



Our third “Little Day Out” event took place on Tuesday 25th November 2014 at Ballyclare Presbyterian Church.

The aim:

An event for children aged 0-4 years to come and explore the Christmas story through story, music and craft.

Objectives:

- To run a fun event for up to 100 children aged 0-4 years, accompanied by a responsible adult.
- To tell the story of Christmas and for the children to understand that the star showed people where the Saviour had been born.
- To make the resources for this event available for anyone to replicate it.
- To fill 2 hours with fun activities that the majority of the children attending would be able to participate in.
- To create an event that can be easily replicated in any church or manse grounds without too much difficulty.
- To use music in a way that children could learn through repetition a song that would reinforce the teaching.

Included for your use:

- Programme of event
- Story used
- Craft used
- Snacks made available
- Publicity that can be adapted for use
- Evaluation of what we did and what could be done differently

Programme:

The programme was set up to incorporate 4 zones that were easily managed and moved between by the children and adults.

1. Story zone

This zone told the story of Christmas, using a book called “Follow the Star”

Equipment:

- Book: Little Star (see details below)
- Star finger puppet

2. Craft zone

The children made star Christmas decorations that they could hang on their Christmas tree.

Equipment:

- Wooden star shapes with gold thread to hang up
- PVA glue
- Sequins and glitter
- Colour in sheets and crayons

3. Music zone

In this zone there were simple songs sung and the children were able to use movement and simple instruments to be involved.

Equipment:

- Simple shaker instruments so children could join in

Each group moved around each of the above zones in groups of up to 35 children so that none of the groups was too large to deal with at one time.

4. Food zone

The food zone was done at the end and was the chance to get everyone together. We sang a song they had learnt in the music zone and this was fun to bring the activity from one zone to the whole group.

The children and adults were spread all over the hall to eat their snacks. The children got a paper plate with 2 small sandwiches, some raisins, carrot sticks and some magic stars. They also got some juice. We provided tea/coffee and shortbread for the adults.

The groups who attended were divided into 3 to match the zones and then designated a coloured star sticker to give them a group identity. The group then had a host who was one of our volunteers who had a timetable for their group to know which zone to go to at which time.



BLUE

| <u>TIME</u> | <u>BLUE</u> |
|-----------------|--|
| 10.00 am | Registration |
| 10.15 -10.35 am | Craft Zone – Main Hall |
| 10.40 -11.00 am | Story Zone – Small Room |
| 11.05 -11.25 am | Music Zone – Small hall |
| 11.30 -12.00 pm | Picnic and songs to finish – Main Hall |
| 12.00 pm | Event ends |

RED

| <u>TIME</u> | <u>RED</u> |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 10.00 am | Registration |
| 10.15 - 10.35 am | Story Zone – Small Room |
| 10.40 - 11.00 am | Music Zone – Small hall |
| 11.05 – 11.25 am | Craft Zone – Main Hall |
| 11.30 – 12.00 pm | Picnic and songs to finish |
| 12.00 pm | Event ends |

YELLOW

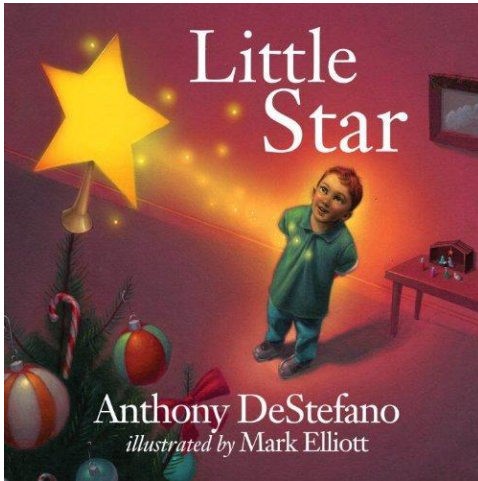
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| 12.00 pm | Event ends |

Pricing:

We charged £3 each per child and £1 per adult but the pricing will depend very much on what you choose to do in terms of resources and food. This covered our costs but this can be worked out on an individual location basis.

Christmas Story zone

The story of the nativity was told using a book called “Little Star” by Anthony deStefano. The book was not simply read to the children but the storyteller knew it well enough to interact with the children. There was also a star finger puppet used to illustrate the story. The groups of children ranged from 32 to 34 in number.



Main point of the story –the star showed the place where the Saviour was born and served its King in an amazing way that first Christmas night.

Sometimes the story can finish before the 20minutes are up for that zone so it is good to have something else to do with the children to fill the time before they have to move to the next zone.

In both the craft and the story zones we had some songs to sing that helped to fill that gap – and these also included stars.

Songs used:

- Twinkle twinkle little star
- Away in a manger

The book and the puppet for this zone cost about £12-00.

Christmas Craft zone

In this zone, the children made Christmas decorations in the shape of stars that they could hang on their tree and would remind them of what they had learnt. We used wooden star shapes bought from eBay, sequins, glitter and PVA glue.



This is some of the resources used for the craft that the children did during the 20 minute slot. It was very simple to make and quick to put together but was a good reminder to take home. It did not take them too long to do so we also had a colour in sheet for them of the nativity with the star above the manger to fill more time.



For 100 children, this zone cost around about £70-00 to produce.

Christmas Music zone

For this zone we paid to bring in a professional who would do music activities with the children. The person that we used was Amy Matson from www.amymatsonmusic.co.uk. The cost of this zone will depend on who you invite to do the music.

What people said who attended the event:

Thank you for a great morning!

The kids loved it.