# Bookbug Session: Festive Season

A sparkling session to bring joy to children and families this festive season! We have tweaked some of the words in these songs to make them festive.

## Introduction song: [The Hello Song](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/the-hello-song)

#### Benefits

Let’s everyone know they are welcome and the session has started!

#### Tips

Smile and use names if you know them. Clap or tap along to the beat.

## Familiar song: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

#### Benefits

Rich vocabulary is introduced in a familiar, rhyming song.

#### Tips

Point to nose and show how it grows!

## Familiar rhymes: [Five Christmas Cakes (substitute currant buns for Christmas cakes!)](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/five-currant-buns)

#### Benefits

Introduces early counting skills using fingers.

#### Tips

Count down on one hand. If you are in a small group, use a different child’s name each time or choose a Christmas character (along came Santa/an elf etc).

## Active rhymes: [I Am Rolling Like A Snowball (to the tune of If You’re Happy and You Know It)](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it)

#### Song/rhyme words

I am rolling like a snowball down a hill

I am rolling like a snowball down a hill

I am rolling like a snowball, rolling like a snowball, rolling like a snowball down a hill!

**Next verses:** I am skating on the ice in the park; I am flying on my sleigh through the

Clouds; I am opening up my gifts on Christmas Day; I am twinkling like a star in the sky

## When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney

#### Benefits

Both get everyone moving – supports development of gross and fine motor skills.

#### **Tips**

Have lots of fun with the actions in these songs. Keep the pace slow and exaggerate the actions to allow everyone to join in. You can roll faster and faster as the song becomes more familiar! Leave a good gap to let children join in with Santa’s sneezes!

## Transition song: I Wonder What’s In My Bag Today?

#### Benefits

Builds anticipation and keeps the children’s attention focussed.

#### Tips

Have a Santa hat in the bag and see if the children can guess what the book is about. You could even wrap the book like a present and open it up to reveal it instead of using the bag.

1. **Story:** [**Peas on Earth by Jonny Marx and Lindsey Sagar, published by Little Tiger Press**](https://littletiger.co.uk/product/peas-on-earth)

#### Benefits

Introduces the important concepts of diversity and inclusion in a fun way that children can understand.

#### Tips

Ask children to name the types of animals in this story.

## Active songs: [Reindeer, Reindeer (to the tune of Horsey, Horsey)](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/horsey-horsey)

#### Benefits

Children love the strong rhyme and rhythm in this song.

#### Tips

Encourage adults to bounce younger children on laps, older children can gallop around the room and join in with the actions.

**Here We Go Round the Christmas Tree (to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)**

#### Song/rhyme words

Here we go round the Christmas tree, Christmas tree, Christmas tree,

Here we go round the Christmas tree on a cold and frosty morning

This is the way Rudolph taps his nose (tap nose)

This is the way the elves make us laugh (laugh – “Ho! Ho! Ho!)

This is the way Santa combs his beard (pretend to comb long beard)

This is the way the snowflakes fall (flutter fingers)

#### Benefits

Simple repetitive melody and words give everyone the confidence to join in.

#### Tips

Encourage everyone to copy your actions and repeat “Here we go round the Christmas Tree” so they can familiarise with the words and actions.

**Jingle Bells**

#### Benefits

This song is lots of fun and has plenty of repetition in it.

**Tips**

Children can pretend to ring bells every time they sing “jingle bells”.

## Lullabies/calming songs with finger puppets: [Twinkle, Twinkle, Christmas Star](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/twinkle-twinkle-little-star)

#### Benefits

Lullabies can calm and soothe at any time of day.

#### Tips

Use your finger puppet or just make your fingers “twinkle”. Replace the word “little” with “Christmas”.

## Familiar song: We Wish You a Merry Christmas

#### Benefits

Lots of rich and seasonal vocabulary is introduced here.

#### Tips

Use your finger puppet or just make your fingers “twinkle”. Encourage joining in with “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”.

## Final song: [The Goodbye Song](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/songs-and-rhymes/the-goodbye-song)

#### Benefits

Lets everyone know the session is over.

#### Tips

Thank everyone for joining in.

Please read our guide on [permission to read books aloud online](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading-and-stories/bookbug/online-bookbug-sessions-recommendations-and-permissions).