

12 Christmas Activities Your Family Will Love

Christmas is right around the corner, and soon your kids will be out of school for winter break. While some of your holiday traditions may be disrupted because of the coronavirus or the flu, it is never too late to try new ones! We came up with a few suggestions to keep your kids busy and your family having fun this holiday season!

1. Decorate gingerbread houses

You can make the gingerbread slabs ahead of time, buy a kit with pre-made gingerbread, or use graham crackers! Once the houses are put together (if you are not planning on eating the house once it's done, consider hot gluing the four sides and roof together--this will prevent unfortunate house collapses), lay out an assortment of candies and snack items for decorating. Some fun items to look for are mini candy canes, peppermints, pretzels, gum drops, M&Ms, licorice, Skittles, and coconut. But regardless of what you find at home or choose to buy, your kids will have a blast!

2. Make ornaments

The options are endless for your kids' creativity. Search the Internet for inspiration-- whether you choose to use items around the house, like construction paper, markers and string-- or decide to buy some plain, plastic balls to decorate with glitter or tissue paper, you will be able to find something that gets everyone excited to create.



3. Take a drive to look at Christmas lights

A safe way to get out of the house this year, driving around with your kids to admire the light displays is sure to be a fun time. Play some Christmas music and discuss which houses are each family member likes best. Check out this list for all the great light displays!

4. Have a hot chocolate bar

Make a batch of hot chocolate -- whether you go for the reliable hot cocoa powder mix or you are feeling more adventurous and choose to go homemade. Set up a toppings station with whipped cream, marshmallows, sprinkles, and chocolate sauce and let your kids add to their mug as they wish.

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5. Bake and decorate cookies

Baking cookies is an all-time Christmas classic, and for good reason! Let your kids help you mix the ingredients, and once the cookies are out of the oven, set up a decorating table with frosting, sprinkles and colorful sugar. And of course, when the decorating is finished, enjoy the fruits of everyone's efforts. Want to simplify this activity and just focus on decorating? Purchase some pre-made sugar cookies from the grocery store!

6. Have a spa day

Set up your girls (and boys too if they want!) with an at home spa day! Fill a large bowl or Tupperware with warm water to let their feet soak before having them (or you) paint their toenails. Paint their fingernails, too for a manicure. Spoil them with some lotion for their legs, and maybe even give them a face mask.

7. Write thank you notes for mail carriers/delivery drivers

This year, the delivery drivers and postal service carriers have been abnormally busy because of Covid-19. Show appreciation for their hard work by having your kids write thank you notes and leave them taped to your mailbox or front door. You could also make small goodie bags with some fun-sized candy, hand-sanitizer, and bottled water to show your thanks.

8. Cut out paper snowflakes

One of the simplest crafts out there requires only a piece of paper and scissors. Have your kids fold the paper and then cut out designs-- when they unfold the paper, they should be left with a unique paper snowflake! You can even use a string to hang them up around the house as decorations.

9. Have a Christmas song sing-a-long

Make a playlist of all your favorite Christmas songs and get the family together for a sing-a-long! You could even take it a step further and turn it into a dance party, letting everyone show off their best moves.

10. Watch Christmas movies

Grab some blankets and cozy up on the couch to watch your favorite Christmas movies. Of course, there are so many classics this could be more than a single night occurrence -- let each family member choose a movie that everyone will watch together.

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11. Have a Christmas photoshoot

Suit up your kids with Christmas outfits and have a photoshoot. You could pose in front of the Christmas tree or mantel, or even go outside in the snow. Picking a day besides Christmas Day will allow you to get the cute pictures that you'll cherish forever, but also alleviate some of the worry about pictures on Christmas Day and let you stay present and in the moment.

12. Make Christmas-themed crafts

With a simple search on the Internet, you can find an infinite variety of crafts for your kids to make at home. Here's one of our favorite kids craft websites. From making reindeer using your child's handprint and constructions paper, or using a mason jar to make a snow globe, to printing out coloring sheets for your child to color, the options are endless.

This holiday season, we may not be able to participate in all of our "normal" family traditions, but that doesn't mean we can't create new traditions and lasting memories this Christmas!

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Originally posted on the Now What? Blog on 12.16.20 The Now What? Blog served for nearly 7 years to

1. Normalize parents seeking support and help as a manner of child abuse prevention
2. Engage community in how they can work to prevent child abuse
3. Work to build resiliency in families through promotion of the 5 protective factors

Maybe you coach a baseball team or you help care for the neighbor kids from time to time. You are investing in the safety and security of the children in our community. Because it truly does take a village to raise our children, we want to offer the tools needed to bring awareness and education to preventing child abuse.

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