Christmas Sensory Bin Recipe Cards

Cut out the cards. Pick one bin per day. Grown-up stays within arm's reach the whole time.

Jingle Bell Scoop Bin

You need: Dry rice or large pom poms · big jingle bells (larger than a toilet-paper tube opening) · cups + scoops

Play: Scoop, pour, listen

Tried it? ◯ Loved it? ◯

Snowy Penguin Bin

You need: Cotton balls or homemade cloud dough · toy penguins · spoons

Play: Rescue the penguins

Tried it? ◯ Loved it? ◯

Ornament Water Bin

You need: Shallow warm water · shatterproof plastic ornaments · ladle · towel

Play: Float, catch, count

Tried it? ◯ Loved it? ◯

Pine Cone Nature Bin

You need: Pine cones · cinnamon sticks · wooden spools · tongs

Play: Smell, grip, sort

Tried it? ◯ Loved it? ◯

Gift Wrap Crinkle Bin

You need: Tissue paper · empty gift boxes · ribbon pieces (short)

Play: Wrap, unwrap, peek

Tried it? ◯ Loved it? ◯

Red & Green Sort Bin

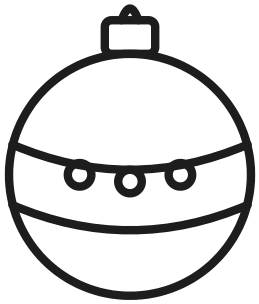
You need: Large red + green blocks or pom poms · muffin tin

Play: Sort by color

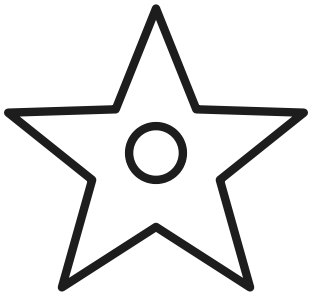
Tried it? ◯ Loved it? ◯

I Spy in the Christmas Bin

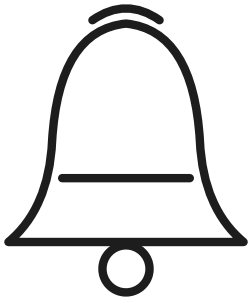
Hide these shapes (paper or toys) in the bin. When your toddler finds one, color it here.



Ball



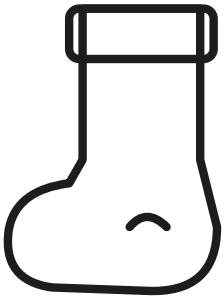
Star



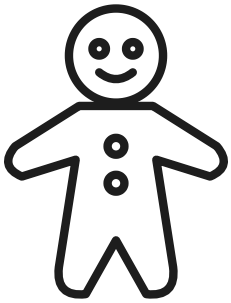
Bell



Tree



Stocking



Gingerbread

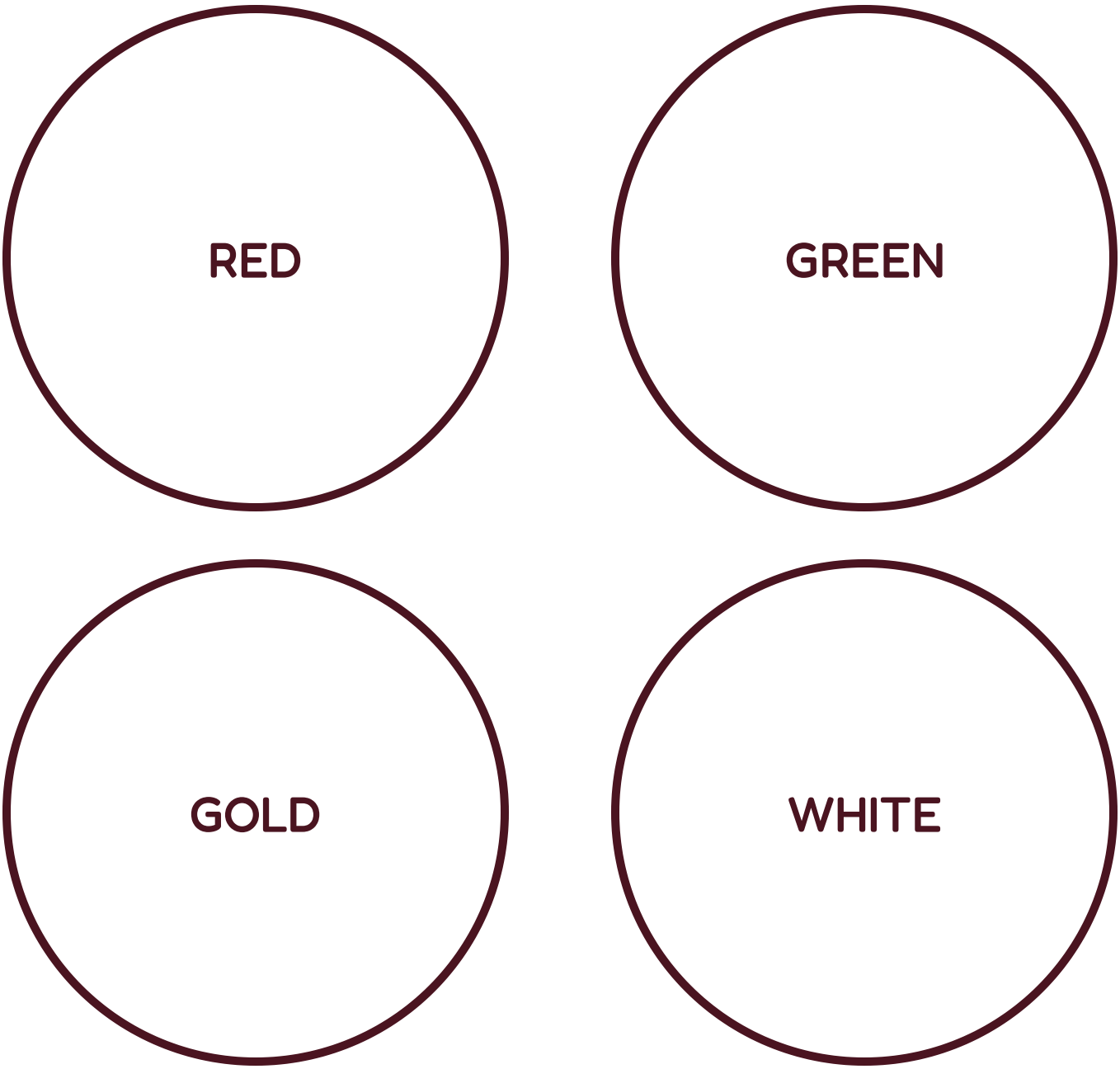
Sensory Bin Safety & Setup

Two minutes of setup makes sensory play calmer and safer.

- ◯ **Every item passes the tube test for under-3s**
  If it fits through a toilet-paper tube, it is a choking risk for kids under 3. Use bigger items.
- ◯ **No button batteries, magnets or water beads**
  Keep light-up toys with batteries out of the bin. Skip water beads entirely.
- ◯ **No glass ornaments, tinsel or hooks**
  Use shatterproof plastic ornaments only.
- ◯ **Food fillers only if your child no longer mouths**
  Dry rice and pasta are fine for many 3–4 year olds; watch closely.
- ◯ **Grown-up within arm's reach**
  Sensory bins are supervised play, not independent play, for toddlers.
- ◯ **Bin on a sheet or tablecloth**
  Shake it out into the bin at the end.
- ◯ **Two tools only**
  A cup and a scoop beats ten tools.
- ◯ **Clean-up song ready**
  Same song every time = easier transitions.

Red, Green & Gold Sort Mat

Color each circle, then sort pom poms, blocks or ornaments onto the matching circle.



Our Christmas Sensory Week

Write the bin you will try each day (or “rest day” — that counts too). Color the bell when you finish.

Mon _____ 

Tue _____ 

Wed _____ 

Thu _____ 

Fri _____ 

Sat _____ 

Sun _____ 

Favorite bin this week:

_____