

Cheerful Challenges

See who can balance a spoon on their nose the longest.

Keep a straight face for one whole minute while someone tries to make you giggle. Then swap and try to make them giggle.

Pick a partner. Sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star in a really low voice, taking turns on each word.

Think of your favourite line from a Christmas movie. Practise, then perform it magnificently to your audience.

Write house rules as though you were a pirate. Follow those rules for the rest of the day.

Get a marker pen and make an orange (or banana or lemon) look like one of your parents.

Write a Christmas list for one of your parents (guess what they might wish for!) and ask them to do the same for you. Compare answers.

Dress someone up as a snowman who's on his way to work.

Imagine you are Rudolph, Santa's prize reindeer. Get someone to interview you for the local news about why you're so good at flying.

Give yourself a mark out of ten for how good (or naughty) you've been this year. Ask other people if they agree.

Set a place at the dinner/breakfast table for Velvet the Invisible Elf. Make him a place card, and remember to ask him about life in the North Pole.

Wrap up your foot and give it to someone as an early Christmas present. Don't forget the gift tag!

See who can draw the best Santa while blindfolded.

Choose someone to be your Christmas tree. Decorate them.

Make up a funny joke. Write it big on a piece of paper and stick it on the front door to make visitors chuckle.

Ask someone (politely) to be your little donkey. Take a ride around the living room.

Make yourself a big bushy beard out of cotton wool - or soap suds, or whatever's handy. Walk around the house looking wise.

Ask everyone to invent a new laugh for themselves. Tell each other some jokes so you can try them out.

Draw a picture of you having fun with a special grownup. Hide it under their pillow as a cheery bedtime surprise.

Invent a new shape and stick it on the fridge so everyone can learn it.

Learn how to say "Happy Holidays" in another language. Then teach somebody else.

Choose a partner. See who can attach the most teddies and toys to themselves. Crown the winner Giant King/Queen of Toyland.

Get everyone to invent a new dinosaur based on themselves. Draw a picture of your dino-family.

Choose a partner and pretend to be snowflakes. Drift and dance and settle wherever you feel like.