

Christmas Skit Costumes for Children

General Costume Notes:

- Costumes for children's programs do not have to be elaborate or realistic. It is much more fun and much easier to costume the child as if they are playing at "dress up".
- Children should dress lightly under their costumes, because they may become too hot otherwise. (short sleeve shirts and shorts)
- Sandals or bare feet work well for Christmas skits.
- Big rectangular pieces of fabric with a hole cut out in the center for the child's head will outfit almost any character. Plain colors for the Shepherds, beautiful colors for Mary, something solid for Joseph, and fancier fabrics for the Kings.
- Additional pieces of fabric can be used to create head coverings. Simply drape them over the actor's head. They can be tied with ribbon or string if you like.

Angel:

- Pieces of white fabric work well for the base costume. Lengths of silver or gold colored garland shaped into a crown make a wonderful halo.
- Get creative! One year I had all the girls wear their "flower girl" dresses – it seems that all of them had been in a wedding in the previous year. It was great!
- Tutu's made of netting are fabulous!
- Plastic tiaras and silk flower laurels work great! And, of course, a fairy wand with a STAR on the end of it! (These are easily made with cardboard and a wooden dowel.)
- Whether you are having one angel, or a "whole host", these guidelines work well.

Kings:

- Long rectangular pieces of fabric tied at the waist work very well for robes. Colorful is better for the kings.
- 1 gallon plastic milk containers make a great crown! Cut out the bottom and cut off the top just below the handle. Shape with scissors until you have points on the crown. Decorate with gold paint and then use glue or hot glue to put on sequins, buttons, plastic "jewels", etc. *Note: These only work with younger children. For older kids, cut an 8 x 30 inch strip from a paper sack, and shape it into a crown; first cutting and then stapling it to fit the child's head. Decorate it with crayons or markers, tinsel or garland. (See p.2)*
- Jewelry is great for the Kings! Plastic beads or garlands, fake rings, etc.
- Gifts for Kings to carry. These represent gold, frankincense and myrrh. Be creative!! They may be tiny wrapped boxes or sacks. Gold garland in a basket makes great gold. Imitation leaves in a florist's vase makes nice frankincense. And sheets of blue tissue paper crunched up in a clear plastic container make convincing myrrh.

Soldiers:

- If you have access to one of those plastic "Armor of God" suits, they work GREAT! *I have worn out 3 of these!* Otherwise, I suggest black or gray tunics with sandals.
- For a fun shield, cut out a circular piece of cardboard and paint it gold or silver color. On the back of the circle affix another strip of cardboard to make a handle for it. Cardboard swords covered in tin foil are wonderful as well.

How to Make - A Crown for a King

Make crowns that are cut out of paper bags and colored with markers/crayons.

Before Class: Cut out a crown pattern (or template) for the others to follow (or cut out one blank crown for each child). Cut the pattern out of a paper grocery sack or other paper. The blank crowns should be about 24-30 inches long and about 5 to 8 inches wide. The bottom and sides of the crown need to be straight and the top should be cut in a zigzag pattern, as shown below

(NOTE: No portion of the crown should be less than 5 inches wide).

During Class: First, fit a crown to each child's head. [To fit crown, measure the child's head with a string (or ribbon) and then lay the string out flat on the crown pattern. Allow 1-2 inches of overlap at the end. Cut off excess.] Allow the child to decorate his/her crown. Provide markers and crayons. Optionally you may also use decorations such as stickers, sequins, buttons, "jewels" etc. If glue is used, allow to dry. Finally, tape or staple crown together at the overlap.

A Crown for a King (Diagram)

