Objective

To count the days to Christmas.
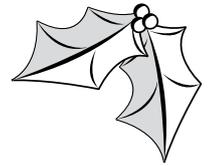
Resources

www.themouseclub.co.uk - Christmas section.

Preparation

Either buy a commercial advent calendar or make one.

Early Learning Goals

• **Personal, social & emotional development**: Learn to take turns and share fairly.

• **Communication, language & literacy:** Listens and responds. Talk about different preparations for Christmas. Talk about each picture as it is opened.

• **Mathematical development:** Opportunity to count the days up to Christmas starting from number one. Count up to 24, recognising the individual numbers. Opportunity to count how many days are left? How many doors have been opened? (The calendar on **www.themouseclub.co.uk** will always default to closed doors and child has to start again from 1 – good repetition for getting young children to count in sequence.)

• **Knowledge and understanding of the world:** Explain that many Christmas ideas as well as advent calendars were originally ideas that came from Germany.

• **Physical development:** Shows dexterity with fine manipulation opening the doors on a commercially bought calendar, using mouse control to move the cursor around the computer screen.

• **Creative development:** Experiments with a range of media to draw a picture for the class advent calendar.

Activity

Make a class advent calendar. Ask each child to draw a picture of their favourite toy and colour it in. (If they struggle let them choose a picture from a magazine and cut it out.) Make sure it is small enough to fit inside an envelope. Write a number on the front of each envelope so there are 24 altogether. Fix the envelopes to a large drawn Christmas tree on a display. Choose a different child to open an envelope each day in December. (Could include a small packet of sweets in the envelope.) Attach the picture to the tree and count how many envelopes are left to open.

Links with Home

Make a Christmas promise. Either promise to share toys with siblings or help mum and dad in the house.