

# 12 IDEAS

## FOR MAKING CHRISTMAS MERRY

*family edition*

Have a finger food buffet. It is fun to eat bite size treats and kids enjoy creating things in their "scale". Let everyone pick one favorite

Create a new family tradition recipe. Organize an event out of the family investment of time into "your" specialty. It is easy to add twists to recipes. For example, let your cinnamon rolls have raisins etc.

Make gingerbread houses with a twist- let kids choose what unusual building materials they'd like to create their house with. Saltines, waffles, peanut butter, ramen...anything goes! We have a contest each year to see who can make the best wacky home

Christmas eve service is something to get dressed for, and a place to be. Make it the BEST place

Watch a favorite movie. We save It's A Wonderful Life every year for late Christmas night on the years we can't travel to be with family

Designate a board game that is for Christmas eve day. One member of our family loves Monopoly, which is lengthy, so we save it for this time. Our love gift for her...and we all now look forward to it!

Make igloos out of sugar cubes, held together by royal icing. Kids can create villages with their favorite toy figurines

Get physical! Set up obstacle courses to burn off some energy. One year our daughter made a Nerf gun challenge (think stacked red solo cups for target practice) for us. And both kids were in their teens! We all thought it was a blast

Let kids choose minute to win it style games. They can create all the rules. They'll be proud to show off their own creative ideas

Make Christmas the time you drive around and look at lights. Pack up some cocoa in portable cups, or get a big cup for about \$1 at gas stations. Bring upbeat music that everyone can sing along to. Loudly, badly, it is all for fun

Create snack plates for neighbors and surprise them. Especially if you aren't already friends, it's a great opportunity to demonstrate to our kids how to be generous of spirit

Senior homes love visitors for lonely residents. Make someone's night by coming to spend an hour building a new relationship!