

20 Holiday Tradition Ideas to Bring Families Together

Family traditions are beliefs and customs that are passed down to our children to be carried on by future generations. Traditions foster closeness between family members, provide family stability, and create feelings of belonging. Our values and beliefs are often reinforced through family traditions. Family traditions do not have to be elaborate, expensive activities. The significance of a tradition is for families to have time to relate and communicate with one another. Spending quality time together helps to affirm family values, faith, and life experiences while celebrating the season.

1. Watch Christmas shows together with hot chocolate and popcorn.
2. Make your own Christmas cards to send to family and friends.
3. Donate clothes or toys to a local shelter.
4. Make decorating the Christmas tree a family event.
5. Bake and decorate cookies to take to a neighbor.
6. Go caroling.
7. Take a special drive at night to enjoy Christmas lights.
8. Collect pine cones and use them to make ornaments.
9. Read one Christmas story each night before bed, or have your children write and act out a Christmas play.
10. Go sledding, and then enjoy hot cider and hot chocolate at home.
11. Have a campout night using sleeping bags under your lighted Christmas tree.
12. Make paper snowflakes to decorate your windows.
13. Light up you walkway or driveway with handmade luminaries.
14. Learn how different cultures celebrate Christmas.
15. Create a calendar that your children can countdown the days until Christmas.
16. Have a Christmas Past, Present, and Future evening. Look through old photo albums/scrapbooks to celebrate Christmas Past. Discuss what makes Christmas special for each family member to celebrate Christmas Present, and talk about hopes and dreams for the coming years to celebrate Christmas Future.
17. Make gingerbread people out of brown grocery sacks. These make great gift tags for presents. Gluing on googly eyes and candy canes will add dimension to your gingerbread people.
18. Make snow globes with old food jars.
19. Have your children help you prepare a special family recipe that has been passed down through generations.
20. Have a gift wrapping party.

Family traditions will create lasting memories, so whatever your family holiday tradition may be, remember to have fun and enjoy the time you are spending with your family.

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