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**Preparing for a Visit with Santa**

**Have a parking space available for Santa.** Secure an area for Santa close to your home or event for Santa to park. This will help Santa quickly make his way to the visit without being stopped along the way (Everyone loves seeing Santa!)

**Set out a sturdy chair or have an area prepared where you want Santa to be during the visit.**

Designate an area with a sturdy chair for Santa to sit during the visit. This chair should be set by a Christmas Tree or in a holiday themed area. Try not to sit Santa close to a fireplace. Not only does he avoid the roaring flames of a fireplace during Christmas Eve, but during visits as well since it can be very hot in his suit!

**Have all gifts ready and clearly marked if you would like Santa to hand them out.**

Make sure all gifts you would like Santa to hand out are marked clearly with the child’s name (preferablyin Sharpie). No one wants Santa struggling to find who a gift belongs to and a parent having to shout out who’s gift it is.

**Have everyone gather before Santa arrives for a visit.**

Santa only has so much time during your visit and he wants to maximize all of your time. Gather everyone to the area you want the visit to take place once Santa lets you know he is 5 minutes away. A fun way to call everyone together without ruining the surprise would be to gather everyone and sing “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” or another Christmas song right before Santa arrives. Imagine the joy when Santa enters to the sound of a Christmas song!

**Think about the photos you want with Santa.**

Before the visit plan who you want Santa to take photos with. Think about who you want to group together and make sure no one is left out. Photos with children, then families , and then a large group photo are all great options!