

MORE TIME MOMS®



**MOM'S  
ULTIMATE  
HOLIDAY  
SURVIVAL  
KIT**

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

## Christmas traditions start here

Ho Ho Ho, The Christmas Season is upon us. We all look forward to this special time of year; a time to share with friends and loved ones and enjoy a rest from work and school. To make your holidays more joyful and less stressful keep the following in mind as you make your holiday plans.

The “I shoulds” and “I have tos”, along with stretching the family budget, are the major sources of stress over the holidays. Try these tips to help provide focus and reduce your stress this holiday season.

- Eliminate activities that you do only because you feel you should.
- Schedule lots of time for rest, your spouse and your children.
- Keep the kids to their daily routine as much as possible during the season.
- Set a holiday spending limit and stick to it.

## Make your own traditions

Christmas traditions can be as simple as making a special dessert or as elaborate as the yearly tree trimming party. Much of the joy of Christmas is looking forward to and remembering the things that happen only at Christmas. Traditions can be passed down through generations or created anew when we start our own families.

### Our Christmas traditions

- .....
- .....
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- .....
- .....
- .....

### New ideas

- .....
- .....
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- .....
- .....
- .....

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**MOM'S TIP:** *Once you have worked through your Christmas Planner and prioritized your family's focus, schedule your activities and to-dos in your [Family Organizer](#) for all to see and share in the excitement and anticipation of a joyous season.*

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# CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN



## By December 1st

- Check outdoor Christmas lights and replace bulbs or strings.
- Hang Christmas lights.
- Collect pine cones to mix with Christmas balls for a basket display.
- Get grapevines for wreaths.
- Pick up decorations for wreaths.
- Purchase candy/small gifts for Advent calendars.
- .....
- .....
- .....

## 1st week of December

- Plan holiday entertaining.
- Put out Advent calendar(s).
- Hang door decorations.
- Turn on outside lights.
- Put up artificial tree (if used).
- Replace everyday knickknacks with Christmas decor.
- Christmas baking to be frozen.
- Send distant Christmas cards and packages.
- .....
- .....
- .....

## 2nd week of December

- Send Christmas cards.
- Check Christmas tree lights and replace bulbs or strings.
- Get tree (if used).
- Make evergreen garlands.
- Decorate front entrance.
- Decorate window boxes.
- Decorate inside stair railings.
- Decorate tree a few days before your first entertaining engagement.
- Grocery shopping for non-perishables and beverages.
- .....
- .....
- .....

## 3rd week of December

- Complete all decorations and stop to enjoy them.
- Finish last-minute Christmas shopping.
- Wrap presents.
- Grocery shopping for Christmas dinner.
- Bake fresh goods.
- .....
- .....
- .....

# CHRISTMAS FUN

Christmas is a time for doing special things with the family, but holiday events can fill up the calendar too quickly. We often find ourselves running from one event to the next without so much as a breath in between. To enjoy a merry time and reduce holiday stress, prioritize important things and family time.

- Together as a family, list the fun things you want to do.
- Decide on a realistic number of events to attend and to host.
- Eliminate unrealistic and unaffordable choices.
- Remember to schedule rest periods.



## You can have great fun and create family traditions around these simple events:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pick out the Christmas Tree         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleigh ride                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trim the tree                       | <input type="checkbox"/> School and church bazaars              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Claus parade                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at shelters                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour neighbourhood christmas lights | <input type="checkbox"/> Build snowmen and snow angels          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Santa                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Go skating, skiing or tobogganing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go caroling                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch favourite Christmas movie/show   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Midnight mass on the 24th           | <input type="checkbox"/> Check your local paper for more events |

Make a list of the things you usually do at Christmas and the things you feel you have to do. Ask yourself these two important questions: Did I enjoy this event? Was it important to be there for others? If the answer is yes, schedule it in. If not eliminate it from your schedule.

## Fun things to do over the holidays:

Activity	Date	Time
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.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

# CHRISTMAS BAKING

Christmas baking can be an overwhelming chore. If you don't like to bake, don't feel obligated to do it. There are so many good bazaar and store-bought desserts out there; you needn't feel as if you have missed a thing! If you think that you will miss the smell of granny's baking, add cinnamon, cloves and orange peel. to water and let it simmer on the stove—or buy frozen uncooked pie and bake it just before guests arrive.

If you are going to bake, start baking early since most things can be frozen. That way, you will always have something prepared to welcome unexpected guests. Try to pick a day when the kids can help bake. They really love cutting and decorating. Sugar cookies or gingerbread men are the simplest recipes. Decorate with sparkles and chocolate chips before baking so that all the mess can be cleaned up at once. Organize a cookie exchange with other mothers who bake too. You will save time and money baking large quantities of one thing and exchanging with other moms over coffee (or wine), so your pantry is filled with a variety of delicious Christmas baking. A mixed box of cookies or your favourite baked goods is always a good gift for neighbours and party hostesses.

## Our Christmas recipes

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

## Where is the recipe?

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

## What do we need to pick up?

### Baking

- Flour
- Sugar
- Baking soda
- Baking powder
- Vanilla
- Cinnamon
- Nutmeg
- Ginger
- Chocolate chips
- Chocolate
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

### Dairy

- Milk
- Eggs
- Butter
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

### Paper & wrap

- Parchment / wax paper
- Plastic wrap
- Baggies
- Containers
- .....

### And also...

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
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- .....
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- .....
- .....

**MOM'S TIP:** Print out copies of your favourite recipes and add with these planner sheets in a binder so that you can refer to it and make changes or additions every year.

# CHRISTMAS DINNER PLANNER

Sit down with your family to plan Christmas Dinner to best suit your needs. If your children are small and you need a break, serve something simple like turkey sandwiches and french fries. If you traditionally serve an 8 course meal to a large group, get help or turn your Christmas dinner into a pot luck. Pot lucks can be elegant too. Once you plan your menu, make a detailed shopping list so that you are not running backs and forth to the grocery store the last days before Christmas.

## Our Christmas menu

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

## Where is the recipe?

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

## What do we need to pick up?

### Vegetables & Fruit

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
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- .....

### Meat & Dairy

- Turkey
- Milk
- Eggs
- Butter
- .....
- .....
- .....

### Pantry

- .....
- .....
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- .....

### Grocery

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- .....

### And also...

- .....
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- .....

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**MOM'S TIP:** *If you traditionally go out for Christmas dinner, but find yourself torn between families, ask one of them to move their Christmas dinner to the 24th or 26th so that you can see everyone, every year. My mother did this when we established our own little families and now the grown cousins count this among their favourite holiday traditions. No one misses our potluck Christmas at Grandma's on the 26th.*

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# ENTERTAINMENT PLANNER

If you are hosting during the holidays or for Christmas dinner, save yourself some time and energy by planning ahead and follow this entertaining checklist. Adjust for your needs and the occasion.

## 1 Week to Go

- Buy non-perishables
- Buy beer, wine and alcohol
- Thoroughly clean your home
- Clean or rearrange your fridge to make room
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**MOM'S TIP:** *Come up with some activities for younger guests. Ask guests to bring board games or movies to occupy the kids.*

## 3-4 Days Before

- Thaw turkey if frozen
- Prepare and freeze dessert or other items
- Clean your tablecloth, napkins
- Clean your cutlery
- Grocery shopping
- Check serving equipment (borrow what is missing)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**MOM'S TIP:** *To help you organize you meal and make sure you have what you need, make a sticky note for each dish that you will be serving. Layout your baking dishes and pans with corresponding sticky note.*

## The Day Before

- Pick up and arrange fresh flowers
- Wash and dry lettuce and crudities
- Store in refrigerator in plastic bags
- Prepare butter and put in dishes
- Prepare vinaigrette and sauces
- Prepare sides where possible
- Clean glassware
- Prepare dessert (if not frozen)
- Have children clean their rooms
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**MOM'S TIP:** *Peel potatoes and keep in a bowl of water in the fridge overnight. Cranberry sauce, pies and biscuit dough can also be made ahead of time.*

## Party Day



### AM

- Tidy up the house
- Clean bathroom
- Check toilet paper
- Put out clean hand towels
- Empty dishwasher
- Clean sink
- Unclutter counters
- Clear hall closet for coats
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### PM

- Prepare your main dish
- Thaw dessert if frozen
- Prepare any sides left to do
- Use a timer to guide your cooking
- Set the table
- Layout coffee and tea
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**MOM'S TIP:** *Prepare an area for drinks & delegate this job to a family member or guest.*

### One hour before

- Ask someone to walk the dog
- Ask someone to sweep or shovel the front walkway
- Take a bath or shower
- Get dressed, relax, have a glass of wine!

**MOM'S TIP:** *Now that everything is organized, don't sweat the small stuff and roll with it... Enjoy your party and your guests!*

# CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXTENDED FAMILY:**

Who and What

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**EVERYONE ELSE:**

Who and What

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_



THE **4** GIFT RULE

Name

Something  
**to wear**



Something  
**to read**



Something  
**you want**



Something  
**you need**



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Helping you put your family first since 1993

THE **4** GIFT RULE

Name

Something  
**to wear**



Something  
**to read**



Something  
**you want**



Something  
**you need**



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THE **4** GIFT RULE

Name

Something  
**to wear**



Something  
**to read**



Something  
**you want**



Something  
**you need**



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THE **4** GIFT RULE

Name

Something  
**to wear**



Something  
**to read**



Something  
**you want**



Something  
**you need**



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Follow the 4 Gift Rule to simplify gift giving, encourage gratitude and help your children learn the value of money. Ask each child to fill out a card for Santa so everyone can stay on budget.

# CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS

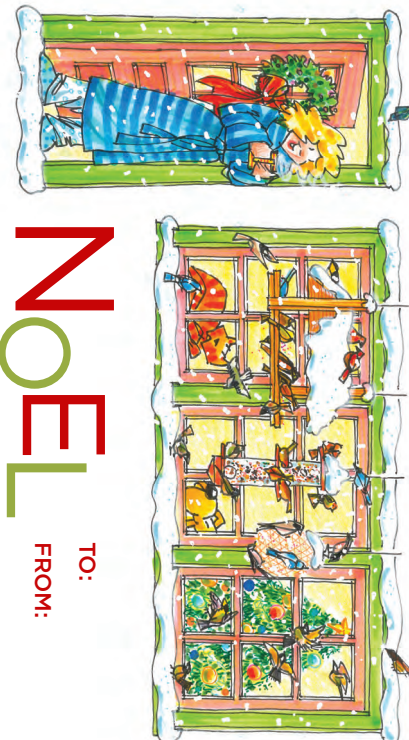
Save time and money by cutting out and using these custom gift tags for all your holiday gifts!



**Fa La La La La**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_


FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**NOEL**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_




**HAPPY**

*Holidays*

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_




**SEASON'S**

*Greetings*

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_




**BEST**

*Wishes*

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**MERRY**

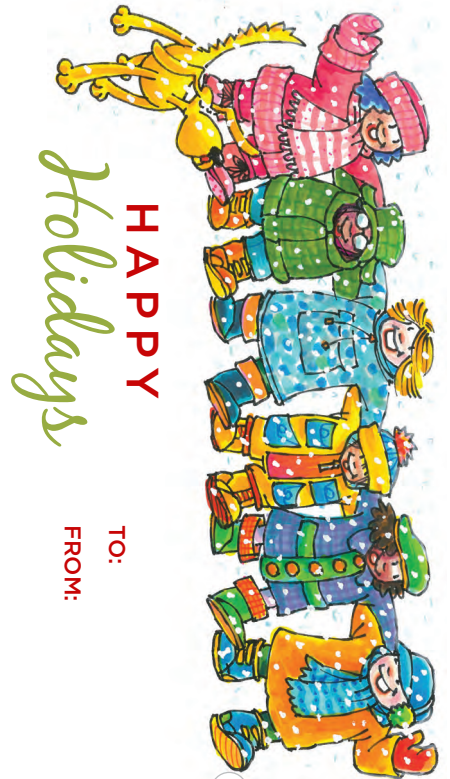
*Christmas*

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

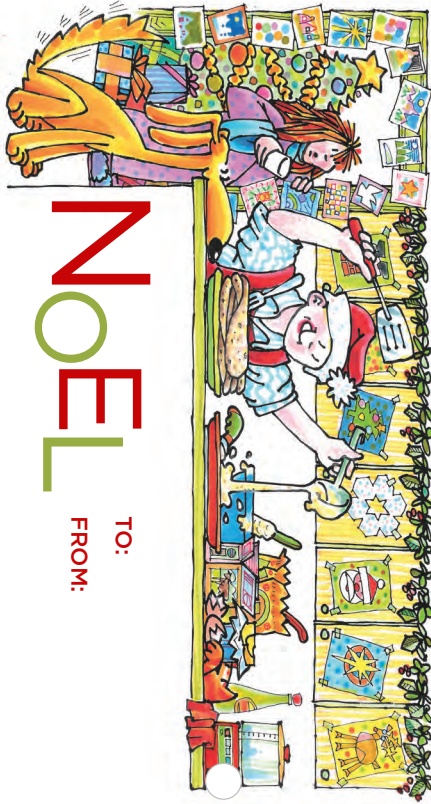
# CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS

Save time and money by cutting out and using these custom gift tags for all your holiday gifts!



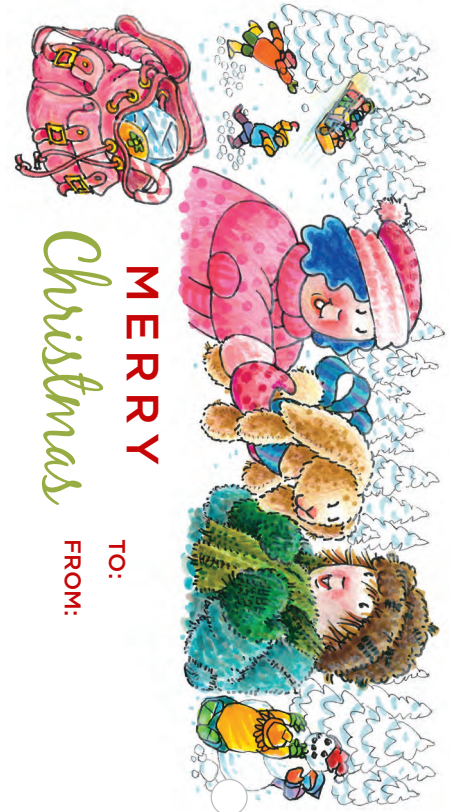
**HAPPY**  
*Holidays*

TO:  
FROM:



**NOEL**

TO:  
FROM:



**MERRY**  
*Christmas*

TO:  
FROM:



**Fa La La La La**

TO:  
FROM:



**BEST**  
*Wishes*

TO:  
FROM:




**SEASON'S**  
*Greetings*

TO:  
FROM:

# GIFT TAGS TO COLOR

Let your kids in on the holiday spirit! They can color these and cut them out to use on gifts for family and friends this holiday season.



**Fa La La La La**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

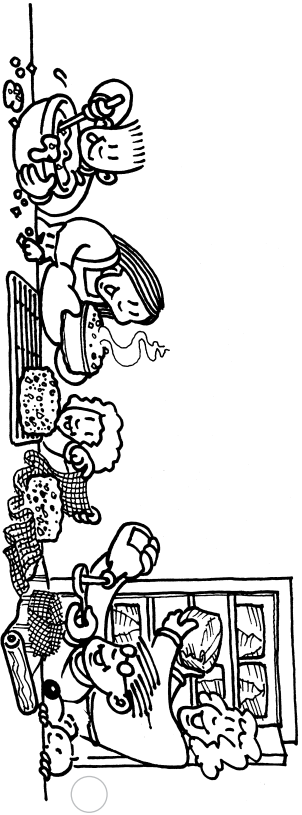
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**NOEL**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

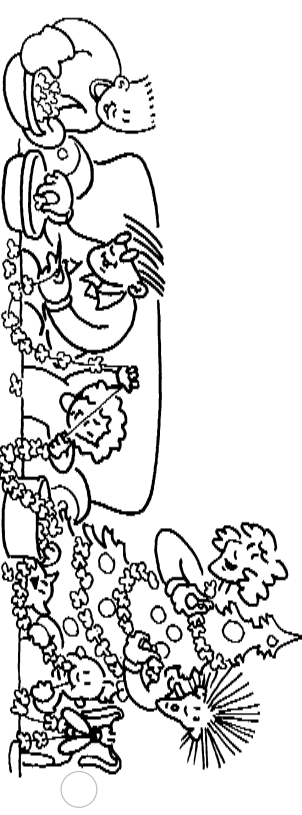
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**HAPPY Holidays**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**SEASON'S Greetings**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_


FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**BEST Wishes**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



**MERRY Christmas**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_



# JANUARY GOALS PLANNER

Would you like to be more organized this year?

More Time Moms is the creator of the original #1 bestselling *Family Organizer*® and the innovator of a line of home organizing products for families. We help millions of families manage the chaos at home so that parents can spend more quality time with their kids. We know that our line of products can help you too and we invite you to give them a try this year. It's love guaranteed!

Best wishes for a fun, healthy family year.

## Yearly goals should be measurable and specific:

Personal • Family • Educational • Financial • Career • Fitness, etc

### Our family's goals:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Mom's goals:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Dad's goals:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

*"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."*

HENRY FORD

**MOM'S TIP:** Practice self-care and be grateful for all the little things every day. The more that you practice an attitude of gratitude with your kids and your partner, the happier you will feel and so will everyone around you.