FREE PRINTABLE · AGES 3 TO 8 · GROWN-UPS SET IT UP

Christmas Elf Printables: Arrival Letter, Nightly Notes and Tiny Props

A first-visit letter, 12 short nightly notes sorted by setup time, 8 tiny signs and 10 paper props for your Christmas elf. Print once, cut, and you are ready for the whole month.

1 Print and tuck in the letter

Page 2 is the first-night letter. Fill in the blanks, fold it and slide it into the envelope prop on page 5.

2 Cut the notes

Page 3 has 12 notes. The tag shows how long the setup takes, so you can pick a short one on a tired night.

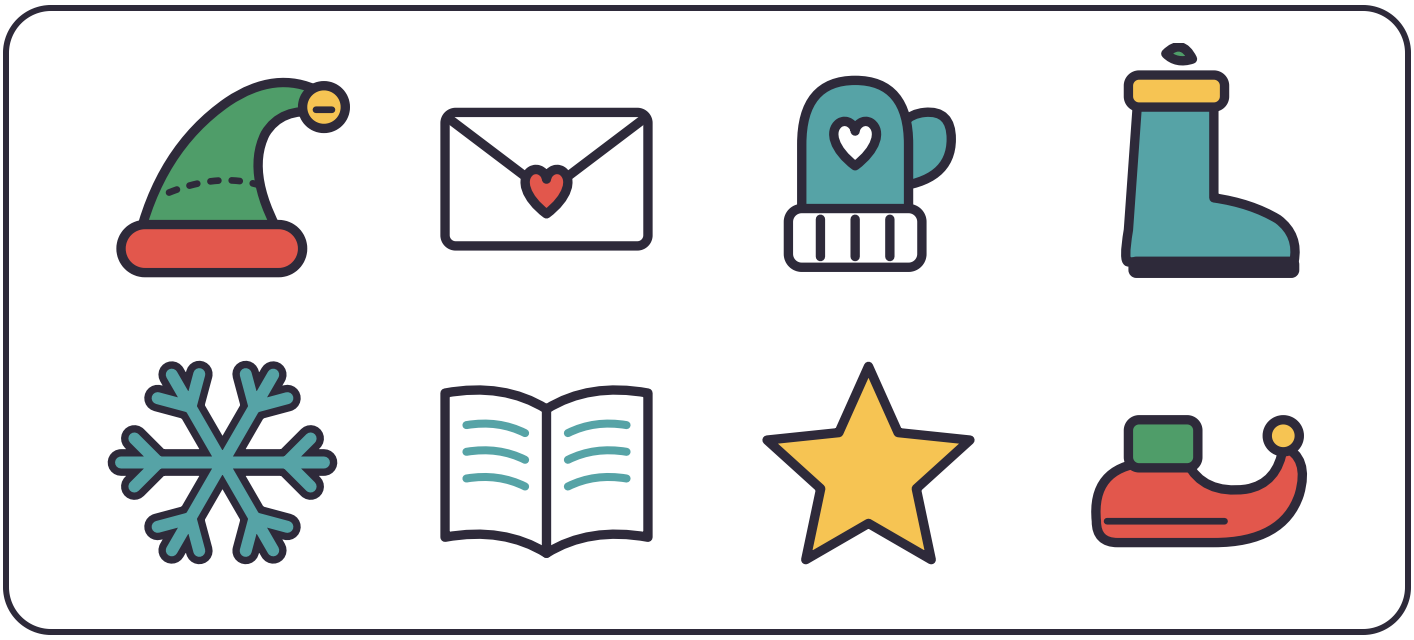
3 Tape up the signs

Page 4 has 8 tiny signs. Tape each one to a craft stick, a block or the back of a toy. Plain paper, regular printer.

4 Cut the props

Page 5 has paper props sized for a Christmas elf. Cut on the dashed lines. Keep them in an envelope between nights.

2 MIN GRAB AND GO 5 MIN A LITTLE SETUP 15 MIN A BIG NIGHT



Safety: these are paper pieces. Small cut-outs, tape and any extras you add (buttons, beads, pom poms) are choking risks for children under 3, so keep them out of reach and stay with your child. Keep paper props away from candles and heaters. For toddlers, tape props to a wall or shelf and skip anything small on the floor.

Puddles & Play is not affiliated with The Elf on the Shelf brand or CCA and B, LLC. This set works with any Christmas elf you already own.

A Letter From the North Pole

Fill in the blanks, fold the page in thirds and slide it into the envelope prop on page 5. Read it out loud on the first morning.

Dear _____,



Guess who just landed in your house? I am a Christmas elf, and I have come to spend December with you.

My name is _____. Santa gave me one big job: to notice the kind, funny and brave things your family does, and to tell him all about it.

Every night I fly back to the North Pole. Every morning I will be somewhere new, so look high, look low and look in the strangest places. Some mornings I will leave you a note. Some mornings I will leave a surprise.

I have one small rule. I am a gentle elf, so please say hello with your eyes and your words, and let me stay right where I land. That keeps my magic strong and my hat on straight.

I cannot wait to see what you do next.

With a jingle and a wave,
Your Christmas elf



Grown-up tip
Write your child's name in the first blank and pick the elf's name together. Then set the elf somewhere easy to spot on the first night so the first morning is a quick win.

CUT ON THE DASHED LINES · TAPE UNDER THE ELF

12 Nightly Notes, Sorted by Setup Time

Pick the tag that matches your night. Short notes need nothing but the elf. Longer ones use a few things from around the house.



I squeezed into an empty mug tonight. It was a tight fit, but the view is great!

2 MIN



I took a ride on the toy truck. Beep beep! Where do you think I am going next?

2 MIN



I am by the window, watching for snow. Come and look with me for a minute.

2 MIN



I climbed up to a high shelf so I could see the whole room. Look up!

2 MIN



I made a tiny tent out of a washcloth. Peek inside, but quietly, please.

5 MIN



The post office is open! Write me a short note and leave it by the sign.

5 MIN



It is storytime. I am reading a little book to your stuffed friends. Shh!

5 MIN



I left a path of paper snowflakes. Follow it and see where it takes you.

5 MIN



I hung a tiny bunting over the doorway. Can you help me hang more tomorrow?

5 MIN



I built a tiny North Pole village from blocks. Which house would you live in?

15 MIN



Follow the paper boots! They lead to the spot where I am hiding today.

15 MIN



Movie night, elf style! I set out pillows and a paper ticket for each toy.

15 MIN

TAPE TO A CRAFT STICK, A BLOCK OR A TOY

8 Tiny Signs for Your Elf

Cut each sign on the dashed line. Set one out next to the elf to turn a shelf, a windowsill or a corner of the table into a tiny North Pole place.



Reindeer Parking



Elf Post Office



Elf Library



Shh! Elf Sleeping



North Pole Express



Cocoa Cafe



Snow Day!



Elf Workshop

Make it a game

Ask your child where the elf could park the reindeer or mail a letter, then move the sign to match. One sign and one idea is enough for a night.

CUT ON THE DASHED LINES · KEEP THEM IN AN ENVELOPE

10 Tiny Paper Props

Print at 100 percent, no page scaling. Each prop is small enough for a Christmas elf. Use the last box to draw a prop of your own.



Bunting strip
Tape across a doorway, a mug or two stacked books.



Envelope
Tuck the arrival letter inside.



Nice list scroll
Write one kind thing from today.



Mittens
Hang from a thread or lay in the snow.



Snowflake
Make a trail across the room.



Gift tag
Tie onto a small gift or a toy.



Boot
Cut several for a footprint trail.



Tiny book
Prop open next to the elf.



Stocking
Tape to a shelf or a wall.



Movie ticket
One for each toy on movie night.

Your prop
Draw something your elf needs.

FOR GROWN-UPS · WANT THE WHOLE MONTH PLANNED?

All 24 Nights, Planned in One Sitting

This free set gives you the letter, notes, signs and props. The paid Christmas Elf Visit Planner is the plan that sits behind them, so you never wonder what to do tonight.



Every night planned

24 nights, each tagged low, medium or high effort (10 low, 10 medium, 4 high) with a cut-out note to match, so a tired night never turns into a scramble.



Letters for the whole visit

An arrival letter, a welcome-back letter, a goodbye letter and a page where your child writes a letter to the elf.



For the morning you forgot

Rescue notes for the day the elf did not move, plus 12 last-minute ideas that use only what is already in the house.

Also good to know

The planner is 29 pages of printables. It is also one of the four packs in the Year of Play bundle, which suits you if you want activities for the rest of the year too.

See the planner at puddlesandplay.com