

NATIVITY PLAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Equipment:

- Costumes for children (Mary, Joseph, Angel/s, Shepherds, Wise Men, Animals) or a large piece 'Nativity Set'

Note: I like to use the Nativity Set one week, then follow with the same story with the children in costume the next week (this way they learn the roles and know what is expected).

- Manger/ crib and doll wrapped in cloth (Jesus)
- Star
- Music – Colin Buchanan, On That Very First Christmas. Available on Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/track/1wz72DSVBjKxgo4gXUIPgJ?si=c6862fedea81450e>)
- If you have a pianist/guitarist or don't mind singing a cappella – it is wonderful to play and sing this live as the verses are in a slightly different order to the soundtrack. Sheet music is available for download through Colin Buchanan's website (<https://colinbuchanan.com.au/products/king-of-christmas-cd-mp3?pos=1&sid=73b9ad7fb&ss=r&variant=32523311180>)



Script: Narrated by the leader.

Note - if the children are very young, the narrator can tell the whole story while just encouraging the children to come on stage at the relevant time. However, if the children are a bit older, Mary and the Angel/s may like to recite their lines.

BRING MARY ONTO STAGE

The Christmas story starts with a lady called Mary who was soon to be married to a man called Joseph. But before she was married...

She had a visit from an angel.

BRING AN ANGEL ON STAGE

The Angel said,

“Greetings Mary, you who are highly favoured. The Lord is with you.”

But Mary was frightened.

The angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God.

**You will give birth to a son,
and you are to call him Jesus.**

**He will be great,
and his kingdom will never end.”**

“How can this be,” Mary asked the angel, **“since I am a virgin?”**

“The Holy Spirit will come on you, so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

“I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me just as you have said.”

Then the angel left her. **ANGEL can sit down/ or step off stage.**

BRING JOSEPH ONTO STAGE

The baby grew in Mary's tummy
and when it was almost ready to be born,
Joseph and Mary had to go on a long trip to a place called Bethlehem.

SING FIRST VERSE: MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM...

When they got there,
it was really crowded with no place for them to stay,
but a kind inn keeper took pity on them
and let them stay out the back, with the animals.

BRING ANY ANIMALS and MANGER ON STAGE

And that night the baby was born.
Mary wrapped him in cloth and
placed him in the manger. *(place BABY DOLL in manger)*

SING SECOND VERSE: BABY JESUS BORN THAT NIGHT...

Now out in the fields nearby there were some shepherds
looking after their sheep

BRING SHEPHERD'S ON STAGE

An angel appeared to them,
ANGELS BACK ON STAGE/ or stand up
but the shepherds were terrified.

"Do not be afraid," said the angel.
**"I bring you good news
that will cause great joy
for all the people.
Today a Saviour has been born,
he is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be the sign to you:
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

And then suddenly a great number of angels appeared in the sky saying,
**"Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to those on whom his favour rests."**

SING THE NEXT VERSE: ANGELS SINGING GLORY TO GOD...

So, the shepherds hurried off to Bethlehem
and found Mary and Joseph
and the baby Jesus lying in a manger,
just as they had said.

SING THE NEXT VERSE: SHEPHERDS TOLD THAT THE KING IS BORN...

Also, a long way away
there were some wise men
BRING WISE MEN ONTO STAGE
who saw a special star appear in the night sky
that told them King Jesus had been born.

They were overjoyed,
and so they followed the star
until it stopped
right over the place where Jesus was.
They worshipped him
and then they opened their treasures and
presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

SING THE WISE MEN CAME TO WORSHIP HIM...

With all the children on stage (or nativity set displayed) sing the final verse,
**MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM,
BABY JESUS BORN THAT NIGHT,
THE ANGELS SINGING GLORY TO GOD,
THE SHEPHERDS TOLD THAT THE KING IS BORN
THE WISE MEN CAME TO WORSHIP HIM,
ON THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS.**

**APPLAUSE, BOW!
TAKE PHOTO**

