



Toddler Light Party



Playtime

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This book
belongs to



★ Shine like a star! ★



Here's a star chart to encourage your toddler at home

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
..... (name) deserves a star for:					
 smiling					
 helping hands					
saying 'please' and 'thank you'					
 sharing					

The final two rows are left blank for you to choose activities relevant to your toddler.

Ideas for games:

Traffic lights: Show circles of red, amber or green as everyone walks around to music. Green means walk, red means stop and amber means get ready to go or to stop!

Adult and child relay race/walk:

Use a torch as a baton to hand on!

Treasure hunt: With lights low, use torches to search for small prizes.

Musical statues: Everyone dances to music. When the music stops, everyone freezes in a candle shape (*palms together above heads*).

Feely boxes: Can the children guess what is hidden in baskets/boxes just by feeling? You could hide a candle, a torch, a star shape, a lantern, etc.

Ideas for food:

Cut up fruit and vegetables that are all colours of the rainbow and let the children make a rainbow on their plates.

Decorate muffin halves with smiling faces (*cucumber slices for eyes and mouths cut from cheese*) or decorate fairy cakes.

Make traffic light jellies with red, orange and green jelly.

Ice rectangular biscuits and decorate with red, orange and green smarties.

Make 'smiles' from small marshmallows (*for teeth*) wedged between slices of red apple (*for lips*)!

Prayer:

(You might like to hand out tea-lights in baby jars with ribbon attached to make handles. These could be lit after the prayer, if safe to do so.)

Leader: I wonder if you know anyone who is so kind and helpful that they seem to shine like a light? They make the world a much brighter place. Let's say a prayer to ask God to help us to be like that too!

Dear God,

We thank you for all the fun we've had today at our Light Party.

Thank you for your gift of light that we see in the world around us.

Please smile on each and every one of us here today. Help us to reflect the brightness of your smile by being kind and helpful to everyone we meet.

Amen.

Party bag:

Why not encourage families to continue the theme of light at home by giving out the *Shine like a star* activity sheet? You could include a packet of gummed stars for use on the chart.

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Toddler Light Party!

Here are some ideas to celebrate the gift of light that we see in the world around us and to introduce the idea that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Ready:

Decorate your meeting place with some fairy lights, if possible. Bring a big church candle to symbolize the Light of the World and from which you could light individual tea-lights. Ask everyone to bring a torch.

As the children arrive, let them decorate sun, moon and star shapes with paint/crayons and glitter. They could also make sparkly fish, cats with green eyes, glow-worms and parrots with rainbow wings (see story).

Teddy:

Dress Teddy in a fluorescent tabard/band or white clothing and be ready to explain that he wants to show up when he is walking home from school in the dark. Point out that the moon and the stars light his path and Mrs Bear puts the porch lantern/light on to welcome them both home!

Go:

Your aim is to think about the benefits of different light sources and to encourage everyone to shine like stars in the world!

Storytelling Tips:

Close the curtains and let everyone have a torchlight procession around the room before they sit down for the story. Keep the lights low until the "Let there be light!" part of the story. Practise the response, "That's brilliant", putting your hand to your ear to remind everyone to respond.

The story: THAT'S BRILLIANT!

Leader:

Welcome to our Light Party, everyone! It's lovely to see all your torches. They cheer us up on a dull October day and help us to walk safely.

Long, long ago, before the world was made, there was no light – just darkness. I wonder what that was like? Let's switch off our torches and see ... Oh dear! Very gloomy! So God gave a beaming smile (*shine torch on your own smile*) and said, "Let there be light!" (*Switch on room lights.*) And there was! "That's brilliant!" said God. (*Hand to ear.*)

All:

That's brilliant!

Leader:

God's eyes twinkled as he made the sky. "Let there be suns and moons and stars!" he said. (*Show glittery shapes.*) And there were! "That's brilliant!" said God ...

All:

That's brilliant!

Song:

Twinkle, twinkle, little star

Leader:

God was delighted with his twinkling stars! So he made fish to sparkle in the sea and birds to flash bright feathers. He made worms that glowed and cats that blinked bright green eyes. Everything was shiny and new and reflected God's light.

(*Show any made.*) "That's brilliant!" said God ...

All:

That's brilliant!

Leader:

BUT there was *nobody* to share it with. "I know! Let there be people with bright friendly smiles just like mine!" said God. (*Encourage all to smile.*) And there were! Everywhere there were people who smiled God's smile!

Leader:

"That's brilliant!" said God ...

All:

That's brilliant!

Leader:

(*Sadly.*) But then things started to go wrong. People forgot to look up at God's smile and what do you think they did? They started to *frown* instead. (*Encourage all to frown.*) "Oh dear, that's *gloomy!*" said God ...

All:

That's gloomy!

Leader:

"Never mind!" said God. "If people won't look *up* at me, I'll send my smile *down!* I'll send my own son Baby Jesus into the world wearing my beaming smile. He will be the Light of the World!"

Leader:

So Jesus was born ... (*Light the big church candle.*) And the people who

walked in darkness saw his great light! It was bright and strong! Even the dark storm clouds blew away, and out came the sun! Oh, that's brilliant! ...

All:

That's brilliant!

Leader:

Everywhere Jesus went he made people smile. "Look how many shiny fish Jesus helped us to catch!" said some beaming fishermen! "That's brilliant!" ...

All:

That's brilliant!

Leader:

"I was blind but Jesus helped me see again!" said a man. "That's brilliant!" ...

All:

That's brilliant!

Leader:

Everywhere Jesus went, his smile reminded people to be friendly and kind. (*Slowly*) And when he died, his light did NOT go out, it just kept shining. Let's turn the lights off again and see! Look! (*Point to church candle.*) The darkness cannot put out his light!

Jesus wants us to shine like stars in the world. We can do that by reflecting God's friendly smile. Can you do that? ... Wow! That's absolutely brilliant!

Lighthouse craft:

You could make lighthouses by taping cardboard tubes onto paper plates. Use pebbles or cones cut from egg-boxes and pasted to the plate for the rocks. Cut two slits in opposite sides of the top of the tube and insert yellow card for the light rays with 'I am the light of the world' written on it. Paste a circle of card folded into a cone to the top of the lighthouse.

Ideas for songs:

To the tune 'The wise man built his house upon the rock'

The lighthouse says, "Be careful of the rocks!" (x3) (*flash torches*)

And the boats sail safely round.

The runway lights say, "This is where to land!" (x3) (*flash two lines of torches*)

And the planes fly safely down.

The torchlight says, "I'll show you where to walk!" (x3) (*walk with torches*)

And it keeps me safe and sound.

You could also sing 'This little light of mine' (chorus), 'We are marching in the light of God,' 'I can sing a rainbow' and 'All things bright and beautiful.'