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## **Fun Christmas Activities To Do With The Kids**

**By Susanne Myers**

Waiting for Santa to get here can be quite a challenge for a kid. The days in December until the 25th seem to go on forever. Make the waiting a little easier this year. Here are some fun Christmas Activities you can do with your kids all through December.

### **Make Getting The Christmas Tree A Family Affair**

Go out and pick a Christmas tree with the kids. You can go to one of the many Christmas tree lots and let the kids help you pick out the perfect tree. Or you can even go out and cut your own tree. Many state forests have special areas that are grown just for Christmas trees and you can go out and cut your own. Of course there are also commercial Christmas tree lots that will let you cut a tree. There's nothing more fun than to spend a winter afternoon of stomping through the woods finding the tree that's just right.

### **Let Your Child Throw A Christmas Party**

Arrange for a simple little Christmas party for the kids Just have your child invite a few of his or her closest friends. Turn on some Christmas music, set out some cookies and fix some hot chocolate. You can even make a simple little Christmas craft with the kids that they can take home with them.

### **Christmas Cards Made By The Kids**

You don't have to be the only one writing Christmas cards to friends and family members. Get the kids to make the cards for you. All you need is some construction paper as well as crayons or markers. Give them some Christmas stickers to add and the cards are ready. Recipients will love getting these handmade cards from the kids in the mail.

### **A Letter For Santa**

Children love to write a letter to Santa. Ask younger kids what they would like to tell Santa and then have them draw or color a special picture for him to include with the letter you are writing for them. School-aged kids can write their own letter and of course include a picture for Santa as well. Put the letter and picture in an envelope, and stick it in the mailbox. Just take it back out before the mailman gets there.

Of course your kids should receive a response from Santa. You can write your own on some holiday paper, or use one of the many Santa letter services out there. Here's one I have used in the past and have been very happy with: <http://www.kinderinfo.com/santa-letter.htm>

Susanne Myers is the owner of <http://Kinderinfo.com> a site for parents and kids with Christmas Crafts For Kids at <http://www.kinderinfo.com/christmas> For more Christmas crafts and ideas visit <http://www.waitingformxmas.com> and sign up to have crafts, activities and recipes delivered by email.

## Inexpensive Christmas Stocking Stuffer Ideas For Kids

By Jeffrey Strain

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After all the gifts have been purchased and placed under the tree, that is the time that many remember in a panic that the stockings over the fireplace still need to be stuffed. Holiday budgets have most likely been spent and there isn't a whole lot of extra money available. Even with a limited budget, there are a number of quality stocking stuffer ideas that are both practical and will bring a smile to the faces of the little ones.

If you are at a complete loss of what to get, take a trip to your local dollar store and walk the aisles. There should be a large selection of goods at a price that is right for you to choose from which should quickly fill up the stockings. In addition, consider the following Christmas stocking stuffer ideas that can have a dual benefit:

**Batteries:** Instead of wrapping up the batteries with the gift, separate them into stocking stuffers. Since you'd need to purchase them anyway for the toys, they aren't an extra expense. By separating them out, you make a start on your stocking stuffing and the kids will love them because they can start playing any electronic devices they received.

**School Supplies:** Here is another practical stocking stuffer that you'd have to purchase in the future for your kids anyway. You kill two birds with one stone by getting them the school supplies they need and filling up the stocking a little more.

**Disposable Camera:** With all the activity going on during Christmas day, you probably don't have the time to take pictures and document the day. Let your children do it for you. They'll have great fun taking photos from their own unique perspective that will add to any photo album.

**Art and Craft Supplies:** Again, these are supplies that you are likely to need for other activities in the future. Kids love to create and any arts and craft materials make great stocking stuffers. Coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, markers and paints all fit the bill and can be used for other activities long after Christmas is over.

**Mini Games or Card Games:** Travel size editions of their favorite games or card games that can be played in the car are another good stocking stuffer. The kids can play these on their own, but they have the multiple benefit that they can be used in the car to keep the children occupied during any holiday trips you make.

**Christmas Letter:** You might want to consider writing a Christmas letter to your child telling him or her all the fun things you remember from the past year. This doesn't cost any money, can become a lovely Christmas tradition and will be a gift that the child will treasure long after Christmas is over.

By taking a little time to consider stocking stuffers, you won't need to spend a lot of money to fill those socks over the fireplace mantle while still bringing smiles to the faces of your children when they peak inside.

Jeffrey Strain is owner of <http://www.savingadvice.com> -- a website dedicated to providing practical money saving tips and articles.

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