

Extraordinary Celebrations!

by Susan Spindler

KEEPING THE STRESS AND DRAMA OUT OF THE HOLIDAYS!



Okay, we all got through Thanksgiving and I hope everyone had a fabulous holiday, and now heading into December our lives seem busier than ever. This is the time of year when we visit with family and friends to make lifelong memories. So being prepared when having guests staying overnight, or even for the day, it is important to have activities preplanned to keep both children and adults busy.

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Dr. Matt Miller Dr. Chris Miller

972.985.3300
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- Have a selection of classic Christmas movies on hand for the gang to sit and enjoy. Have a popcorn/snack selection and a hot beverage bar complete with cider, coffee, hot cocoa, marshmallows, candy cane stir sticks, whipping cream, Kahlua and Bailey's Irish Cream.
- Decorate premade gingerbread houses or Christmas trees by using upside down sugar cones. You can get premade gingerbread houses made up from your local bakery with real gingerbread or graham crackers. This way everyone will have their own individual piece to decorate. Supply lots of fun candy, aprons and icing, and let the creativity begin!!
- Sometimes getting everyone organized to go out to a restaurant is more work than it is worth, especially when it comes to car seats, different ages, and numbers of people you need to transport. Plan a Make Your Own Holiday Pizza Night. Central Market has delicious premade pizza dough that is foolproof. Design the dough in the shape of a Christmas tree, candy cane, or ornament. Have the children decorate each with a selection of pizza toppings.



- Have everyone select their favorite traditional Christmas/holiday cookie recipe, shop for the ingredients, prepare and bake. Package in cello bags and holiday ribbon to hand out as favors.
- Gather around the grand piano and have an old fashion caroling party. Invite friends and neighbors and join in the sing-a-long. Provide song sheets, desserts, and eggnog and let the jingle bells ring! You can also move the group and go door to door in the neighborhood, and if any of the children or adults can play an instrument bring that along as well. Provide matching scarves or hats to add to the fun.
- There are always the good old fashion board games like Monopoly or Clue. Card games with children are always a hit as it is important to remember to use this time together to interact and make those memories, and just not sit in front of a video game or iPad.
- Make a game out of having everyone guess how many ornaments are on the Christmas tree, and have prizes for the top three closest to the correct number.
- Have the children make individual place cards for the dining room table. Provide construction paper, scissors, stickers, names of each guest, and markers. These will be treasures to keep in years to come.
- Make and design your own Christmas tree ornament. You can purchase kits at Michaels that have all you will need.
- If you have guests for several days, it's important to get out of the house as well and get active. That can be heading to the park for touch football, walking the dogs, or strolling through Arbor Hills Reserve.

I wish each of you a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season, and see you in the New Year!!



DISCOVER TCA

Transition to Trinity
for parents of prospective students entering Grades 5-8
Wednesday, December 12
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Presentation by Middle School Head
- RSVP 972.931.8325, ext. 2311
- Lunch provided. Adults only, please.

Campus Tours

- Available upon request
- Please call 972.931.8325, ext. 2921

Trinity Christian Academy

17001 Addison Road
Addison, TX 75001
972.931.8325
www.trinitychristian.org