

Advent calendar

You will need:

- ▶ three pieces of A4 card
- ▶ a craft knife and ruler
- ▶ crayons and pencils
- ▶ glue
- ▶ a ballpoint pen.

Activity

First make a template for your calendar. Draw 24 rectangles of equal size on a piece of card. Make sure they are not too close together! To make sure the rectangles are all the same size, it might be a good idea to draw round something or make a template. Use the craft knife to cut the rectangles out of your sheet. Write 'front' on the front, and 'back' on the back.

Now place your template over the top of a piece of white card, (so that you can see the word 'front'). Draw 24 Christmas pictures inside the holes. Colour in the backgrounds too.

Take the template off and colour in a bit of extra background, in case your windows are not quite in line. This is your base.

Next, take another piece of card and draw a large Christmas scene onto it. Turn it over and put the template on it, so you can see the word 'back'. Draw round the edge of the holes.

Remove the template and put your picture on to a piece of wood, some very thick cardboard or a couple of old newspapers. With a ruler and a craft knife, carefully cut around three edges of each rectangle. Score the fourth edge with a table knife.

Spread glue in between all of the small pictures on the base, and carefully place your Christmas scene on top.

Write a number on each window, and you're ready for 1st December!

Points for parents

Children love to open advent calendars, and it can be fun to make your own.

It's important to take great care with the craft knife. You will need to supervise children all the time they are using it.

Skills used

- Cutting
- Scoring
- Measuring
- Precision

▶▶ What next?

This technique can be used to make 'lift-the-flap' picture books and greeting cards.

If you are concerned about using a craft knife with your child, there are other ways of making an advent calendar.

You could try:

- ▶ using split pins to fix a cover over the pictures
- ▶ cover a piece of card with mini greetings cards, held closed with blu-tack.

