



## Top 10 Ways to Include Older Siblings in the Santa Experience

Christmas is a magical time of year. The children are excited to be visited by Santa and cannot help but wonder what he will bring them. However, for the older siblings Christmas might have lost a little magic. They have reached that age where they realize that Santa isn't a real person, but that can create some wonderful opportunities to include in the Santa experience.

1. **Remind the older siblings what Santa represents.** That he may not be a real person, but his spirit of giving, love, and wanting to help mankind is what Christmas is all about. Enlist their help in a service project that brings toys to needy children who may not get a visit from Santa that year.
2. **Include them on Christmas Eve with playing Santa.** Let them help with simple things like filling the stockings and wrapping Santa's presents.
3. **Have them sprinkle fake snow around the house** and the trudge through it in oversize boots to make Santa footprints. The little ones will love waking up and seeing that Santa has been there, and the older one will enjoy making the prints.
4. **Let them eat some of Santa's cookies** and drink some of the milk. Also have them nibble on the carrots to make it look as though the reindeer munched on them.
5. **Have them write a thank you note from Santa** for the milk, cookies, and carrots. Leave that note out for the little ones to see on Christmas morning. These little personalized letters from Santa will mean the world to their younger siblings.
6. **If you have a fun holiday tradition,** like hiding a pickle ornament on the tree for the kids to find that morning, let the older ones help with it.
7. **Encourage them to still write a letter to Santa.** Having them write a Christmas letter to Santa will show the little ones that even though they're older, that they still believe in Santa and it helps to keep the magic alive.
8. **Let them assist with choosing a present** from Santa to give to their younger siblings.
9. **Have them leave out something small** that Santa forgot, like a key or mitten, for the younger children to find.
10. **Have them go outside,** and with their fists, make reindeer prints in the snow.

Allowing older children to apart of the Santa experience will help to keep Christmas magical for the younger siblings while letting the older one enjoy a more grownup version. Doing this will start to create new and fun ways to celebrate Christmas.