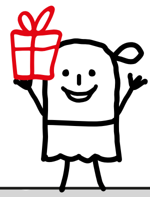
8 Weeks to a Stress-Free Christmas

WEEK 1: SET A BUDGET AND BOOK EVENTS

- Make a list of all gifts needed/people to buy for.
- Set your overall budget for gifts, then allocate an amount per person.
- If you plan on making a visit to see Santa, it is a good idea to book your spot now.

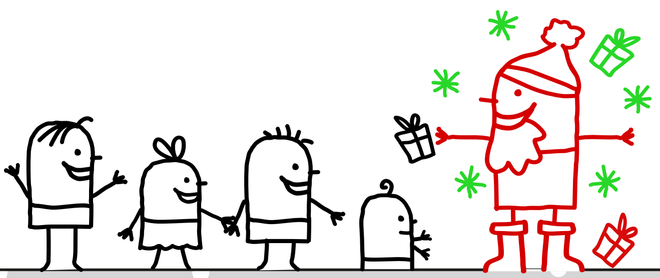
Tip: Keep an eye out for upcoming festive events in your area and book tickets as needed.



WEEK 2: START BUYING GIFTS

- Start buying gifts now to help spread the cost. If the kids haven't settled on their list yet, start with adults and some 'safe bets'.
- Keep an eye out for pre-Christmas offers and discounts to maximise your budget.
- This is a great time to buy generic Secret Santa gifts, vouchers, etc.

Tip: Buy a few extra "just in case" gifts that inevitably will be needed!



PRESENTS TO BUY

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WEEK 3: FOOD PLANNING

- Plan your Christmas Menu and make your shopping lists. Divide your list into non-perishables you can start to buy now, and perishables that need to be bought nearer the time.
- If making it yourself, get the ingredients for your Christmas cake & pudding and make those now. (You might like to try this chocolate Christmas cake for a change!)

Tip: Place any Christmas Food online orders early to make sure you get the pick up time you want.

WEEK 4: PLAN YOUR DECEMBER DAILY ACTIVITIES

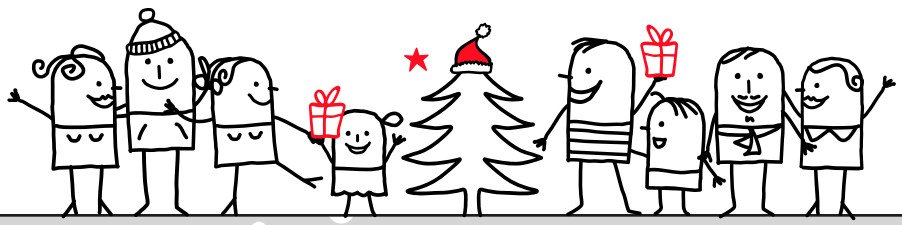
- Get the kids to write their Christmas lists and letters to Santa.
- Buy or make your own home-made advent calendar
- Plan out your Elf on the Shelf antics and download lots of fun EOTS ideas here.
- Get festive outfits/Christmas jumpers for the family.

Tip: Don't forget new PJs for the kids for Christmas Eve! What about making a Christmas Eve box?

WEEK 5: TIME TO DECORATE AND ORGANISE POSTING

- Decorate the tree and house. Hang a Christmas wreath.
- Buy your Christmas cards and stamps and check postage dates for sending to loved ones.

Tip: Don't forget to make time for some family fun! We love these Christmas movies or you could try your hand at some festive baking.



SHOPPING LIST

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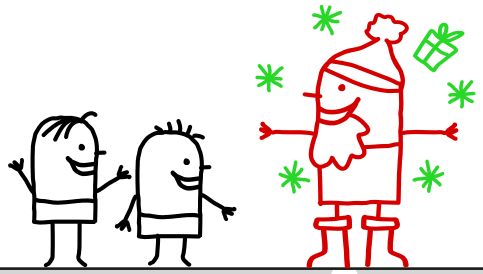
WEEK 6: STOCK UP ON NON-PERISHABLES

- Stock up on drinks, mixers and any party food for the freezer.
- Buy any non-perishable items, biscuits, selection boxes, etc.
- Buy your wrapping paper, gift tags, bags and Sellotape.
- Don't forget napkins, Christmas crackers for the table, etc.

Tip: Stock up on tin foil – you'll be amazed how much you will use over the holidays!



WEEK 7: PREP TIME

- Set aside some time to clear out or organise the fridge and freezer.
- Get any make-ahead elements of your Christmas dinner done and pop into the freezer
- Wrap as many gifts as possible.

Tip: Check you have plenty of batteries in the house for those new toys, and buy them now if not.

WEEK 8: ALMOST THERE!

- Make a final To-Do and final shopping list.
- Buy the final perishables.
- Collect your turkey or ham.
- Wrap final gifts.

Tip: Use a notes app on your phone to keep a checklist so you always have it with you.

DINNER MENU

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CHRISTMAS EVE: YOU MADE IT!

- Remember to charge new electronics e.g. phones, tablets, etc. and make sure toys work before the big day!
- Wrap and organise gifts for the morning
- Pour a big glass of wine or eggnog and sit back and relax!

Tip: Don't forget a treat for Santa and a carrot for Rudolph!

A Very Merry Christmas From Mykidstime!

DON'T FORGET!

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