
Santa's Workshop Guide

Preparing Your Child for a Wonderful Visit with Santa

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**Please arrive 15 minutes prior to
your scheduled time.**

Believe!

First, I just want to say THANK YOU! I am truly amazed at the unbelievable response my Santa Experience sessions generated and I feel truly blessed and I want thank you so much for booking your holiday session with me! This has been a dream of mine since I was 12 years old. You see my little sister and I are 6 years apart. She came home from school shortly before Christmas break upset that friends were talking about santa being fake. She was so upset! And unfortunately, she believed them. I could not allow my 6



year old sister to not BELIEVE! So, with that my dad and I went on search for a santa costume. On the eve of Christmas my Dad slipped on his bright red suit and silky white beard to make his daughter believe once again. He gently rang his bells to give me the cue he was ready. I woke my sis up and ran her down the stairway exclaiming look he's here! He really is REAL! She was SO excited! We quickly ran back up the steps before he could see us because we needed to ensure we would still get our presents after spying. All the mean while, my grandmother had taken pictures or (priceless images) that my sister was able to take to school to proof that santa is indeed REAL.

There is no reason to have the quintessential “crying” picture, of the year your child did NOT want to go up and see Santa! Traumatizing a child for a photo, is just not fun for anyone! So I would like to offer parents some key tips on preparing your little ones for a smooth, calm and successful visit with Santa Claus...

Introducing your child to Santa Claus

You can watch movies, read story books with beautiful pictures of Santa, have musical Santa toys and talk about Santa for days leading up to the actual, in-person introduction to Santa. Those tools are presented by loving family, in the safety of the familiar settings with no pressure to have a photo taken. But, remember that, from your child’s perspective, those “safe,” non-threatening representations of Santa, are a universe apart from standing face-to-boot with a 6 foot tall, 300 pound, bell jingling, ho-ho-hoing, white hair covered “monster,” (Don’t presume that because Grandpa has a long white beard that your child will be delighted when they meet Santa!)

What NOT to say before visiting Santa

Over the years, the children who do elect to explode are usually the ones whose parents have been saying; “Now don’t CRY!” “Don’t be AFRAID!” “Santa is not SCARY!”... Might I suggest you do a lot of giggling, laughing, smiling... “This is SO MUCH FUN!” “I like Santa!” “Santa is so nice!” “Look at all the pretty lights!” Use positive concepts that set the tone for the impending visit.

Sugar Buzz

Avoid sweets, ice cream, sugary cookies, candy and sodas in the couple hours before your go visit Santa. We all see how sugar effects our children’s moods. An apple, crackers or string cheese, as a snack will help you have a better visit.

Security & Control

Allow your child to take their favorite binky, blanket ect. for security. Hand child a small stuffed toy to take along. Allow your child to “control” something smaller than they are. This small toy may be the only thing the child feels in control of in this new and daunting situation.

Parents & Siblings...

If you have older children, allow your little ones to watch your older children as they visit with this big furry fellow. Let your child assimilate the concept that “visiting with Santa is FUN...” on their own.

Let your child watch as YOU go up and greet & hug Santa. Sit next to Santa for a moment so your child understands you are signaling this is a “safe” situation. Call your child onto YOUR lap. Place your child on the FAR KNEE, away from Santa, using you as a safety buffer between your child & Santa.

Dressing your child for the photos

Be sure the child is comfortable for their visit. As Santa is in red and much of the scenery is usually red, selecting a blue, green, tan or black for their dress or shirt will make your child stand out nicely. Avoid white, as it will wash out the color of your photo. I found this awesome blog “Alpha Mom”. You can find some great outfit ideas here: <http://alphamom.com/family-fun/holiday-party-clothes-for-girls-and-boys/> or if you were thinking of doing pajamas, check out this link:<http://alphamom.com/family-fun/holidays/best-christmas-pajamas-kids/>