

Chapter 1 : 3 Ways to Tell Your Child Who Santa Is - wikiHow

Tips for How to Tell a Child About Santa. There's no right or wrong answer when you're wondering how to tell your child about Santa. But, you can always learn from the experiences of those who have gone before you.

Messenger Christmas is a magical time of year, especially for children. Unfortunately, between elaborate Elf on the Shelf staging and fending off questions about Santa, parents are often left wondering how much of the magic depends on them. In fact, the best approach involves supporting your kids while they figure it out on their own. During the holiday season, I spend a lot of time thinking about Santa. As a proud auntie of three children under the age of four, my Santa musings have taken on a new significance. But, unlike many parents, I see the development of a belief in the physical reality of Santa, and the eventual myth-busting, as impressive achievements to be celebrated, not feared! When kids question the magic The vast majority of children will at some point believe in Santa. How can Santa be prepping for Christmas at the North Pole and greeting kids in the mall and scuba diving? He is a jolly man dressed in red with a snowy beard. This newfound knowledge is evident in the types of questions children are asking. Younger children are often interested in general details about Santa, like: Recognizing these challenging questions for what they are “ cognitive development in action ” may free some parents from the burden of belief. If instead you want to let your child take the lead, you can simply direct the question back to them, allowing your child to come up with explanations for themselves: Regardless of which strategy you choose, it is inevitable that eventually the evidence against Santa will become overwhelming and the belief will become unsustainable. And what does this do to the magic of Christmas for children from poorer families? Shutterstock As it turns out, probably pretty well. Santa is one of countless things children learn through the testimony of others. Because we rely on others for so much of what we know, humans are surprisingly well-equipped for the task. They evaluate both the source and content of the information they have received in light of their existing knowledge and their memory of past interactions with the source. This means that, when compared to all of the reliable information that parents share with their children over their lives, it is highly unlikely a single lie will cause irreparable damage. Children are also discovering the truth about Santa at around the same time they are starting to understand that some lies, like Santa lies, are told with good intentions. Why Santa is for small gifts Believing in impossible beings such as Santa is a special kind of magic available only to children. Research suggests that fantastical beliefs are associated with a number of positive developmental outcomes. So, if your child is still a believer, feel free to protect that belief. As your child ages, especially if there are younger siblings in the house, there are creative ways to keep the Santa experience positive, even after their belief in the physical reality of Santa has been abandoned. Finally, always remember, as children are figuring out how the world really works, that they are going to look to the people and things around them for evidence. It might be a good idea to give modest gifts from Santa and save the big ones for parents , because no matter what your family income, every child deserves to feel loved by Santa on Christmas morning.

Chapter 2 : How to Have Your Child Take a Picture with Santa: 12 Steps

Through lesson-learned review within his family and extensive research, Your Child and Santa: Help with the Christian Parent's Dilemma, a practical guide for parents, came to light. Norfleet is a retired engineer who holds a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University.

Nicholas was famous for his generous gifts to the poor, in particular presenting the three impoverished daughters of a pious Christian with dowries so that they would not have to become prostitutes. In continental Europe more precisely the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany he is usually portrayed as a bearded bishop in canonical robes. The remains of Saint Nicholas are in Italy. In , the Italian city of Bari mounted an expedition to locate the tomb of the Saint. The reliquary of St. Nicholas was conquered by Italian sailors and his relics were taken to Bari [8] [9] where they are kept to this day. A basilica was constructed the same year to store the loot and the area became a pilgrimage site for the devout. These were collected by Venetian sailors during the First Crusade and taken to Venice , where a church to St. This tradition was confirmed in two important scientific investigations of the relics in Bari and Venice , which revealed that the relics in the two Italian cities belong to the same skeleton. Saint Nicholas was later claimed as a patron saint of many diverse groups, from archers , sailors, and children to pawnbrokers. This date was earlier than the original day of gifts for the children, which moved in the course of the Reformation and its opposition to the veneration of saints in many countries on the 24th and 25 December. So Saint Nicholas changed to Santa Claus. The custom of gifting to children at Christmas has been propagated by Martin Luther as an alternative to the previous very popular gift custom on St. Nicholas, to focus the interest of the children to Christ instead of the veneration of saints. Martin Luther first suggested the Christkind as the bringer of gifts. But Nicholas remained popular as gifts bearer for the people. Father Christmas dates back as far as 16th century in England during the reign of Henry VIII , when he was pictured as a large man in green or scarlet robes lined with fur. Schmutzli carries a twig broom to spank the naughty children. History Origins Pre-modern representations of the gift-giver from Church history and folklore, notably St Nicholas known in Dutch as Sinterklaas , merged with the English character Father Christmas to create the character known to Americans and the rest of the English-speaking world as "Santa Claus" a phonetic derivation of "Sinterklaas". In the English and later British colonies of North America, and later in the United States, British and Dutch versions of the gift-giver merged further. This has usually been a very busy day with me, preparing for Christmas not only for my own tables, but for gifts for my servants. No confectionary, cakes, or pies can I have. We are all sad; no loud, jovial laugh from our boys is heard. How disappointed she will be in the morning, though I have explained to her why he cannot come. Why must the innocent suffer with the guilty? This entry from Mrs. Army mop-up companies and stragglers during those intervening weeks continued to "forage", loot, burn, and liberate slaves, hence, the concern of Mrs. Burge and her household. It contained Old Santeclaus with Much Delight , an anonymous poem describing Santeclaus on a reindeer sleigh, bringing presents to children. Nick is described as being "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf" with "a little round belly", that "shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly", in spite of which the "miniature sleigh" and "tiny reindeer" still indicate that he is physically diminutive. The reindeer were also named: Santa was dressed in an American flag , and had a puppet with the name " Jeff " written on it, reflecting its Civil War context. In , the poet Katharine Lee Bates popularized Mrs. The editorial, which included the famous reply " Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus ", has become an indelible part of popular Christmas lore in the United States and Canada. When Ak, Master Woodsman of the World, exposes him to the misery and poverty of children in the outside world, Santa strives to find a way to bring joy into the lives of all children, and eventually invents toys as a principal means. He is wearing a mask with a beard attached. The image of Santa Claus as a benevolent character became reinforced with its association with charity and philanthropy, particularly by organizations such as the Salvation Army. Volunteers dressed as Santa Claus typically became part of fundraising drives to aid needy families at Christmas time. In , Charles W. Howard , who played Santa Claus in department stores and parades, established the Charles W. Howard Santa School, the oldest continuously-run such school in the

world. Eventually, the idea emerged that he had numerous elves responsible for making the toys, but the toys were still handmade by each individual elf working in the traditional manner. The popular song by George Melachrino, "Mrs. Claus in the popular imagination. Other modern additions to the "story" of Santa include Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the 9th and lead reindeer immortalized in a Gene Autry song, written by a Montgomery Ward copywriter. In popular culture See also: SantaCon By the end of the 20th century, the reality of mass mechanized production became more fully accepted by the Western public. Claus as executives or managers. A real-time warehouse management system WMS is of course required to run such a complex. The facility makes extensive use of task interleaving, literally combining dozens of DC activities putaway, replenishing, order picking, sleigh loading, cycle counting in a dynamic queue The WMS and transportation system are fully integrated, allowing the elves to make optimal decisions that balance transportation and order picking and other DC costs. Unbeknownst to many, Santa actually has to use many sleighs and fake Santa drivers to get the job done Christmas Eve, and the transportation management system TMS optimally builds thousands of consolidated sacks that maximize cube utilization and minimize total air miles. Santa has been described as a positive male cultural icon: Santa is much more organic, integral, connected to the past, and therefore connected to the future. Claus were running a sweatshop over there In the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, a Santa Claus Festival was held on 30 December, with government officials attending. The events are seen as moves to boost tourism in Kyrgyzstan. In pre-Christian Norse tradition, Odin would often enter through chimneys and fire holes on the solstice. In the tale of Saint Nicholas, the saint tossed coins through a window, and, in a later version of the tale, down a chimney when he finds the window locked. The hearth was held sacred in primitive belief as a source of beneficence, and popular belief had elves and fairies bringing gifts to the house through this portal. Nicholas" where the author described him as an elf. In the United States and Canada, children traditionally leave Santa a glass of milk and a plate of cookies; in Britain and Australia, he is sometimes given sherry or beer, and mince pies instead. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, it is common for children to leave him rice porridge with cinnamon sugar instead. In Ireland it is popular to give him Guinness or milk, along with Christmas pudding or mince pies. They get sweets in a bag if they were good, and a golden colored birch switch if not. On Christmas Eve "Little Jesus" comes and gives gifts for everyone. Children following the Dutch custom for sinterklaas will "put out their shoe" leave hay and a carrot for his horse in a shoe before going to bed, sometimes weeks before the sinterklaas avond. The next morning they will find the hay and carrot replaced by a gift; often, this is a marzipan figurine. Naughty children were once told that they would be left a roe a bundle of sticks instead of sweets, but this practice has been discontinued. Tags on gifts for children are sometimes signed by their parents "From Santa Claus" before the gifts are laid beneath the tree. A classic American image of Santa Claus. Ho, ho, ho Ho ho ho is the way that many languages write out how Santa Claus laughs. The laughter of Santa Claus has long been an important attribute by which the character is identified, but it also does not appear in many non- English -speaking countries. The traditional Christmas poem A Visit from St. Nicholas relates that Santa has: Some stories and legends include a village, inhabited by his helpers, surrounding his home and shop. In Denmark, he is said to live in Greenland near Uummannaq. In Sweden, the town of Mora has a theme park named Tomteland. You may improve this article, discuss the issue on the talk page, or create a new article, as appropriate. Giant Santa Claus, Philippines Santa Claus appears in the weeks before Christmas in department stores or shopping malls, or at parties. The practice of this has been credited[dubious €" discuss] to James Edgar, as he started doing this in in his Brockton, Massachusetts department store. Sometimes a photograph of the child and Santa are taken. Having a Santa set up to take pictures with children is a ritual that dates back at least to Quite often the Santa, if and when he is detected to be fake, explains that he is not the real Santa and is helping him at this time of year. Most young children accept this explanation. At family parties, Santa is sometimes impersonated by the male head of the household or other adult male family member. In Canada, malls operated by Oxford Properties established a process by which autistic children could visit Santa Claus at the mall without having to contend with crowds. In, the Southcentre Mall in Calgary was the first mall to offer this service. It blossomed into a second career for him, and after appearing in parades and malls, [63] he appeared on the cover of the American monthly Boston Magazine as Santa. Meath was a board member of the international organization

called Fraternal Order of Real Bearded Santas. For the Muppet television film, see *A Muppets Christmas: For the Polish film, see Letters to Santa film*. Writing letters to Santa Claus has been a Christmas tradition for children for many years. These letters normally contain a wishlist of toys and assertions of good behavior. Some social scientists have found that boys and girls write different types of letters. Girls generally write longer but more polite lists and express the nature of Christmas more in their letters than in letters written by boys. Girls also more often request gifts for other people. These letters may be answered by postal workers or outside volunteers. Written and sent with the help of a parent or teacher, children learn about the structure of a letter, salutations, and the use of an address and postcode.

Chapter 3 : Annual Tradition Continuesâ€”â€”Your Child and a Personal Santa Letter | Diabetes Dad

The letter from Santa Claus will be customized with your child's name, gender, achievements, age, town, friend, and presents they want. How to Create a Letter From Santa at Free Santa Letters There are quite a few websites out there that you can use to create a letter from Santa, but my favorite one that I come back to year after year is Free.

They get very excited about characters in their life that have special meaning for them. While there are many ways to encourage your children to be good, the story of Santa is just one of them. Siegel points out that Santa, for most families, is a jolly man with helpers who brings presents to children who are good. Sure, there are tales of coal in the stockings of naughty children, but it would be hard to find a child who actually received that on Christmas morning. What parents should assess is the values they are trying to impart and whether this myth encourages those morals. Caroline Jorgensen, a mother of two boys who blogs at Morningsidemom. I was lying to my child. There he was looking up at me, expecting me to explain the world to him, and I was telling him that a fat man in a red suit who snuck into our house once a year was as real as the green grass outside. To top it off, my firstborn was scared of Santa for a few years. How wonderful that they can have that. You may be surprised to find a myriad of Santa books waiting to be read at the local library. There are books about environmentally conscious Santas and about animals, even dinosaurs that dress as Santa. There are Santa tales featuring popular characters like Corduroy and Curious George. There is no right or wrong way to tell the Santa story. A lot of parents want to pass on what they believed as a child, what they were excited about. It makes us see different personalities. However, many children come to this realization on their own around age seven or eight, Siegel says. And when they do, they are basically unscathed. Siegel cites a study that revealed that children who learned the truth may have been upset, but not nearly as upset as the parents. Maybe parents like the myth because it makes them feel good, or because kids get disappointed in them when they find out the truth. I lose the magic too. Talking Through the Disappointment Whether your kids find out on their own, from an older child on the playground, or from you, there are ways to handle the disappointment. If they are upset that you lied, acknowledge their disappointment and ask about their feelings, Siegel recommends. You can explain that Santa is a myth that your family has chosen to share. Siegel recommends comparing the experience to the tooth fairy or Easter bunny, and encourage children to remember the fun and excitement that made the event special. Children should also have the opportunity to define what Santa Claus means to them. They may surprise parents when they reveal that they knew all along, but still had fun playing along with the game. Until their children catch on, parents may just want to enjoy the magical world of Santa that they have helped to create. Sure, Santa may not really exist, but believing in him for a few years can be tremendously fun, even for parents. Laura Lewis Brown caught the writing bug as soon as she could hold a pen. For several years, she wrote a national online column on relationships, and she now teaches writing as an adjunct professor. She lives in Baltimore with her husband and three young children, who give her a lot of material for her blog, EarlyMorningMom.

Chapter 4 : A Personalized Video from Santa to Your Child - Just in Time for Christmas

If your child wants to talk to Santa right now, you can let them call Santa instead of waiting for a phone call from him. Call Santa's hotline and your child can leave a message for Santa. You'll be texted an audio file of the message as a keepsake that you can share with friends and family.

You might disagree with me. I have faith and trust in you to respectfully disagree. So, thanks, in advance for being a safe space! And thanks for reading. And we did the same thing with our own kids when they were young. During the night he snuck the money into their stockings. But one night the father caught St. Nicholas, Nick asked for him to keep his secret. Nick gave to this family unconditionally because of his love for God. I think that kids need to have privacy, space away from adults, freedom to fully express their feelings. We want our kids to know that we love them unconditionally No matter what our children do, our love for them will never diminish. In that loving space, I find ways to teach her to be more of who she is meant to be. Kids that get rewarded for doing something experience less enjoyment, and are less motivated to do that behavior again! They rely on us to be truthful. They rely on us for security and safety. I also know kids who are frightened by Santa. If gifts are conditionally given, kids focus on themselves. If gifts are given unconditionally, kids can focus on others, giving unconditionally to them as well. They will still believe in magic! How do you preserve the magic of Christmas?

Chapter 5 : Have Santa Text Your Child This Christmas! by Head Elf Jennifer â€” Kickstarter

You searched for: your child and santa! Etsy is the home to thousands of handmade, vintage, and one-of-a-kind products and gifts related to your search. No matter what you're looking for or where you are in the world, our global marketplace of sellers can help you find unique and affordable options.

What should parents tell their children about Santa Claus? Although Santa Claus is a mythical figure, his creation is based in part on a great Christian man named Saint Nicholas of Myra, who lived in the 4th century. Nicholas was born to Christian parents who left him an inheritance when they died, which he distributed to the poor. He became a priest at a young age and was well-known for his compassion and generosity. Nicholas passed away on December 6 sometime around the 300s or 400s AD, and the day of his death became an annual feast in which children would put out food for Nicholas and straw for his donkey. It was said that the saint would come down from heaven during the night and replace the offerings with toys and treatsâ€”but only for the good boys and girls. There are many different versions of the legend of Saint Nicholas, but all are the inspiration for the jolly, red-suited gift-giver that we now know as Santa Claus. Many Christian parents are torn as to whether or not they should play the "Santa game" with their children. On one hand, he makes Christmas fun and magical, leaving wonderful holiday memories for years to come. On the other hand, the focus of Christmas should be on Jesus Christ and how much He has already given us. So, is the story of Santa Claus an innocent addition to Christmas festivities, or is he a subject that should be avoided? Parents need to use their own judgment in deciding whether or not to include Santa during the holidays, but here are some things to consider: Children who believe that the gifts they receive Christmas morning are from a magical man with unending resources are less likely to appreciate what they have been given, and the sacrifices their parents make in providing them. Greed and materialism can overshadow the holiday season, which is meant to be about giving, loving, and worshiping God. Children whose parents are on a tight budget may feel that they have been overlooked by Santa, or even worse, deemed one of the "bad" boys or girls. An even more troubling aspect of telling our children that Santa comes down the chimney each year to leave their gifts is that it is, obviously, a lie. We live in a society that believes that lying for the "right" reason is acceptable. This is contrary to what the Bible tells us. Of course, telling our children that Santa is real is not a malicious deception, but it is, nevertheless, a lie. Although it is probably not typical, some children honestly feel deceived and betrayed by their parents when they find out that Santa is not real. Children trust their parents to tell them the truth, and it is our responsibility not to break this trust. If we do, they will not believe more important things we tell them, such as the truth about Christ, whom they also cannot physically see. Children can still play the "Santa game" even if they know it is all pretend. They can make lists, sit on his lap at the mall, and leave out cookies and milk on Christmas Eve. This will not rob them of their joy of the season, and gives parents the opportunity to tell their children about the godly qualities of the real Saint Nicholas, who dedicated his life to serving others and made himself into a living example of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 6 : Is It Okay to Lie About Santa? . Happy Holidays . PBS Parents | PBS

The author then asks the child what Santa gets for all of his trouble (besides cookies of course), leading them to the conclusion that it's a good feeling to do something for someone else.

By Marie Hartwell-Walker, Ed. Local top 40 radio stations run novelty Santa songs all day. On the eve of the big day, stockings are hung and cookies and milk are set out for Santa as well as a carrot for Rudolph. Some parents even take a bite out of the cookie and write a thank-you note from Mr. Claus for the kids to find the next day. It is part of the magic of Christmas for children and a nostalgic visit back to childhood for adults. So we adults engage in a conspiracy of tales. What would Christmas be without the story of a jelly-bellied elf who somehow gets around the world in one night to deliver presents and treats to good little girls and boys? Then comes the thud of reality. It can mark the end of a certain kind of innocence for the child and an end of a fun chapter of parenting for the adults. How we respond can make the moment into a tearful, even angry, confrontation or a sweet transition into a new kind of magic. Oh, I suppose on the face of it, it does. But there is something important enough about the myth that for a couple hundred years adults have been conspiring to make it seem real. Someone once told me that when children ask about Santa it is much like when they ask about where they came from. Some kids want a biology lesson. Some want to know they were born in Cleveland. Similarly, some kids want the whole truth about Santa and some want to be left in reasonable doubt. Consider the age and stage of your child. For older children, reconciling story and reality is part of growing up. Different kids have different reactions. Some kids respond to the news that Santa is a story with relief. They needed to have their perception of reality confirmed. They need help understanding that participating in a sweet story of childhood is not a fundamental betrayal of trust. Still other kids break down in tears. Whatever the case, the first response is something to ride out with sympathy and understanding. Our Santa is based on the story of a real person, St. Nicholas of Myra, who gave all he could to those in need. Stories about him and Mrs. Claus and the elves are intended to remind us all to be giving and good. Explain to your child that when we are no longer the recipients, we become the creators of the fun and magic. Part of growing up is understanding that the spirit of a Santa can always be within us and then making the magic happen for others. Help your child become an active magic-maker. Older kids can stay up to help put some presents under the tree. Finally – do what you can to keep the magic alive at least a little. Marie Hartwell-Walker is licensed as both a psychologist and marriage and family counselor. She specializes in couples and family therapy and parent education. She is author of the insightful parenting e-book, *Tending the Family Heart*. Check out her book, *Unlocking the Secrets of Self-Esteem*. Retrieved on November 13, , from <https://>

Chapter 7 : 4 Heartwarming Letters to Explain Santa to Your Kids - DIY & Crafts

And it doesnt help that my husband got racedaydvl.com where you add your childs info and it looks like Santa is talking to your child specifically. My children love that and don't realize it isn't actually santa talking to them.

Chapter 8 : Chicago Tribune - We are currently unavailable in your region

Gauge your child's feelings. Understand what your child feels and knows about Santa before complicating the truth about the myth. Keep up the story they know until they introduce some skepticism or desire to know more of the truth.

Chapter 9 : Lies about Santa? They could be good for your child

The fun of Santa is playing the "Santa game": writing a letter to Santa, leaving out cookies and milk, having the gifts appear magically overnight! You can still play the "Santa game" (I did and I still do!) and have all the magic of Christmas without lying to your kids.