

Calm Christmas Countdown

for families with little ones

Eight weeks, one small list at a time. Tick what matters to your family and cross out the rest.

8 WEEKS OUT

late October

Choose your kind of Christmas

- ☐ Set one total budget: gifts, food, travel, outfits
- ☐ Decide: hosting, visiting or staying home
- ☐ Book travel, pet care and time off
- ☐ Write the gift list (try want, need, wear, read)
- ☐ Pick three traditions that matter; let the rest go

7 WEEKS OUT

early November

Order anything slow

- ☐ Order personalized gifts and keepsakes
- ☐ Buy matching pajamas before sizes sell out
- ☐ Book family photos or a Santa visit
- ☐ Take or choose the Christmas card photo
- ☐ Choose a hiding place for gifts

6 WEEKS OUT

mid November

Clear the decks

- ☐ Order Christmas cards and stamps
- ☐ Sort the toys; donate what's outgrown
- ☐ Test the lights; check the decorations
- ☐ Plan the Elf's arrival and a few easy setups
- ☐ Fill or buy the advent calendar

5 WEEKS OUT

late November

Shop the list

- ☐ Shop the sales from your list only
- ☐ Buy the stocking stuffers
- ☐ Stock up on paper, tape and gift tags
- ☐ Choose Christmas outfits
- ☐ Write the family Christmas bucket list

4 WEEKS OUT

Thanksgiving weekend

Deck the halls, safely

- ☐ Put up the tree and anchor it
- ☐ Hang unbreakable ornaments on low branches
- ☐ Tuck away cords, candles and button batteries
- ☐ Welcome the Elf; start the advent calendar
- ☐ Post the Christmas cards

3 WEEKS OUT

early December

Finish and send

- ☐ Finish the gift shopping
- ☐ Check shipping deadlines; post parcels
- ☐ Wrap as you go, a few each evening
- ☐ Gifts for teachers, daycare and sitters
- ☐ Plan the Christmas menu

2 WEEKS OUT

mid December

Get ahead

- ☐ Assemble big toys; add the batteries
- ☐ Shop for the pantry and freezer
- ☐ Pack the Christmas Eve box
- ☐ Charge the camera; clear phone storage
- ☐ Traveling? Start the baby packing list

1 WEEK OUT

Christmas week

Keep it simple

- ☐ Buy the fresh food
- ☐ Bake one thing together
- ☐ Lay out outfits and stockings
- ☐ Plan the big day around nap time
- ☐ Confirm times with family

CHRISTMAS EVE

Slow it down

- ☐ Sprinkle the reindeer food
- ☐ Open the Christmas Eve box
- ☐ Read one Christmas story
- ☐ Bedtime as usual (for them)
- ☐ Set out the gifts

CHRISTMAS MORNING

Go at their pace

- ☐ Stockings first
- ☐ Breakfast before the big gifts
- ☐ Open slowly; breaks are fine
- ☐ Keep nap time
- ☐ One bag for paper, one for tags

AFTER CHRISTMAS

Wrap it up

- ☐ Write the thank-you notes
- ☐ Put half the new toys away
- ☐ Donate what's been replaced
- ☐ Save one keepsake
- ☐ Note your favorite moment

The four-gift planner

One line per child. Something they want, something they need, something to wear, something to read.

CHILD	WANT	NEED	WEAR	READ	BUDGET

Everyone else

Grandparents, teachers, the people who help you all year.

FOR	GIFT IDEA	BUDGET	BOUGHT	WRAPPED

The budget

GIFTS	FOOD	TRAVEL	OUTFITS & EXTRAS	TOTAL
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More calm Christmas ideas for babies and toddlers at minimalistmama.co