How to play Christmas bingo

Takes 10 minutes to set up and 10 to 15 minutes a game.

Pick your game

Picture bingo (the first 12 cards) is for ages 3 to 6: three in a row wins, and the calling cards show the picture so nobody needs to read. Word bingo (the next 12) is for readers: five in a row across, down or corner to corner.

Set up

Print one card per player. Cut out the calling cards or slips and put them in a bowl. Hand out markers: buttons, cereal, mini marshmallows or pennies, or let kids color the squares in.

Play

The caller draws a card, reads it out (and holds up the picture), then sets it aside. Players cover that square if they have it. The first to call "Bingo!" with a complete line reads it back, and the caller checks it against the drawn cards.

Variations

Four corners. Blackout (cover the whole card, a long game for a big party). Or play "pass the prize": every bingo wins the chance to steal a wrapped prize from another winner.