

## Carols at bedtime

Christmas is a great time of year to learn songs – many have been passed down the generations for hundreds of years. And singing together is also a lovely way to praise God, whether at home or in church. Try these well-known songs with your child.

As Christmas draws near, why not include a verse or two of *Away in a Manger* in your child's bedtime routine?

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

When it's dark, you might enjoy singing just the chorus of *This little light of mine*.

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

A really simple song that you could use in night time prayers goes to the tune of *Frere Jacques*:

*Light a candle, light a candle,  
God is here, God is here.  
Bless our friends and family,  
Bless our friends and family,  
Far and near, far and near.*

**Safety first:** small children love to watch a candle flame, but you must never leave a lit candle unattended or within a child's reach – you might prefer to use a battery powered candle for night prayers.