

Easy Elf Ideas

Low effort, big smiles: everything is already in your house. A 24-night plan: one idea a night, tick the box when it's done.

DEC 1 ☐ Tree Trimming Helper Need: an ornament 5 min · no mess	DEC 2 ☐ Story for a Little One Need: picture book, sticky note 5 min · no mess · kind	DEC 3 ☐ Napkin Picnic Need: napkin, crackers, small cup no mess · breakfast	DEC 4 ☐ Countdown Keeper Need: calendar, marker 5 min · no mess
DEC 5 ☐ Elf Artist Need: a hardcover book, a kid's drawing 5 min · no mess	DEC 6 ☐ Secret Helper Mission Need: sticky note 5 min · no mess · kind	DEC 7 ☐ Boot Hideout Need: a boot 5 min · no mess	DEC 8 ☐ Toy Car Rally Need: toy cars, a hardcover book no mess · funny
DEC 9 ☐ Toilet Paper Snowman Need: 3 toilet paper rolls, scarf, marker or paper 5 min · no mess · funny	DEC 10 ☐ How Many Elves Tall Need: tape measure, paper no mess · funny	DEC 11 ☐ Window Art Need: washable window markers easy	DEC 12 ☐ Bird Watch Need: 2 toilet paper tubes, tape, paper no mess · easy
DEC 13 ☐ Elf Selfies Need: a grown-up's phone no mess · funny	DEC 14 ☐ Animal Parade Need: toy animals no mess · easy	DEC 15 ☐ Window Blizzard Need: printer paper, scissors, tape easy	DEC 16 ☐ Make Someone's Bed Need: sticky note 5 min · no mess · kind
DEC 17 ☐ Elf Doctor Need: bandage, teddy bear 5 min · no mess	DEC 18 ☐ Hot and Cold Need: index card 5 min · no mess	DEC 19 ☐ Snowflake Pancakes Need: sticky note, spatula 5 min · no mess · breakfast	DEC 20 ☐ Game Night Setup Need: a board game, sticky note 5 min · no mess
DEC 21 ☐ Story Time Need: Christmas book, stuffed animals 5 min · no mess	DEC 22 ☐ Marshmallow Bath Need: bowl, mini marshmallows, washcloth 5 min · no mess · funny	DEC 23 ☐ Share a Treat Need: two small treats, note 5 min · no mess · kind	DEC 24 ☐ Packed and Ready Need: small box, printed goodbye letter no mess · printable

Orange squares: the arrival and the goodbye. Setups, supplies and a checklist are on the next pages. Swap any night for one you like better.

Night by night

Set it up after bedtime. Everything uses things you already have.

- ☐ **Dec 1** **Tree Trimming Helper** 5 min no mess
The elf sits on a low branch of the tree holding an ornament, the ornament box open beneath it. **You need:** an ornament.
- ☐ **Dec 2** **Story for a Little One** 5 min no mess kind
The elf sits on a picture book with a note: read this to a younger friend or cousin. **You need:** picture book, sticky note.
- ☐ **Dec 3** **Napkin Picnic** no mess breakfast
The elf is having a picnic on a napkin with crackers and a doll-size cup. **You need:** napkin, crackers, small cup.
- ☐ **Dec 4** **Countdown Keeper** 5 min no mess
The elf crossed off today on the calendar and wrote how many days are left. **You need:** calendar, marker.
- ☐ **Dec 5** **Elf Artist** 5 min no mess
The elf stands at a book-easel next to its "masterpiece": one of the kids' drawings. **You need:** a hardcover book, a kid's drawing.
- ☐ **Dec 6** **Secret Helper Mission** 5 min no mess kind
The elf whispers in a note: "Do one chore for someone today without telling them." **You need:** sticky note.
- ☐ **Dec 7** **Boot Hideout** 5 min no mess
The elf is peeking out of a boot by the front door. **You need:** a boot.
- ☐ **Dec 8** **Toy Car Rally** no mess funny
The elf lines up toy cars at the top of a book ramp, ready for the big race. **You need:** toy cars, a hardcover book.
- ☐ **Dec 9** **Toilet Paper Snowman** 5 min no mess funny
Three toilet paper rolls are stacked into a snowman with a scarf and a drawn-on face. **You need:** 3 toilet paper rolls, scarf, marker or paper.
- ☐ **Dec 10** **How Many Elves Tall** no mess funny
The elf holds a tape measure and a list: "How many elves tall is everybody?" **You need:** tape measure, paper.
- ☐ **Dec 11** **Window Art** easy
The elf drew a winter scene on the window with washable window markers. **You need:** washable window markers.
- ☐ **Dec 12** **Bird Watch** no mess easy
The elf is at the window with toilet-roll binoculars and a bird tally sheet. **You need:** 2 toilet paper tubes, tape, paper.

Night by night

- ☐ **Dec 13** **Elf Selfies** no mess funny

The elf "took selfies" overnight. A grown-up snaps a few photos of the elf posing to show at breakfast. **You need:** a grown-up's phone.
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- ☐ **Dec 14** **Animal Parade** no mess easy

The elf leads a parade of every toy animal across the living room floor. **You need:** toy animals.
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- ☐ **Dec 15** **Window Blizzard** easy

Paper snowflakes are taped all over the front window, with the elf in the middle of the storm. **You need:** printer paper, scissors, tape.
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- ☐ **Dec 16** **Make Someone's Bed** 5 min no mess kind

The elf's note says: "Make your brother's, sister's or grown-up's bed today as a surprise." **You need:** sticky note.
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- ☐ **Dec 17** **Elf Doctor** 5 min no mess

The elf is giving a teddy bear a check-up with a bandage and a toy doctor kit. **You need:** bandage, teddy bear.
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- ☐ **Dec 18** **Hot and Cold** 5 min no mess

The elf hides somewhere tricky and leaves a card: "Ask a grown-up for hot and cold clues." **You need:** index card.
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- ☐ **Dec 19** **Snowflake Pancakes** 5 min no mess breakfast

The elf left a note: "Pancakes shaped like snowflakes, please!" with a pancake spatula. **You need:** sticky note, spatula.
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- ☐ **Dec 20** **Game Night Setup** 5 min no mess

The elf set up a board game with a note: "Rematch tonight?" **You need:** a board game, sticky note.
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- ☐ **Dec 21** **Story Time** 5 min no mess

The elf reads a Christmas book to a circle of stuffed animals. **You need:** Christmas book, stuffed animals.
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- ☐ **Dec 22** **Marshmallow Bath** 5 min no mess funny

The elf soaks in a bowl of mini marshmallows with a washcloth folded on its head. **You need:** bowl, mini marshmallows, washcloth.
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- ☐ **Dec 23** **Share a Treat** 5 min no mess kind

The elf leaves two small treats and a note: "One for you, one to share with someone." **You need:** two small treats, note.
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- ☐ **Dec 24** **Packed and Ready** no mess printable

The elf sits on a packed little suitcase by the front door, holding its goodbye letter. **You need:** small box, printed goodbye letter.

Elf supplies checklist

Gather these into one "elf box" before the season starts, and the late nights run themselves

☐ an ornament	Dec 1	☐ tape	Dec 12, 15
☐ picture book	Dec 2	☐ a grown-up's phone	Dec 13
☐ sticky note	Dec 2, 6, 16, 19, 20	☐ toy animals	Dec 14
☐ napkin	Dec 3	☐ printer paper	Dec 15
☐ crackers	Dec 3	☐ scissors	Dec 15
☐ small cup	Dec 3	☐ bandage	Dec 17
☐ calendar	Dec 4	☐ teddy bear	Dec 17
☐ marker	Dec 4	☐ index card	Dec 18
☐ a hardcover book	Dec 5, 8	☐ spatula	Dec 19
☐ a kid's drawing	Dec 5	☐ a board game	Dec 20
☐ a boot	Dec 7	☐ Christmas book	Dec 21
☐ toy cars	Dec 8	☐ stuffed animals	Dec 21
☐ 3 toilet paper rolls	Dec 9	☐ bowl	Dec 22
☐ scarf	Dec 9	☐ mini marshmallows	Dec 22
☐ marker or paper	Dec 9	☐ washcloth	Dec 22
☐ tape measure	Dec 10	☐ two small treats	Dec 23
☐ paper	Dec 10, 12	☐ note	Dec 23
☐ washable window markers	Dec 11	☐ small box	Dec 24
☐ 2 toilet paper tubes	Dec 12	☐ printed goodbye letter	Dec 24

Elf tip: 2 of these 24 ideas need a little tidy-up; the rest leave no mess at all. Nothing here needs anything hot, sharp or high up. Pick the night before, not the week before: a surprise found at 7 a.m. beats a plan made on Sunday.