

Family Christmas games.

Christmas time together with family and friends, however we manage it this year, can be enhanced with time for a little laughter and fun.....

Santa's Trip

How to play: In this game, players sit in a circle. Each player takes a turn and names objects Santa will take on a trip. The first player starts by naming an object that begins with the letter "A," the second player repeats that object and then adds their own starting with the letter "B" and so on down the alphabet). You can make it more challenging for older kids by picking a sub-category, such as 'things that you wear' or 'objects that can fit into a sleigh.'

'Snowball' Race

Materials needed: For this relay race game, you will need some clean potatoes or balls of white yarn and spoons. How to play: Players divide into teams. Each player takes a turn balancing the 'snowball' on a spoon and carrying it from one end of the room to the other. The team that finishes first wins. To make it more difficult put the other hand on your head or use a smaller spoon or larger potato. This could more easily be played outdoors if the weather allows it.

Christmas Pass the Parcel

Materials needed: Presents wrapped in many layers. (Note: Choose small gift items so that you can use less paper. Preferably use newspapers or re-use old gift wrap).

How to play: Much like musical chairs, this game uses music to signal when players should pass the parcel to the next player. The person who is holding the present when the music stops gets to take one layer of wrapping off the gift. The person who unwraps the last layer gets the present. (The adult who is playing the music should make sure each child has the music stop at his or her turn so that he or she gets to remove at least one layer of gift wrap.)

Variations of the game: For younger children, who may be less patient than older kids, it is a good idea to include small gifts (a sweet?) in each layer of wrapping so that each child gets a gift, and the game goes faster. Older kids might enjoy a forfeit in each layer. (e.g., Sing a carol or do a trick)

Tree Ornament Guess

A great way to start your Christmas gathering is to have guests guess how many ornaments are on your tree when they walk in. This is an extremely easy game to set up and you can give a small prize to the winner if you would like (perhaps a chocolate off the tree?).

Christmas Charades

Charades can be great fun and with Christmas charades, you can all foster the holiday spirit. When you produce your Christmas charade list, considering using holiday phrases or titles of Christmas films or songs for them to act out.

Two Truths and a Lie

Set the theme of "Best Christmas Gift Ever Received" and have each guest produce two that are true and one that is a lie.

Can everyone else spot which ones are real, and which are not?

Do come up with other Christmassy themes....'favourite thing to watch on TV over Xmas' etc

'Blind' Christmas Tree Ripping

See how well your guests can rip a Christmas tree shape out of paper without looking. Use a scarf to cover their eyes whilst they 'shape the paper.' Give prizes for the most realistic and creative Christmas trees.

Merry Christmas Paper Plate Game

The only supplies you'll need for this Christmas game are paper plates and felt pens.

This game involves everyone drawing a Christmas scene on a paper plate, which is then placed on their heads when they have finished it. Points are awarded for the best picture and the quick timing.

Christmas 20 Questions

Play the game of 20 Questions using Christmas terms that you can make as simple or complex as you want. This is a great game that takes absolutely no supplies or preparation.

Find It Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Take a photo or provide a clue for any holiday item that you want your guests to find. (e.g., Christmas fairy or jar of mincemeat or Christmas Cracker). Be sure to set the timer so you can find out which team was the fastest.

Christmas Card Couples

Use old Christmas cards to help your guests find their match. Cut a selection of old cards in half (and you could hide them in another room to make them harder to find for older kids) & get people to find the person with the other half of their card. This can be done several times & the winner is the person who's found the most partners and their cards within a timeframe.

Christmas musical statues

Play some Christmas music and everyone moves around the room. When the music stops everyone is asked to mime 1 of the following:

- Wrap a gift
- Pretend to be an elf building a toy
- Eat gingerbread
- Ride a reindeer
- Decorate the tree
- Roll out pastry to make mince pies
- Squeeze down the chimney
- Throw a snowball.... etc

After players act out their task, start the music again to resume 'dancing.' Repeat this several times, using new commands each time.

You can even get sillier with the ideas as the game progresses. There is no elimination of players in this game, so that all participants may share in the laughs no matter what their age.