



## INTRODUCTION AND PARTY INVITATIONS

Many children share their birthday with the Christmas season each December. Although kids may not always want a holiday-themed birthday party, it is a special theme for kids to enjoy with their friends that embraces seasonal fun, wintry weather, and a traditional birthday celebration. It's a three-in-one win with this Christmas party theme.

Make a **Jingle Bell Necklace Invitation**. Using Christmas ribbon, thread large jingle bells. Create a small invitation card with the party details written on it and hole punch the card to attach to the ribbon as well. Ask the party guests to wear their jingle bells to the party too.

Make **Christmas Cracker Invitations**. You will need an empty toilet paper roll, tissue paper, ribbon, confetti, and a few small candies. Roll the tissue paper around the tube and tie off one end. Fill the roll with confetti, bells, and balloons. Tie off the loose end of the roll. Decorate with Christmas stickers and leave the center empty for the address label.

Use thematic language:

*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All The Way! Won't You Please Help Celebrate \_\_\_\_'s Birthday? There'll be lots of reindeer fun and games for everyone!*

One More Tip: In your Christmas party invitation, ask your guests to bring small items, like canned foods and toiletries, to the party that can be donated to a family in need.

## DECORATIONS

One of the best parts of holding a Christmas birthday party for your child is the decorations. Most likely, you already have your tree up, your seasonal decorations out, your wreath hung, etc. All of these items can be considered your Christmas birthday party decorations as well.

If you want to add additional fun to the decorations, twist red and white streamers together to make them look like candy canes and hang throughout the party area and over the party table.



Place red, green, and white balloons around the party area and attach to the party chairs around the party table as well.

On your front door, place large butcher paper onto the door and decorate it with a large red ribbon, like a present ready to be opened. Alternatively, decorate the butcher paper as a gingerbread house with candy décor, etc.

## GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

As everyone arrives, give each guest an empty Christmas stocking. Provide them with glitter glue pens to print their names onto the stockings. This can serve as the goody bag holder.

Play **Pass the Present**. Purchase enough small presents for each child to receive one. Have the kids sit in a circle and pass a present to music. When the music stops, whoever is holding it opens the present and sits out. Continue the game until all children have received and opened a present.

**Gingerbread House Building**. Collect a few large appliance boxes from a local store and cut out a window and door in each. Provide the kids with colorful tissue paper, construction paper, packing peanuts, and anything else you can think of and glue sticks. The kids can spend time turning the cardboard boxes into a gingerbread home.

**Tree Decorating**. Using upside down sugar cones have the kids decorate their own tree using: white frosting tinted green with food coloring, silver and gold balls, stars, mini chocolate candies, shoestring licorice, and mini gumdrops.

**Make Ornaments**. Provide tin foil, construction paper, yarn (for hooks), and Christmas stickers and let the kids make their own ornaments for decorating their Christmas trees. If you have room on your own tree, or an extra tree available, have them decorate this tree.

Create a **Reindeer Obstacle Course**. Every one of Santa's reindeer must keep in flying form, and must complete the reindeer agility course. Use old Christmas wreaths for tires to run through, a skipping rope with red and white stripes, a Christmas tree that they circle, a ride down a slide, and a plywood board they have to balance themselves on.

**Present Wrap**. Provide the kids with boxes and wrapping paper and see who can wrap their boxes fastest. Make it more challenging by providing mitts that they must wear while wrapping their gifts. Alternatively, have the kids work in teams where the wrapper is blindfolded and their partner gives them instructions.

**Tree Wrap**. For this game, you need some willing adults, green crepe paper rolls, tree garlands, and lightweight, unbreakable ornaments. Divide the kids into teams, one per adult. Provide each team with a roll of crepe paper, a box of ornaments, and at least



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one garland. The kids must make their adult into a tree by wrapping them with the crepe paper roll and then decorate the tree with the garland and ornaments. The first team done wins!

Play **Nutcracker Tag**. Buy or make a Nutcracker Mask and have one kid wear it while the other kids are the mice — just like Clara's Dream. Make it freeze tag and have the Nutcracker use a play sword to tag the mice.

### PARTY MENU

Set up a **Candy Cane Buffet** for the kids to enjoy the party food:

Use a cookie cutter in a candy cane shape to cut out finger sandwiches like ham and cheese or peanut butter and jelly.

Set out a cheese ball with crackers and an assortment of veggies and dips.

Set out a citrus salad.

Set up a brownie station for the kids to assemble their own brownie sundaes.

Include crushed candy canes for use as a topping.

Serve milk and cookies or hot chocolate with candy canes as swizzle sticks.

Serve snowball cupcakes with or without the coconut.

Mix cranberry juice with seltzer water for a Christmas punch.

### For Snacks:

Make **Snowmen Munchies**. Give kids marshmallows and decorations to build a treat. Stack two or three large marshmallows to make a snowman, using a toothpick to hold the marshmallows together. Set out bowls of pretzel sticks for the arms, raisins cut in half for the buttons, candy corn for the nose, and mini chocolate chips for eyes. Cut strips of licorice string to tie around the snowman's head as the scarf. If necessary, use icing to glue on the decorations.

Make **Reindeer Feed** to keep Santa's reindeer strong for their upcoming important journey. Set out oats, Chex Mix®, pretzel sticks, etc. in separate bowls and have the kids combine the mix together. They can take a baggie of the feed home with them as well.

### PARTY FAVORS

Fill the empty stockings that the kids received when they arrived at the party with small chocolates, Christmas cookies, extra Reindeer Feed, and candy canes. Fill them when the kids are enjoying the party activities and place them in the area where the kids will depart.

Make sure to take pictures of the **Tree Wrap** party game and send them to your party guests with your Christmas party thank you notes. Combine your thank you with a classic Christmas card sending out season's greetings too.

