

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 Alik

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 & Alik

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.

Working With Words and A "Sense"sational Christmas



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

ee	ell	ive	ind	eel	in
see	smell	five	blind	feel	skin
tree	bell	dive	bind	peel	pin
bee	tell	jive	kind	reel	win
free	fell	hive	mind	wheel	tin
	sell		find		spin
	well		wind		sin

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.



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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!