
- ⊗ fluorescent light

1. Provide each young person with a chair. Ask the participants to arrange the chairs in a circle. Remove one chair from the circle and ask that person to stand in the middle.

Explain that the person in the middle can call out one type of light, two or more types of light, or say, "Let your light shine." Whoever is holding a card matching the light that was called out must get up and find a new chair, as must the person in the middle. Give the following examples:

⌋ If the person in the middle calls out, "lightbulb," everyone holding lightbulb cards must find another chair.

If "candles" and "flashlights" are called, everyone holding those cards must find a new chair.

If the person in the middle says, "Let your light shine," everyone must find a new chair.

The person left without a chair is the new person in the center.

Take home large group craft: Candle holder: Modge podge plastic cups with flicker battery operated candle craft

Materials: plastic cups, tissue paper squares, modge podge, paintbrushes, battery operated candles, glue cups

Directions:

1. Figure out what colors of tissue paper you'd like to use.
2. Scoop out a bit of Mod Podge/water mixture with your paintbrush.
3. Brush Mod Podge onto the plastic cup first, and then stick on the tissue paper. Either way,
4. Brush over the shapes afterward to fully saturate them with Mod Podge. Wet tissue paper can rip easily, so try not to get too rough with it. Take your time and brush gently, attaching more and more tissue paper, overlapping them however you prefer.
5. Once your cup is fully covered, set it aside to dry.
6. Add battery operated candle to the center of cup



Dinner: Pizza, fruit, veggies, fruit punch with cupcakes for desert

Movie: *Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas*

Let your light shine Game:

1. Brainstorm on how we can shine our light or hide our light
 - Go through some of the qualities of shinning their light: loving, comfort, helping, being kind, sharing, sacrificing, etc.
 - And the qualities of hiding their light under a basket: Being greedy, mean, hurtful words, unkind, unloving, etc.
2. Have one side of the room be the "Shinning Your Light" side, and the other side be "Hiding Your Light" under the basket side.
3. Line up kids in the center of the room.
4. Whenever the leader says a "Shinning Your Light" quality they run to the Shinning side of the tape. Whenever the teacher says a quality of "Hiding Your Light" word the run to that side.



Group Mission Project: call groups over from station play to do the 2 activities

Craft: Thumb print light bulb Christmas card (mission project card)

Materials: white cards & envelops, paint, paper plates, black markers, wipes

Directions

1. Draw the "wire" and "tops of light bulbs"
2. Select paint color.
3. Lightly press thumb into paint, then press onto the card at the location of the light bulb tops in various locations.
4. Wipe off thumb and choose another color and press thumb onto the card.
5. Continue until you have made all the bulbs.
6. Print the message on the card front.



Holiday trail mix

Mini marshmallows, popcorn, red and green m&m candies, frosted cheerios, pretzels, bowls, measuring cups and spoons, and cellophane Christmas treat bags.

Directions:

1. Prepare the items in an assembly line.
2. Kids will scoop the items into the bag.

3. Close the bag with the wire provided and attached the Christmas card with tape.

Christmas light “cake walk” game:

Materials: Light bulb pattern cut out of construction paper labeled with numbers, Christmas music, numbers in a basket, lightbulb candy prizes

Directions:

1. Players stand on one of the light bulbs.
2. When the music is played the participants walk around the circle on the floor numbers.
3. When the music stops, so do the players.
4. The caller draws out a number from the bowl to see who wins!
5. The player whose number is drawn wins a prize.
6. Continue the game until everyone has a prize.

Glow Tag

The game: It is just like tag only they use glow sticks. The player that is “it” will have a red glow stick and the other players will have yellow or green glow sticks. The red player must tag the green players and when he does, they trade glow sticks. "IT" always wears the red glow stick.

Players must show glow sticks AT ALL TIMES! The red player must show his/hers but can hide behind things that will cover it up.

The leader's role: The leaders can play, but must watch the game and make sure everyone is showing their glow sticks during play. The leader could also have more than one “it” person in the game at once. Each additional "it" must have a red glow stick, though.