READY TO USE GAMES

# Christmas games

With all the parties, events and services taking place over the festive season, you might just need a few extra games ideas. Here is a range of easy games you can play in between eating all that party food.

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## Multiple pass the parcel

**You will need:** eight small prizes; newspaper and / or Christmas wrapping paper; sticky tape; music and the means to play it

Before the session, prepare the parcel. Wrap each of the prizes with newspaper or wrapping paper. Then group the prizes in four pairs and wrap those pairs up (you should end up with four parcels). Do the same again, wrapping pairs of parcels together, resulting in two larger parcels. Finally wrap those two parcels up together to make one. You can include extra layers of wrapping at any place in the process to make the game longer. You can also include forfeits or tasks in between each layer.

Start the game in the normal way, playing and then stopping music as the children or young people pass the parcel around a circle. When the parcel splits in two, pass those two parcels in opposite directions. Continue to do this until eight players unwrap the prizes.

## Santa limbo

**You will need:** a Santa suit; padding (such as cushions and pillows); long garden cane, thick rope or similar

Set up a limbo with two leaders holding a cane, broomstick or rope pulled taut. Dress a volunteer up as Santa, complete with padding, and then challenge them to limbo under the stick or rope. If they are successful, then keep going until the stick or rope is too low for them to limbo underneath. Make a note of their lowest successful limbo.

Play with different volunteers until you have a winner. If you have two Santa suits, you could have two players limboing against each other.

## What’s in the stocking

**You will need:** large Christmas stocking (available from card and gift shops); a range of mystery Christmas objects such as a tangerine, a cracker or a sugar cane

Before the session, gather a range of mystery objects. Include some obvious ones and some that are more obscure.

Place one of the objects in the stocking and invite a player to try to work out what it is just by putting their hand in the Christmas stocking. You could have two stockings and two sets of items and play in two teams. Each team sends a player to the front to identify an object. When they are successful, they return to their team, a new item is put into the stocking and another player comes forward to identify it.

## Present wrapping

**You will need:** a range of items that are difficult to wrap; wrapping paper; scissors; sticky tape; bows and ribbon; prizes (optional)

Give out the items (one per player) and challenge the group to wrap their item as beautifully as possible. Give them all the wrapping equipment you have brought and set a time limit. At the end of the time limit, display the presents and judge together which is the best. Award a prize if you have one. You could also award prizes for best concealed (for the present that disguises what’s inside), least sticky tape used or neatest bow.

## Person wrapping

**You will need:** wrapping paper; scissors; sticky tape; bows and ribbon

Split the group into teams and ask each team to choose a volunteer who is happy to be wrapped. Challenge the teams to wrap their volunteer as best they can in a set time limit. At the end of the game, judge which person is wrapped most professionally!

For both the wrapping games, make sure you recycle all the paper used after you have finished.

## Pin the tail on the reindeer

**You will need:** large picture of a reindeer with no tail; reindeer tail; Blu Tack; blindfold; marker pen

Stick your picture of a tail-less reindeer to the wall. Put a blob of tack onto the top of the reindeer tail. Blindfold a player and give them the tail. Spin them around a couple of times and then challenge them to stick the tail in the correct place on the picture. Mark the place on the picture where they stuck the tail and then let another player have a go.

Play until everyone who wants to has had a go. Bear in mind that some children or young people will not want to be blindfolded. Look at the marks on the picture – the closest mark to the correct place is the winner!

## Christmas memory game

Sit in a circle and start the game by saying: “Last Christmas, I was given…” and then say a gift (for example “a box of chocolates”). The next person says the whole sentence and adds on another gift: “Last Christmas, I was given a box of chocolates and…a giant teddy bear.” Continue around the circle until someone forgets. Then start the game again from the next player.

You could challenge the group to follow the alphabet with their gifts: “Last Christmas, I was given an angel for the Christmas tree, some Brussels sprouts, Christmas pudding…” Or you could do a version of the ‘Twelve days of Christmas’: “On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me four pairs of socks, three tangerines, two tennis racquets and one PS5.”

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