

Before you start, please note that most of the following scenes have been written using characterisation of stereotypical family set-ups. However, the script and song lyrics can easily be adapted to represent a range of families. Mums and dads can be substituted for grandparents, aunts and uncles or siblings, dependant on the circumstances you wish to represent. You will be aware of any sensitive issues with regard to your children’s family situations, so please feel free to change the details as you see fit.

Scene 1

(To one side of the main stage is a smaller stage, on which stands a bench – see staging suggestions/scenery. The main stage has school chairs, and maybe one or two tables, to represent a classroom. The school children enter, carrying bags, coats, hats, scarves etc. They sit on, stand on, and dance around the chairs and tables whilst singing the opening song.)

Song – Ring The Bell *(CD track11, lyrics p15)* *(School Children supported by whole cast)*

(When the song finishes, replay the backing track (CD track11) to allow the furniture to be cleared and the stage to be set for the next scene. All but five children exit. Fade the music when ready.)

Child 1 ~ I can’t believe it! It’s the end of term!

Child 2 ~ Which means...*(thinking)*...now how does the bloke on that song say it?...*(with an enthusiastic Noddy-Holder-from-Slade impression)*.....IT’S CHRIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIISTMAS!

Child 3 ~ We’ll be hearing that song a hundred times over the next couple of weeks!

Child 4 ~ Are you guys walking home, then? Shall we go across the park?

(They move towards the side stage.)

Child 5 ~ OK, but can we have a quick sit down? I’m exhausted. It’s been a long term!

(They sit on the park bench.)

Child 1 ~ Well, I can’t stay here too long. We’re putting our Christmas tree up this evening, and I wouldn’t miss it for the world! It’s one of my highlights of the year.....

(The action, to feature ‘Family 1’, moves to the main stage. Sally and Joe enter, carrying a box of tree decorations, and kneel centre stage. Dad enters, carrying the top half of an artificial Christmas tree in a stand – see staging suggestions/props. He stands the tree between the children then kneels down with them. The tree should be about head height when all are kneeling.)

Dad ~ There! Our Christmas tree! Woken up from its hibernation in the loft, carefully put together, and brought downstairs to add some glamour to the room! It’s a beauty, isn’t it?

Sally ~ If you say so! *(scrutinising the tree)* Dad, has it shrunk since last year?

Dad ~ Of course it hasn’t! You’ve just grown a lot!

Joe ~ Dad, it’s definitely shrunk! We’ll never fit all these decorations on it!

Dad ~ It’s exactly the same size as it’s always been! Now come on, let’s get decorating!

Sally ~ *(carefully placing a bauble)* I love all this! Getting out the baubles and tinsel and carefully putting them on the branches.

Joe ~ *(haphazardly throwing tinsel at the tree)* Me too! It takes precision and concentration!

Dad ~ Look! The fairy! Why don't you take a wing each and pop it on the top of the tree.

(Sally and Joe take the fairy from Dad and stand up. They are taller than the top of the tree!)

Sally ~ It's definitely shrunk! Last Christmas I had to stand on tiptoe to reach the top!

Dad ~ I'm telling you, this tree has not shrunk!

Joe ~ In which case I've grown nearly a metre in a year! As if!

Dad ~ Well, I always say your mum feeds you too much!

Sally & Joe ~ DAD!!

Dad ~ *(still kneeling)* Look! For the last time, there is absolutely no way that this tree is a single centimetre shorter than it was last year, or the year before that, or the year before that! I should know. Every Christmas I painstakingly lay out the pieces then lovingly put them together one by one. I know this tree like the back of my hand!

(During this rant Mum has entered, unnoticed by Dad, holding the bottom part of the tree!)

Mum ~ *(stifling a giggle)* Errm...I found this in the loft, love! I thought it might come in useful!

(Dad turns to her, and gives a classic double-take! Sally and Joe laugh and hand him the fairy.)

Sally ~ Here you are, Dad. You can do the honours this year – you deserve it!

(As the opening bars of the next song begin, and the whole cast stand to sing, the family laugh together and a smiling Dad puts the fairy on top of the tree!)

Song – Our Christmas Tree (CD track12, lyrics p16)
(Family 1 supported by whole cast)

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