How to Use the Six Blocks* with A “Sense”sational Christmas

This is optional. It is included for a teacher to see how to integrate the six blocks with A “Sense”sational Christmas Unit and what a daily schedule would look like.

Taken from The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks by Patricia Cunningham
Kindergarten Six Block Schedule for A “Sense”sational Christmas

**Opening Activities:** Calendar, Read Aloud, Shared Reading, Poems, Songs, and Morning Message

**Guided Reading/Centers:** Small Group instruction (2 groups) Centers (2 groups)

**Writing Block:** Working with Words, mini lesson, journals, conferencing, and author’s chair

Break/Recess: Fine motor and gross motor skills development
Snacks

Math Block: Hands on Math activities and instruction, Math Their Way, Box It Bag It Math, other textbooks your school uses

Lunch

**Read Aloud/ Self-Selected Reading**

**Guided Reading/Centers:** Small Group instruction (2 groups) Centers (2 groups)

Social Studies/Science/Health

PE/Music/Art

Daily Reflections: Review concepts learned today, Read Aloud, Literacy Link
Read Aloud in the “Sense”sational Christmas Unit

The teacher reads aloud to all students literature (fact or fiction) about Christmas and the five senses. Suggested books:

- **My Five Senses** by Aliki
- **The Magic School Bus Explores the Senses** by Joanna Cole
- **Bunnies’ Five Senses** by Maria Ruis
- **Spot’s Touch and Feel Day** by Eric Hill
- **Pat the Puppy: Touch and Feel** by Edith Kunhardt
- **The Listening Walk** by Paul Showers & Aliki
- **Scratch and Sniff** by Gus Clarke
- **Santa’s Biggest Helper: A Scratch & Sniff Book** by Dubowski & Lucas
- **Jingle Bells, Homework Smells** by Diane De Groat
- **A Taste of Honey** by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- **Animal Ears (Science)** by Trumbauer, Saunders-Smith
- **Hearing by Frost**, by Saunders-Smith
- **Perk Up Your Ears: Discover Your Sense of Hearing** by Cobb
- **Hearing (Explore Your Senses)** by Laurence Prince
- **My Five Senses** by Margaret Miller
- **My Eyes Are For Seeing** by Jane Belk-Moncure
- **The Night Before Christmas** by Clement Clark Moore,
- **Rover Saves Christmas** by Roddy Doyle
- **Corduroy's Christmas (A Lift-The-Flap Book)** by B. G. Hennessy
- **The Gingerbread Doll** by Susan Tews
- **Santa's Workshop (Mini House Book)** by Peter Lippman
- **A Christmas Alphabet** by Joan Walsh Anglund
- **Auntie Claus** by Elise Primavera
- **The Christmas Crocodile** by Bonny Becker
- **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** by Dr. Seuss
- **Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree** by Robert Barry
- **Olive, the Other Reindeer** by Vivian Walsh
- **The Wild Christmas Reindeer** by Jan Brett
- **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer** by Robert Lewis May

* I always ask my school librarian to help find these books for my theme library. These books are read during the Read Aloud block and then are available for Self-Selected Reading. Add others to the list if you like!

*See **The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks** by Patricia Cunningham for other ideas to use with Read Aloud.
Shared Reading and the “Sense”sational Christmas Unit

Shared Reading is linked to the Guided Reading Block. Shared Reading is the whole group instruction where the teacher models the reading process with Big Books, poems or songs while students participate. Repeated readings of the same books deepen and reinforce students’ understanding of phonological awareness, concepts of print, phonics, vocabulary, and sense of story. These books come from the Wright Group, but any that relate to the five senses or Christmas will do.

Some suggested books for Shared Reading:

The Farm Concert by Joy Cowley
Move Over by Joy Cowley
The Jigaree by Joy Cowley
The Monsters Party by Joy Cowley
Sing a Song by Joy Cowley
To Town by Joy Cowley

Poems and songs written on chart paper and hung around the room make excellent shared readings. Here is a list of songs and poems used throughout A “Sense”sational Christmas:

“Singing the Senses” by Penni Flood
“Five Senses of Christmas”
“Santa Fingerplay”
“Gingerbread Man”
“Oh...”
“Discovering My World”
“Popcorn Song”

*Add others to the list!
Self-Selected Reading and A “Sense”sational Christmas

Self–Selected Reading is multi-leveled where children choose what they want to read appropriate to their independent reading level. It also builds confidence and motivates students as readers.

Some suggested books:

Show-And-Tell Sam (Rookie Readers) by Charnan Simon
Messy Bessey’s Holidays (Rookie Readers) by Pat McKissack, Dana Reagan
Chanukah (Rookie Read-About Holidays) by David F. Marx
Feeling Things (Rookie Read-About Science) by Allan Fowler
 Hands (Rookie Readers Level A) by Dana Meachen Rau, Rick Stromoski
Hearing Things (Rookie Read-About Science) by Allan Fowler
Tasting Things (Rookie Read-About Science) by Allan Fowler
Listen to Me (Rookie Readers Level C) by Barbara J. Neasi
Kwanzaa (Rookie Read-About Holidays) by David F. Marx
My Five Senses by Margaret Miller

These books are just a few easy readers for kindergarten to read during Self-Selected Reading. I always move books from the Read Aloud basket into the Self-Selected reading baskets so it is multileveled. Add others to the list!

*See The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks by Patricia Cunningham for other activities to use with Self-Selected Reading.
Guided Reading and A “Sense”sational Christmas

The purpose of Guided Reading is to teach comprehension strategies. It is a small-group, instructional process that bridges the gap between shared reading with the whole class and independent reading. The teacher groups students according to their reading ability. This makes it easier for them to address students with similar needs, while at the same time focusing on specific strategies appropriate for the students' instructional levels. The teacher needs multiple copies of books, in fact a six-pack works best!

Suggested readings for the different levels:

**Emergent**
- Snowman
- The Surprise
- The Gifts
- A Hug is Warm
- Everywhere You Look
- Who Likes the Cold
- Cookies
- Uncle Bill Is Feeling Ill

**Upper Emergent**
- Trees Are Special
- Smelly Armor
- The Five Senses
- Buzzing Flies
- Night Noises
- Sweet or Sour?
- City Senses
- Come and See
- Everywhere You Look

**Early Fluency**
- The Gingerbread Man
- The Noise Festival

**Fluency**
- Wild Christmas Reindeer by Jan Brett

These six packs come from the Wright Group, but any books that relate to Christmas or the Five Senses will do.

*See The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks by Patricia Cunningham for other activities to use with Guided Reading.*
In Working With Words, the children learn to read and spell high-frequency words, apply phonemic awareness strategies and learn vocabulary.

**Suggested Word Wall Words:** see, hear, smell, taste, touch, five, senses, deaf, blind, sight, visually impaired, Christmas, ear, vibrations, skin, nerves, feel, brain, nose, sniff, tongue, salty, sweet, bitter, and popcorn.

### Word Families

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### Making Words

- Christmas
- vibrations
- popcorn
- gingerbread
- ornament

*See *The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks* by Patricia Cunningham for other activities with these words.*
Writing and A “Sense”sational Christmas Unit

Writing should be done daily. This is a good time for teachers to help students begin to write. In shared writing or mini lessons, I always model writing and relate it to topics about Christmas for the five senses. Use the author’s chair for sharing journal entries.

Some suggested writings for mini lessons are:

* Organizing and using the writing folder
* Choosing paper
* Where print begins on the page
* Saying words slowly and recording their sounds
* Leaving spaces between words
* Word construction
* Using the word wall to help spell words
* Capital letters for names

*See The Teacher’s Guide to the Four Blocks by Patricia Cunningham for other activities in writing.

Literacy Link and A “Sense”sational Christmas

Make sure students take home books to read every day and record what they read in a reading log. Students always want to read the books at home that you are reading in school, so make sure you have a good check-out system. I check reading logs every Monday and Tuesday to make sure students are completing them.
*Reading at home helps your child become a better reader. Please read ten minutes every night and record the book you read in the book log.

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Other poems and songs that could be used in this unit:

**Christmas Presents...**
See all the presents by the Christmas tree.
(Hands in sweeping motion.)
Some for you
(Point to children.)
And some for me.
(Point to self.)
Long ones,
(Hands spread wide apart.)
Tall ones,
(Measure from the floor.)
Short ones, too.
(Hands close together.)
And here is a round one
(Make circle with arms.)
Wrapped in blue.
Isn't it fun to look and see
All the presents by the Christmas tree?
(Nod.)

**Call Rudolph...**
Eight little reindeer pulling Santa's sled
One fell down and bumped his head.
The elves called Santa and Santa said,
"Can seven little reindeer pull my sled?"

Seven little reindeer...
Six little reindeer...
Five little reindeer...
Four little reindeer...
Three little reindeer...
Two little reindeer...

One little reindeer pulling Santa's sled;
He fell down and bumped his head.
The elves called Santa and Santa said,
"Call Rudolph!"
Christmas Colors...
"Three Blind Mice"
Red, green, white; red, green, white,
Christmas colors, Christmas colors.
Red is the color on holly wreaths,
Green is the color of Christmas trees,
White is the color from stars so bright.
Red, green, white; red, green, white.

Here Is The Chimney...
Here is the chimney (make fist, enclose thumb)
Here is the top (place palm on top of fist)
Open the lid (remove top hand)
and out Santa will pop. (pop up thumb)

I'm A Little Christmas Tree...
I'm a little Christmas Tree
Glittering, glittering merrily!
A star at my head
Gifts at my feet
And on all my branches
Candy canes so sweet!