

JOE WHITE

# YOU MIGHT BE A REINDEER



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SENSORY STORY

# **You Might be a Reindeer**

A Christmas Sensory Story by Joe White

As with any activity the storyteller needs to be attuned to the learner's individual sensory preferences. Nothing about this sensory experience should be aversive. It will be up to the storyteller to involve the learner as much as possible in the storytelling experience. Wherever possible communication should be encouraged, this may be eye contact, preferences, or consent. The learner should be as active a participant as possible fully empowered - if they don't want pretend antlers on then fine - you wear it!

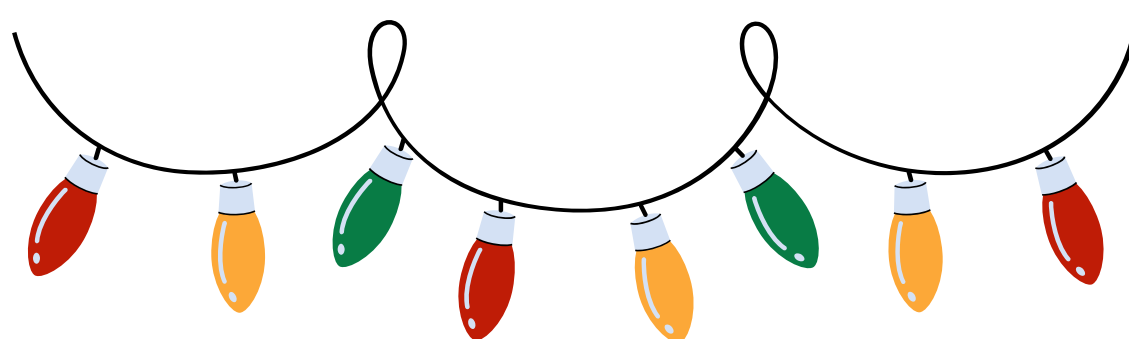
If you need to adapt this story to meet an individual's needs do so. When reading it you must be fully involved.

Have fun, in a wintery wonderland sensory story throughout. As long as the learner is enjoying it you can't go wrong.

## **Essential Sensory resources**

A Mirror - This will be securely placed where the learner can see it. I use a perspex mirror designed for young children as it is light and safe. I have used car mirrors that attach to the headrest to allow parents to see their babies.

A box to keep the resources - you can reveal them from the box to build anticipation and joint attention. You really have two choices here - to have a consistent sensory story box, or to use a themed box i.e. a Santa sack



# **You Might be a Reindeer**

## Sensory Resources

Antlers or antler shapes for kids to feel the pointy texture

Flashlight or glow stick for kids to experience a "red glowing nose"

Hoof clappers or bells for kids to make hoof sounds

Pictures of reindeers showing their loyal and friendly faces

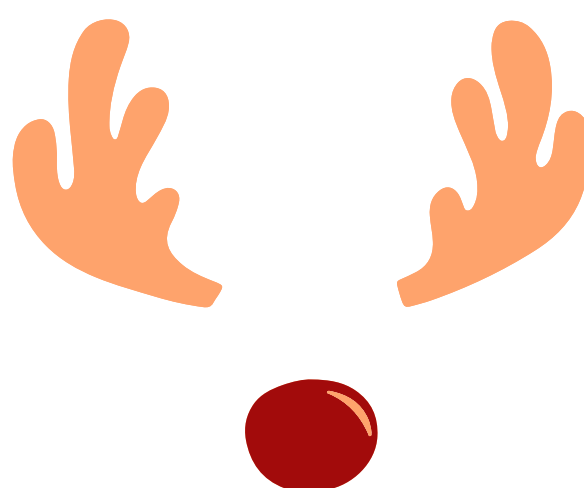
Play mobile or fan to simulate flying through the air  
Harness and small bells for kids to try on

Carrots for kids to smell, touch and taste

Name tags with reindeer names for kids to wear

Flashlight in a dark room to experience seeing in the dark

Images or videos of happy children's faces to represent making children happy on Christmas





# You Might Be a Reindeer



You might be a reindeer if you have...  
Silky, pointy antlers on your head.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
A red glowing nose to guide Santa's sleigh.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
Hoofed feet for prancing through snow.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
A friendly and loyal nature.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
The ability to fly through the sky on Christmas Eve.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
A harness and bell for Santa's sleigh.

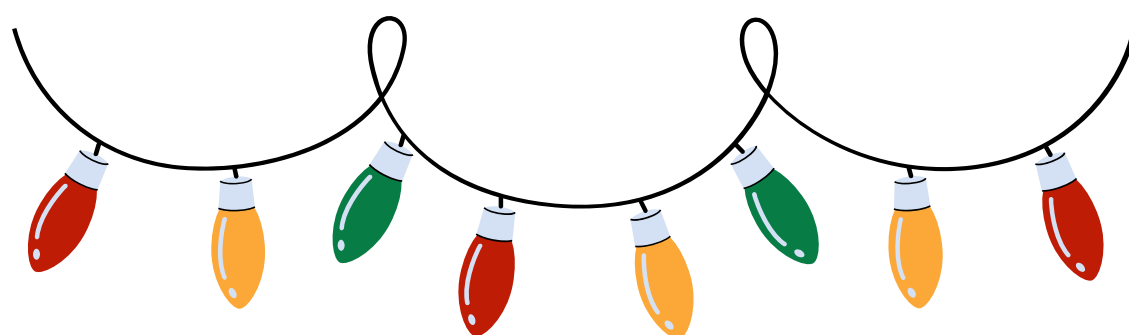
You might be a reindeer if you have...  
A love of munching on carrots.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
A name like Dasher, Dancer, Prancer or Vixen.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
Ability to see in the dark on Christmas deliveries.

You might be a reindeer if you have...  
A Christmas job to make children happy

You are a Reindeer!!



# Making the Experience More Interactive

Here are some ways to make the sensory experiences in stories and poems more interactive for children:

Act out the experiences - Have children act out being the different characters or objects in the story. They can pretend to be reindeer flying through the sky, stomp around like reindeer with hooves, or wear antlers on their heads.

Take turns - Assign different sensory experiences or props to different children and have them take turns acting them out. This gives each child a chance to participate.

Add movements or sounds - Encourage children to make movements or sounds to match the props and experiences. Stomping hooves, making sleigh bell sounds, and saying "Hi ho, Silver!" can make the story more interactive.

Ask questions - Pose open-ended questions to the children about the experiences to get them thinking and talking. "What does the glowing nose feel like on your face?" "How would you prance through the snow with your hooves?"

Invite touching/smelling - Allow children to directly interact with the props by touching, smelling and manipulating the real objects. This will make the experiences more concrete and memorable.

- Retell the story - Have children retell the story using the props and experiences, in their own words. This shows how interactive experiences can help them internalize and remember details.

