Carols at bedtime

Christmas is a great time of year to learn songs – many have been passed down the generations for hundreds of years. A singing together is also a lovely way to praise God, whether at home or in church. Try these well-known songs with your child.
As Christmas draws near, why not include a verse or two of *Away in a Manger* in your child’s bedtime routine?

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,*
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,*
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay*
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

When it’s dark, you might enjoy singing just the chorus of *This little light of mine.*

*This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,*
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

A really simple song that you could use in night time prayers goes to the tune of *Frere Jacques:*

*Light a candle, light a candle,*
God is here, God is here.
Bless our friends and family,
Bless our friends and family,
Far and near, far and near.

Safety first: small children love to watch a candle flame, but you must never leave a lit candle unattended or within a child’s reach – you might prefer to use a battery powered candle for night prayers.
**Christmas tree prayers**

Why not try this beautiful and thoughtful prayer idea?

**Dark nights & starry skies**

It's a wonderful way to let children experience awe and wonder.

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