



SHADOW PLAY



Advent calendar

December is the most magical time of the year, especially for children. They live in anticipation of miracles and gifts, enjoy the winter beauty around and are happy to join the pre-holiday fuss.

It is very important to create a holiday atmosphere. Every detail matters. When the resinous smell of spruce appears in the house, the stockings are hung by the chimney with care and you can hear the rustles of the wrapping paper, this means that somewhere the parents have probably already hidden a gift.

Your children will carry the memories of these wonderful winter moments with them for the rest of their lives.

We have prepared a calendar for you with ideas for every day on how to spend the holidays. There is so much to do during this wonderful time - there is a place for relaxation, useful deeds, and exciting discoveries.

1 december

25 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE A LIST OF JOYFUL EVENTS THAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR

The beginning of December is the time to look back at the year. Get together as a family and make a list of the joyful events that happened during these 12 months. Discuss what you remember most, what emotions you experienced at that moment. And, of course, ask what your children think about this.

2 december

24 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



LEARN A CHRISTMAS VERSE

Did you know that the tradition of reading poems dedicated to Santa Claus is even older than St. Nick himself? On New Year's Eve, it was customary for noble families to teach poetry to their children, including in French. This tradition has been preserved to this day.

Invite your child to learn a simple, short and understandable poem.

3 december

23 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE ARTIFICIAL SNOW

We offer another entertaining way to spend time with your child in December — make artificial snow. Here is a quick and easy recipe.

Ingredients:

frozen white soap bars, cheese grater, sequins

Leave the soap overnight in the freezer.
In the morning, take it out and grate.

You will get fluffy snow, in which you can add sparkles. It is perfectly molded and you can make a snowman or any other Christmas figurine.

4 december

22 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS

A letter to Santa is an obligatory ritual for a child before the Christmas! It is best to start writing a letter in advance so that the message has time to reach the deadline.

Do not forget to say hello, congratulate Father Christmas, and also tell a little about yourself and your dreams. You can put children's drawings or crafts in the envelope. And only then ask for something or make wishes. In order for the addressee to receive the letter, it is necessary to indicate on the envelope your name, return address with postal code and the recipient (Santa Claus).

5

december

21 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



ORGANIZE A FABULOUS PERFORMANCE WITH PUPPETS

Puppet theater at home is a creative activity for the whole family. The theater not only allows you to relax, but also establishes intra-family ties, helps children develop speech skills and imaginative thinking, broadens their horizons and improves memory. You can make puppets yourself anyway you want, or you can use ready-made Personages from Shadow Play.

6

december

20 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE HOMEADE ICE CREAM

Joint culinary experiences with children are a fun and rewarding pastime. It is only important to organize the process correctly and choose a simple recipe. It needs to be tasty, simple and original. We have a fresh idea for a New Year's dessert. Any guesses? It's ice cream!

Ingredients:

400 g boiled condensed milk, 350 ml milk,
200 g whipping cream

Preparing:

Combine condensed milk and milk in a saucepan. Put on moderate heat and stir until the condensed milk is completely dissolved. Cool the mixture.

Whip the cold cream with a mixer until creamy. Then mix them into the milk mixture.

Put the mass in a wide form, cover with a lid or film and put in the freezer for 4-5 hours.

7

december

19 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



ORGANIZE THE DECLUTTERING PROCESS

New Year — new life, into which you should not drag old rubbish. Arrange a general cleaning of your home, throw out the unnecessary and do not try to regret: you make room for new things.

8 december

18 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE A BIRD FEEDER

From childhood, children must be taught to do good deeds and take care of nature. An eco-friendly and beautiful feeder will be made from oranges and woolen threads. Tell your child that over time, the orange peel will fall to the ground and turn into natural humus, and the wool will serve as the basis for the birds to build nests.

How to make it?

Cut oranges or grapefruits in half with a sharp knife. Remove the pulp with a spoon, be careful not to damage the peel.

Using a nail, make holes in the crusts and pull a woolen thread through them.

10 december

16 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



PLAY WITH SHADOW THEATER

If it's cold outside, no worries. There are a lot of fun things you can do at home. For example, home productions are a very fun and rewarding pastime. They are especially valuable if all family members participate in them. Take out milk, cookies, flashlight and Shadow Play — you are ready for a fabulous journey!

Fill the room with whimsical silhouettes, invite your favorite characters to visit and listen to fairy tales or invent your own.

9 december

17 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



BAKE GINGERBREAD COOKIES

The best gift for Christmas for kids is a souvenir made with love with your own hands. And if it is also tasty, it will be twice as pleasant to receive it!

Gingerbread cookies are very easy to make. It is especially easy to decorate them by drawing Christmas patterns.

Ingredients:

2 cups flour, 1 cup cane sugar, 100 g melted butter, 1 egg, 2 teaspoons ground ginger, 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/5 teaspoon baking soda, 3 teaspoons honey, baking paper

Preparing:

Mix spices (cloves and cinnamon), soda and flour.

In a separate bowl, grind soft butter and sugar, add honey and egg, beat. Pour flour with spices and rub with your hands, kneading a viscous shortbread dough. It should be a rich brown color (thanks to sugar and spices).

Roll the dough into a ball, wrap with cling film and refrigerate for 1.5 - 2 hours.

Then heat up the oven to 180 degrees. Roll the dough into a thin layer. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters and place on parchment paper and then on a baking sheet.

Bake at 180 degrees for 5-7 minutes. Take out the cookies and let them cool. At first they will be soft, but after will harden. You can decorate with icing or arrange in beautiful small paper bags.

11 december

15 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



DECORATE THE TREE



The most desirable event for kids in the holiday season is the process of decorating the main attribute of the holiday - the Christmas tree. Children are always happy to join the process, especially if adults enthusiastically tell them about holiday traditions, about the magic of Christmas Eve, about Santa Claus and his helpers, about making wishes and giving gifts. It is very important that parents help the child to feel the atmosphere of a fairy tale and joy.

13 december

13 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



CUT OUT SNOWFLAKES



If you can't wait to start decorating your apartment, making paper snowflakes with your own hands is the way to go. Snowflakes are easy to make, they are accessible to a kid who more or less already knows how to handle scissors. And it doesn't matter that the little one may not be able to accurately cut out thin lines, but this is a good exercise for motor skills, and author's snowflakes can be kept as a keepsake.

12 december

14 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



WATCH A CHRISTMAS MOVIE

How to create a festive mood for the whole family? Gather the household at the TV screen and watch an atmospheric winter movie. We have compiled for you a list of feature and animated films that will bring an atmosphere of warmth, comfort and, of course, fairy tale to your home!

1. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
2. The Harry Potter series
3. How The Grinch Stole Christmas
4. A Christmas story
5. A Boy Called Christmas
6. Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey
7. Frozen
8. The Christmas Chronicles
9. The Nutcracker and the Four Realms
10. The Polar Express

14

december

12 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



PREPARE POSTCARDS

The most expensive gifts are handmade, and it is especially nice to receive something your child made with his own hands. For kids, this is not only an opportunity to please someone, but also a lot of pleasure from the very process of making holiday cards.

16

december

10 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



COMPOSE A CHRISTMAS FAIRY TALE

Imagine how great it is to get together with your children on a cozy frosty evening and come up with your own magical story. Shadow Play offers such an opportunity. Use your imagination and compose a completely new story with the heroes that have long been known to all. The possibilities are endless! Just imagine how the plot can turn if the Snow Queen ends up in a fairy tale about the Nutcracker! Maybe she will freeze all the mice and save the main character?

15

december

11 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



COOK MULLED WINE

A warm, insanely fragrant and delicious drink made at home will be a great idea not only for winter evenings, but also for a festive table. We have prepared a non-alcoholic recipe so that all family members can enjoy mulled wine.

Ingredients:

1 liter red grape juice, 1 orange, small piece of ginger, 1 cinnamon stick, 1 Chinese anise, 6 cloves, 2 slices of lemon, a handful of fresh or frozen cranberries, 1 tablespoon honey or ½-¾ tablespoon sugar

Preparing:

Pour the grape juice into a small saucepan. Cut the orange and peeled ginger into circles and put them in the same place. Add cinnamon, anise, cloves, lemon, cranberries and sugar. Add honey if needed. Place over low heat and bring almost to a boil. Remove from stove and leave covered for 30 minutes. You can additionally wrap the pan with something warm.

Strain the mulled wine through a sieve and serve hot.

17 december

9 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE ICE LIGHTS

Not only will the child learn such phenomena as freezing water and melting ice, this process can be timed to coincide with the holiday. Make beautiful Christmas tree lights out of colorful ice cubes! To do this, you will need: interesting ice molds, gouache paints and a longer rope.

18 december

8 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



READ CHRISTMAS FAIRY TALES

Children's books will help brighten up long winter evenings and will be a great activity after an active walk and snowball fight. We have collected the best fairy tales for kids — those that are especially pleasant to read with the whole family, wrapped in a warm, cozy blanket.

Some of them you will find on our website

shadowplay.store/

Hans Christian Andersen "The Snow Queen"

Chris van Allsburg "The Polar Express"

E. T. A. Hoffmann "The Nutcracker
and the Mouse King"

Lou Peacock "Oliver the Elephant"

Dr. Seuss "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

19 december

7 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



VISIT TOWN FAIRS

Such fairs are held in many towns and this is a wonderful event that gives everyone a Christmas mood, vivid emotions and completely new impressions. Find information on your town's official website.

20 december

6 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE S'MORES

Evenly roast the marshmallows (usually on an open fire, but if you're home even a candle will work) until it becomes evenly brown and eat it while it's still hot.

21 december

5 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



SKATE

A visit to the ice rink is an unforgettable and vivid experience for children. Ice skating is great for developing balance, motor skills and a sense of space. But most importantly, your child will simply shine with happiness, discovering a new world for himself.

22 december

4 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



PLAY BOARD GAMES WITH YOUR FAMILY

Do you want to pause for a while and take a break from all the holiday fuss? We have an idea! Get colorful boxes of board games out of the closet. After all, they are the easiest and most enjoyable way to cheer up not only the smallest family members, but even adults.

23 december

3 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



MAKE HOT CHOCOLATE

There is nothing better on a snowy day than a cup of freshly brewed hot chocolate. This wonderful drink can be made with hot peppers, fruit and whipped cream. So cozy up with your favorite book.

24 december

2 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



LISTEN TO AUDIO FAIRY TALES

Christmas audio fairy tales are an essential attribute of the holiday season. The atmosphere of winter wonders is perfectly created and complemented by wonderful stories voiced by professional actors. For children who have begun to listen to these works, the doors to unusual and wonderful worlds will open.

On the Shadow Play website you will also find audio versions of all our books.

<https://shadowplay.store/pages/read-listen>

25 december

1 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



DREAM

Write down what you want to try in the New Year. But it is better to do this in advance, because the closer the holiday, the less time is left to reflect in a calm atmosphere. You can discuss family plans over dinner. One thing is invariable — as soon as the list is ready — it must be sealed in a beautiful envelope and put under the tree.