

# The story of Christmas at Funkis



*The staff at Funkis have put up all kinds of Christmas decorations. A wreath is hanging in the window; there are a few paper bells in the play room and a garland of letters and snowflakes hangs from the ceiling. This is called decorating for Christmas. There are also now gingersnaps and saffron buns in the cafeteria instead of the usual treats.*

*Many people are taking out Christmas items, like Advent candlesticks and other such things, which will be hanging up at Funkis for about 4 weeks before Christmas. They may also bring in fir branches, pine branches or moss for decoration. They do this because they think that it looks nice. Candles and cheerful colours brighten things up when it's dark outside. They also do this because it is tradition: people are used to doing this at this time of year every year.*

*I don't like it when people move things around and bring out different things instead; I want it to look like it usually does. I think it smells weird, like pine branches and ginger snaps. I don't like how the different smells all fit together. I feel a little anxious when nothing is the way it usually is.*

*When it is time to decorate for Christmas next Christmas, I can ask if I can help out; that way I'll see where the various items are and I'll be prepared for it the next time I am here. I can also ask the staff to save a few regular biscuits in the cupboard for me to eat. If I know that I'll get to eat the regular biscuits, it is easier to deal with the smell of gingerbread.*

*If it gets extra hard anyway, I can keep in mind that this is only when it's Christmas. After Christmas, everything will be as usual again and then all will be well!*



# The story about changing from a hat to a cap when spring arrives

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*In our country, we have different seasons. That means that there are different kinds of weather, depending on what season it is. Summer is usually warm, autumn is a bit colder and sometimes it is windy and rainy. Winter is cold and it can snow and be very chilly. Spring is both warm and a little cold.*

*You have to have different kinds of clothing during the different seasons so that you are warm enough. Now it is spring and it's time to switch from a winter hat to a cap so that I won't be too warm when I am outside. The cap also protects my eyes and my face from the sun.*

*I don't like to wear the cap; I am not used to it. It rubs my ears in an uncomfortable way and the front edge is itchy on my forehead. I would prefer to wear my soft winter hat, which feels nice and doesn't chafe or itch.*

*Soon it will be spring and then it might be good to start looking for a cap that is as soft as possible before it is time to start wearing it outside. If it still doesn't feel very nice, maybe it can be put through the washing machine to make it a little bit softer. Or I can put a piece of soft tape on the edge that is itchy against my forehead. My parents can help me with that. It might also be good to start wearing the cap inside for a while every day before spring comes. That way, I'll be prepared for how it will feel when I am going to wear it outside for real.*

*If it still feels completely impossible to wear the cap, there are different kinds of sunhats that might feel nicer than a cap; the most important thing is that it works and that I'm not too hot or too cold, and protected from the sun!*

