Summer Christmas: adult input plan

2 to 3 weeks in December · ages 2 to 5 · adult-led and child-initiated ideas for six learning areas

Big questions

- What is the weather like at Christmas here?
- How do we keep safe in the summer sun?
- What have we loved about our year together?

Key words

beach · sun hat · sunscreen · shade · jandals or thongs · shell · barbecue · present · pōhutukawa · summer holidays · hot · our year

Area	Adult-led (small group, 10 to 15 minutes)	Child-initiated (set it up, then step back)
Talk and listening	Show a photo of a snowy Christmas card and one of a beach. Ask: which looks like Christmas here? Why might Christmas be cold in some places?	A beach-holiday role-play corner: towels, sun hats, empty sunscreen bottles, a picnic basket and a toy barbecue.
Early reading and writing	Make a group "our summer Christmas" book: each child draws one thing they do in December and tells you a sentence to write.	Word cards and the word mat on the writing table with card, envelopes and pens for summer Christmas cards.
Maths	Count presents, shells or ice creams with the count-and-graph sheet; older children try level 2 and say which has most.	Shells, pebbles and pōhutukawa or Christmas bush flowers (picked up, not picked) to sort, count and line up in patterns.
Exploring the world	Sun-safety walk: look for shade in the playground at morning tea and again after lunch. Did the shade move?	Sand tray with buckets, spades, shells and water; magnifiers for looking closely at shells and sand.
Creative play and art	Paint or print a pōhutukawa or summer scene with red and green on a blue sky, then talk about the colours chosen.	Collage table with tissue, crepe paper, shells and recycled card for decorations and cards to take home.
Moving and fine motor	Beach games outside early in the day: carry water in buckets, hop like crabs, catch a soft ball, then rest in the shade.	Tracing paths and pattern strips at a shady table; pegs and pipe cleaners for threading summer decorations.

Families: tell us how you spend the summer holidays. Not every family celebrates Christmas, and every summer story is welcome.