



November/ December 2018

Alpha Child Care Ltd.



Dates To Remember

November:

Sun Nov 4th – Set your clocks one hour behind

Sun Nov 11th– Remembrance Day

Wed Nov 14th - Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due

Wed Nov 14th – Cinnabon Orders will be delivered

Thurs Nov 15th – Say “Cheese” it’s Picture Day 9am sharp

Fri Nov 16th – PA Day for Public and Catholic School Boards – Trip TBA

December:

Dec 3rd – 14th – Christmas Food Drive (All Donations will go to Salvation Army)

Thurs Dec 13th – Annual Christmas Concert 5pm – 6pm

Thurs Dec 20th– Christmas Luncheon at 11:30am

Fri Dec 21st – 1st day of Winter

Mon Dec 24th – Christmas Eve (Alpha Closed)

Tues Dec 25th – Christmas Day (Alpha Closed)

Wed Dec 26th – Boxing Day (Alpha Closed)

Dec 24th – Jan 4th Christmas Camp (2 weeks)

Mon Dec 31st – New Year’s Eve (Alpha Closed)

Tues Jan 1st, 2019 – New Year’s Day (Alpha Closed)

Word From The Office

We hope everyone had a safe night trick or tricking, as we know, the children had a great costume party Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to all of our families for the generous donations received at the Annual Corn Roast. We raised \$266.00 and as a team “Alpha’s Caring Hearts” raised over \$1000!. Thank you again for your continuous support!

We have had some warm and some cooler days during the fall season, however colder weather will be slowly approaching and we want to ensure that all the children are coming to school daily, with appropriate clothing. This includes a winter hat, gloves (2 pairs), snow boots, snow pants, winter jacket and a neck warmer to keep the children warm while

playing outdoors.

To promote physical fitness and as per the Child Care Early Years Act (CCEYA), all children must spend 2 hours of their day outdoors, one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. Temperatures that are below -10 degrees Celsius, Toddlers will not be going outside, but the Preschoolers may go outside for a short period of time as the Preschoolers can usually move around and keep warm, with the temperature at -15 degrees Celsius. A Supervisor or delegate

provided to promote physical activity.

As for the School Age children, in extreme weather conditions (-30 or colder or icy conditions like the ice storm of 2013) the children may be kept at the centre as it may be too dangerous to walk. The centre Supervisor or delegate will contact the owner, Greg or manager, Mary, to make the ultimate decision.

If you keep your children warm and cozy, winter is so much more enjoyable! Keep safe and keep warm!

Until next time my door is always open!

Patricia Andrade,
RECE

Supervisor
patriciaaa@alphachildcare.ca



will make the decision as to whether the children will go outside or remain indoors. Should the children stay indoors, gross motor activities will be

We're on the web:
www.alphachildcare.ca

Junior Toddlers

Welcome to the months of November and December! I hope everyone had a wonderful time with their families for Thanksgiving and Trick-or-Treating.

As the weather has changed and the cold days are here, we request that you send extra warm clothing for your children. Also, please don't forget to label them as this will make it easier to return your child's belongings to their cubby.

Junior Toddlers are working hard to develop our self-help skills as they try to dress/undress and put their belonging into their cubbies. We are excited and looking forward to the holidays season, Christmas! Here we have some recipes for holiday drinks for you and family to enjoy:

Cranberry Sparkler

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ ounces Blackberry Puree
- 2 ounces white cranberry juice
- 2 to 3 ounces sparkling water
- 1 sprig mint, for garnish

Directions:

Place blackberry puree and cranberry juice in a champagne flute. Add sparkling water to fill. Garnish with mint.

Mulled Cranberry Cocktail

Ingredients:

- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 whole cloves
- ½ cup cranberries
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, combine

the juice, cinnamon stick, and cloves and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer.

2. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine the cranberries, sugar, ground cinnamon and 2 tablespoons of water and heat over medium-low heat, gently stirring, until the cranberries pop and are well coated with the sugar mixture.
3. When cool enough to handle, thread 3 to 4 berries each on 4 decorative toothpicks or skewers. Pour the mulled cranberry juice into 4 mugs and garnish with the cranberry swizzle.

Steamed Hot Chocolate

Ingredients:

- ¼ unsweetened cocoa powder
 - 1 quart milk
 - 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
 - 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
 - Salt
 - Whipped cream (optional)

Directions:

Put cocoa powder in a saucepan. Stir milk a bit at a time until cocoa liquefies; add remainder. Add chocolate chips; melt over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla and a pinch of salt.

Crimson Christmas Punch

Ingredients:

- 5 cups tropical punch
- 1 cup cranberry juice
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- ½ cup lemon juice
- 4-5 cups ginger ale
- 1 pint raspberry sherbet

Directions:

Make sure all ingredients are chilled. Combine all juices into a large punch bowl. Add ginger ale slowly to keep as much fizz as possible. Add scoops of raspberry sherbet and let sit for a few minutes. Serve with a ladle.

Blood Orange Italian Sodas

Ingredients:

Blood Orange Syrup

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- The juice of 3 blood oranges
- Soda
- 1 large bottle sparkling water
- 1 cup coconut milk (unsweetened)
- Basil or Mint to garnish

Directions:

1. In a medium-sized sauce pan, add the sugar and water and bring to a boil.
2. Remove from the heat and add the blood orange juice.
3. Stir together to combine.
4. In a glass, add about ½ cup of sparkling water then about 2 tbs. of the syrup and ¼ cup coconut cream.

Garnish with mint or basil and serve immediately.

Kulvinder Samantha and the Junior Toddlers



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Intermediate Toddlers

Hello Alpha parents, the past two months has been amazing. Meeting and greeting new families and children. We would like to welcome Niko and Soham to our Intermediate Toddler classroom.



We all know the weather is turning colder so our Toddlers need jackets, snow pants, gloves, boots and hats to keep them warm, during our outdoor play time.

In Intermediate Toddler classroom, the Educators are focusing on self-help skills with the children. Encouraging the children to dress/undress independently and tidy up after themselves.



Christmas and holidays are just around the corner and what better way to get into the Christmas spirit than to do some fun Christmas crafts with children. Here are some of the DIY Christmas crafts you can do during the holidays with you child.

PAPER PLATE SANTA

Materials:

- Paper plate
- Red, black, white, and orange paint
- PVA glue
- Cotton wool
- White pom poms

Directions:

- Paint half of the paper plate a skin tone (by mixing white with a small amount of orange or pink) and



the other half a vibrant red, with a curve around the edge of the paper plate to create a 'hat' shape.

- Add a big red nose.
- Between the border of the skin coloured paint and red, add plenty of PVA glue.
- Separate and thin out the cotton wool and spread along the trail of glue, leaving some space to create the appearance of a hanging Santa hat.
- Finish off by adding a pair of eyes using black paint and white pom-pom at the tip of the hat. and ta-da, the kids should now have a super cute, super adorable paper plate Santa.

STUNNING CHRISTMAS STOCKING

- Cut a sock shape out of two pieces of felt.
- Staple the edges together a half inch from the sides, leaving the top open.
- Glue rickrack over the staples to cover them.
 - Add a felt loop to the top corner of the stocking for hanging. Decorate with felt and buttons.



TAG, YOU'RE IT

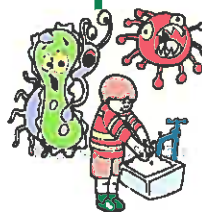
- Trace a cookie cutter on a piece of felt and colored paper.
- Cut out shapes and glue together.
- Punch a hole at the top center of the tag.
- Add string to attach to a gift.



Until next time, happy crafting.
Gagan and Intermediate Toddlers

Cook's Kitchen

Hello Alpha families, Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and all our little witches and warlocks had a safe and happy Halloween. We had a lovely Thanksgiving lunch here at Alpha where we enjoyed our feast together as one big happy Alpha family. We are very fortunate to have the school age room available during the day for these exciting get togethers. With trick or treating finished please remember to check all your child's treats for broken, damaged or restricted food. Here at Alpha we encourage non-edible items such as stickers, pencils, tattoos or stamps as a treat and all the children had the opportunity to "trick or treat" around the centre.



Make sure to always protect yourself from germs by washing your hands for at least 30

seconds (you can sing the ABC song or Happy Birthday to help keep time). You should also avoid touching your face especially your nose, mouth and eyes to avoid the spread of germs and bacteria. If no soap is available for washing an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 50% alcohol is recommended.

As the seasons change and the weather turns colder we get ready for cozy drinks and warm fires. Don't forget to stay hydrated, eat healthy and get plenty of rest to assist your immune system staying in top shape. Drinking our daily intake of water is as important in the colder months as it is when its warm. Eating all of our fruits and vegetable can become challenging as some foods can not be sourced locally. Remember to get creative incorporating your veggies into a

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School Agers

This fall the School Agers have been very busy exploring our classroom, making new friends, and growing in numbers. Our School Age program now houses more than 20 children with 2 educators. Chantelle and Jennifer rotate shifts every 2 weeks which helps to foster bonds and new relationships with all the children in our program. This growth is very exciting and keeps our School Age classroom full of new ideas and new discoveries.

In particular, our School Agers have been very interested in building ramps for their cars to drive on or forts to play in and playing pretend family in our dramatic centre. It has been wonderful to see the children invite their peers into their group play scenarios, and to see them sharing ideas with regards to their play experience. As expected, during group play situations, conflict does occasionally arise. The School Agers are encouraged to talk out their problems with their peers using the 6 steps to conflict resolution. The children do sometimes need some guidance or assistance when speaking to a friend about a disagreement. We are all getting better at using our words to say what is bothering us and to ask for help when required. The Educators are here to help the children solve their own problems when in conflict and are often asked "What do you think we should do?" and then insures all parties have an opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions. It is wonderful to see the conflicts beginning to resolve themselves as the children make better choices on who they play with, and how to spend their time.



Christmas holidays are fast approaching and with that comes CHRISTMAS CAMP. Please let Patricia or one of the Educators know if your child will be attending camp this year. We will be open on Dec 27 & 28, and January 2, 3 & 4 for a total of 5 camp days. Please let us know as soon as possible as space is limited.

As the weather continues to change, please ensure all children have extra clothes for

all weather types. Many of our children do not have inside shoes for ALPHA. All children require both inside and outside shoes to maintain a clean and safe classroom. Rain and snow boots are recommended for wet days as both groups walk to or from school across a field which is often very wet and muddy. Additional sweaters, hats, socks and mittens or gloves should also be kept in the children's cubby or backpack as a precaution for lost items or drastic change in weather. The elements can be quite strong in the morning and we like to dress for the weather and start our day off on a positive. Please help your child dress for success.

Chantelle and Jennifer have attached some of their favourite Christmas cookie recipes for you to try at home with your family. Let us know which is your favourite!

Peanut Brittle Cookies

Ingredients

- ½ cup vegetable shortening
- ½ cup light brown sugar (packed)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1¼ cup flour

- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup Reese peanut butter chipits
- 1 cup Skor English toffee bit
- ¾ cup unsalted peanuts

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, beat shortening with sugars and vanilla until creamy. Beat in egg. Add flour, baking soda and salt, mixing until incorporated. Stir in 1 cup (250 ml) Reese's peanut butter chipits, all toffee bits and all peanuts.
3. Drop mixture by rounded tablespoons (15 ml) onto prepared baking sheets, about 2" (5 cm) apart.
4. Bake each sheet in preheated oven 10 - 12 minutes or until deep golden brown and just set. Cool on sheet, 3 minutes. Remove to wire racks and cool completely. Melt remaining peanut butter chips in microwave on High (100%) about 45 seconds. Drizzle over cooled cookies.

Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¾ cup softened butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar (packed)
- ½ cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Directions

1. Mix flour, ginger, cinnamon,

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School Agers cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

baking soda, nutmeg and salt in a large bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and brown sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into a thick flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

2. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Roll out dough to ¼-



in (0.5 cm) thickness on lightly floured surface. Cut into gingerbread men shapes with 5-in (13 cm) cookie cutter. Place 1-in (2.5 cm) on ungreased baking sheets.

3. Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges of cookies are set and just begin to brown. Cool on baking sheets 1 to 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Decorate cooled cookies as desired. Store cookies in airtight container up to 5 days.

See you in School Age,
Chantelle, Jennifer and School Agers

Special Events

It is that time of year again where day light savings time ends, meaning we will have brighter mornings but less brightness in the evenings. So don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday November 4th.

Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the official end of the World War I hostilities on **November 11, 1918 at 11am (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month)**. World War I was a massive conflict that was played out over the whole globe, but particularly in Europe, where troops from Canada supported the Allied forces. World War I resulted in the loss of huge numbers of lives amongst both civilians and military personnel. Many more people were badly injured. The war left great emotional scars in the servicemen, who had experienced it, and in the communities, whose sons, brothers, fathers, uncles and even grandfathers had died. Remembrance Day commemorates those who died in armed conflicts. So wear your poppy proud and honour those who have died for us.



Wednesday November 14th, Operation Christmas Child Boxes are due. Letters have been distributed regarding the Operation Christmas Child boxes and we would like to continue this process again this year. Last year, between both locations we put together 50 boxes and our goal this year is to send 70 boxes to a 3rd World Country. Shoeboxes will be displayed on top of cubbies, so please take a few boxes and pass some to your family members or colleagues at work to help put smiles on children's faces! Together we can make a difference!

For those who have placed an order with Cinnabon, they will be arriving **Wed November 14th**. Please pick up fresh packages in the evening and distribute to those who have placed an order. All monies raised will go towards purchasing outdoor equipment for the Preschoolers and Toddlers.

Thursday November 15th, Picture This Image will be returning to capture a photo(s) of your child(ren). The photo session will commence at 9am sharp in the large upper hall.



Please have your child dressed and ready to help make a smooth transition for the children and educators. For best results, bright colour outfits are recommended when taking photos.

Friday November 16th is a PA Day for Public and Catholic School Boards. Please inform Patricia if your child will not be attending, two weeks prior to the date or Alpha will automatically assume your child(ren) will be attending. Trips need to be booked in advance and this will help ensure proper coverage for the trip and bus costs. Keep in touch with Jennifer or Chantelle, your child's educators, as to where the field trip will take place.

On **Thursday December 13th**, the children will be performing for our Annual Christmas Concert from 5pm to 6pm. The admission cost for this event is a non-perishable food item. All donations will be delivered to Salvation Army and it run from December 3rd – 14th, or if you know of a family/friend who is in need of food or clothing please visit me in the office to support the family in need. Our concert will start at 5pm

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Senior Preschoolers

Hello once again to all of our Alpha Families. Here we are writing our newsletter for November/December and as Senior Preschool classroom we have decided to write about Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day).

Remembrance Day:

Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the official end of the World War I hostilities on November 11, 1918. World War I was a massive conflict that was played out over the whole globe, but particularly in Europe, where troops from Canada supported the Allied forces.

World War I resulted in the loss of huge numbers of lives amongst both civilians and military personnel. Many more people were badly injured. The war left great emotional scars in the servicemen, who had experienced it, and in the communities, whose sons, brothers, fathers, uncles and even grandfathers had died. Remembrance Day commemorates those who died in armed conflicts, particularly in and since World War I.

In Canada, November 11 is officially called Remembrance Day, but it is also known as Armistice Day and Poppy Day. Remembrance Day is commemorated in many countries, particularly members of the Commonwealth, including Australia and New Zealand (where it is also referred to as Armistice Day). In the United States, Veterans

Day falls on the same date. In the United Kingdom, the Sunday closest to November 11 is known as Remembrance Sunday.

Symbols:

Remembrance Day is symbolized by the artificial poppies that people wear and place at war memorials. The poppies may be worn or placed singly or as wreaths. The use of the



poppy as a symbol of remembrance comes from a poem written by John McCrae, a Canadian doctor serving in the military. The

poem is called In Flanders Fields and describes the poppies growing in the Flemish graveyards where soldiers were buried.

Poppies grow well in soil that has been disturbed. They also grew in large numbers on battle fields. The red color of their petals reminded people of the blood lost by victims of and casualties in the conflict. Some people choose to wear white poppies to campaign for non-military interventions in conflict situations.

Other symbols of Remembrance Day are the war memorials, which are often near the geographical center of communities. These commemorate members of the community, who have died in military action. A particularly well-known memorial is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa, Ontario. The military parades held on November 11 are also symbolic of Remembrance Day.



In Flanders Field:

*"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields".*

We would like for all our Alpha Families and friends to remember this special date, which is important for all Canadians. Thank- you once again and until next year.

*The Senior Preschool Classroom,
Prabhjot, Alicia and Sarmini*

Special Events cont'd

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sharp starting with our Jr. Toddlers, Int. Toddlers, followed by the Sr. Preschoolers and yes the School Agers will be performing at the end to wrap up the show. Santa will be stopping by to visit all the children after the performance. He will be handing the children a book and a special gift from Alpha. Special treats will also be provided after the concert is complete. During the concert Alpha will be having a few raffles which include a gingerbread house made by Marilyn from St. James Church and we will have a lottery ticket tree to raffle. Tickets are 1 for \$2.00, 3 for \$5.00. All money raised will go towards new tactile/sensory bins.

Thursday December 20th will be our Annual Christmas luncheon where all the children and educators have lunch together and enjoy Sally's scrumptious lunch! This lunch consists of ham/chicken,

mashed potatoes, veggies, vegetarian pasta, and ice cream. It's going to be a delicious event!

December 24th, 2018 – January 4th, 2019, the school boards will be closed and Alpha will continue to provide Christmas Camp during this break. A two week calendar will be provided to all of our School Age children with fun filled days over the holidays to keep your children active and busy! Please look out for this calendar as it will be available towards the end of November/ beginning of December.

Hours of operation during the Christmas holidays are:

Mon Dec 24th – Christmas Eve (Alpha Closed) (floating holiday 2018)

Tues Dec 25th – Christmas Day

(Alpha Closed) (statutory holiday)

Wed Dec 26th – Boxing Day (Alpha closed) (statutory holiday)

Thurs Dec 27th – Regular hours of operation (6:45am – 6:00pm)

Fri Dec 28th – Regular hours of operation (6:45am – 6:00pm)

Mon Dec 31st – New Year's Eve (Alpha Closed) (floating holiday 2019)

Tues Jan 1st – New Year's Day (Alpha Closed) (statutory holiday)

Alpha will return to its regular business hours Wednesday January 2nd, 2019

If you have any further questions my door is always open...see you all in the New Year!

Patricia Andrade, RECE



Cook's Kitchen

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warm casserole or pasta dish to ensure we are getting all the nourishment we need for strong healthy bodies. Other suggestions would be to take vitamin supplements, getting your flu shot and making sure you are washing your hands regularly.

Fall baking is a great way to bring families together in a warm environment for some afternoon fun. This tradition can become your favourite way to spend a few hours on the weekend. Here is an easy recipe to make with your little helpers.

Chewy Butter Crunch Bars

Prep: 15min Bake: 30min Yield: 20 squares

- ½ cup Unsalted butter
- ½ cup brown sugar (packed)
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 1 ¼ cups chopped chocolate covered toffee (ie: Skor minis)
- 1 pkg slivered almonds
- ½ cup chocolate chips

1. Beat together butter, brown sugar, and sugar for 3 minutes or until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla.



2. Whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt.
3. In a separate bowl combine chocolate covered toffee (Skor), almonds, and chocolate chips.
4. On low speed, gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture stirring in chocolate and toffee mixture right after.
5. Scape into greased and parchment lined 9-inch square baking pan.
6. Bake in preheated 325°F oven for 30-35 minutes or until golden and set.

Per serving: 340 calories, 20g protein, 6g fat, 53 carbohydrate, 4g fibre, 12g sugar, 570mg sodium.
Sally, Chef

3 Cathedral Rd.
Brampton, ON
L6W 2P1

Phone: 905-456-1811
Email: patriciaa@alphachildcare.ca

A Moment With The Manager

Do you have a Christmas tradition? What do you do at Christmas that your children will remember when they are 30? If you do not do anything, perhaps reading the

following list will inspire you to begin your own family Christmas tradition.

1. Read a favourite Christmas story on Christmas Eve. Some great selections are "Twas the Night Before Christmas", "The Polar Express", "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer"
2. Spend a Sunday afternoon making Christmas decorations for the tree or have your child give them as gifts to teachers, grandparents and friends.
3. Seek out a Christmas tree farm and cut down your own Christmas Tree. Go for a horse drawn sleigh ride and enjoy some hot chocolate afterwards.
4. On Christmas Eve drive around the neighbourhood looking at all the lights and decorations.
5. String cranberries and popcorn for the tree.
6. Make a room in the house a Santa Room. Put up a tree that has all the home made decorations on it that were made earlier in the month.
7. Christmas Eve have a cookie decorating contest and leave them for Santa.
8. Take your child to the local shopping mall to see all the decorations. (Choose a day early in the week to avoid the crowds)
9. Bring pillows, blankets or sleeping bags into the living room and watch a favourite Christmas movie. Have a sleep over under the Christmas Tree.
10. Invite a group of your child's friends and their parents and go Caroling around the neighbourhood or to a local Long Term Care facility.
11. Have your child purchase a toy that they have asked Santa for and have them donate it to a local charity, explaining that they will be helping some less fortunate child have a nice Christmas to.
12. Buy some white sparkles from the dollar store and on Christmas Eve give the sparkles to your child telling them that it is magic reindeer dust and have them sprinkle it on the lawn to attract Santa's reindeers to stop at their house.
13. Together with your child make a favourite family meal to be eaten on Christmas Eve.
14. Take a picture of your child when they first wake up Christmas morning before they open their presents.
15. Decorate a new unused construction worker sock and leave this at the end of your child's bed for Santa to fill
16. Have your child choose ten old toys that are still usable and look fairly new and put them in a Santa Sack. On Christmas Eve put the bags under the Christmas Tree for Santa to take back to the North Pole to be fixed. (These items you will donate to charitable organization) In place Santa will leave your child new toys in the Santa Sack that was left under the tree.
17. After your child has gone to bed string crepe paper across their bedroom door so that in the morning they will have to break through the crepe paper to get the Christmas tree.



18. Grow Candy Canes. Plant small peppermint in a flower pot. After the children have gone to sleep remove the min and replace it with a small candy cane. The next day the children will think the peppermint grew into a candy cane. Encourage the children to water it each day and replace it with a bigger candy cane every night. The children will be so excited to watch their candy cane growing.
18. Santa's Footprints. Cut out a foot patterns. Place it on the floor starting with the fireplace and shake icing sugar or flour around the edges of the foot print. Continue to do this leading up to the Christmas tree. This will indicate to the children that Santa has been.
19. Prepare a hot chocolate bar. In an area that is reachable to the children. Place a container of marsh mellows, mints, candy canes etc., and let the children add what they would like to their cup of hot chocolate.
20. For Christmas breakfast prepare snowman pancakes by placing a small pancake on top of a larger pancake add a piece of bacon for the snowman's scarf and marsh mellows for snow balls at the bottom for snow balls. Chocolate chips can be for the facial features and the buttons.
21. Photograph your child while they are sleeping on Christmas Eve and begin a photo album by placing a picture each Christmas.
22. Wrap up Christmas stories and have the children choose one to be read as their bedtime story for the weeks prior to Christmas
23. Have a picnic under the Christmas tree after it has been decorated.
24. Reindeer Food. In order for the reindeer to find your house on Christmas Eve, make reindeer food by mixing oatmeal and sparkles and sprinkle it on the front lawn so the sparkles shine and show where you live and the reindeer will eat the oatmeal while Santa delivers presents to your house.
25. Christmas Eve Surprise Box. In a box place a new set of pajamas, a pair of slippers, ingredients to make hot chocolate, a new Christmas story, and some popcorn. Wrap the box and put a tag on it that reads Christmas Eve Surprise Box. (to be opened after sunset).
26. Have an Ugly Christmas sweater day. Begin by allowing the children to decorate a sweater and then allow them to wear it for the rest of the day.
27. Buy a new Christmas ornament for your child each year. This will give them a great collection to start their own home with.
28. Make a scavenger hunt and have the children look for some of their presents with a flash light. This will work quite well with the Christmas Eve surprise box.
29. Get a large cardboard box (refrigerator size) and make it into a house. Give your child Christmas lights and decorations to decorate their cardboard house with.
30. Save your child's Christmas wish list in a glass ornament. They will have fun looking at all the things that they asked for in years to come.

No matter what tradition you start with your child the ones that involve spending time with them will be the ones they remember the best.

Have a great holiday season. Until next time, my door is always open

Mary
(905) 458-4884
marys@alphachildcare.ca