

## The GLO Guide to Managing Toys over the Holidays

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It is magical to see the holidays through the eyes of a child. Everybody wants to be the one to give the gift that will light up that special child's eyes. Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts, Cousins, Friends and Parents get in on the game of "best present ever." Then Santa adds to the toy pile. Unless you take some pre-Christmas action and make other choices for present-giving, your post-holiday household will look like a toy bomb went off. Ka-boom!

Here is a plan of action in two steps:

### 1) **Reduce the amount of toys before Christmas.**

In the weeks leading up to your holiday celebrations, take half an hour in each toy zone and find goodies to donate. These might be items that your child has lost interest in or never got excited about. Now is the time to make room for the new. Have a conversation with your children about the joy of giving. Most kids feel okay about donating an extra truck or doll if they know they still have their favorites. While you are reducing inventory, toss items that are broken or missing pieces. Toys that will be handed down to siblings can be stored in containers in a basement or attic until they are needed. Presto! You have opened up some prime space for their new favorites and saved your sanity in January.

### 2) **Give gifts that can be consumed.**

What do I mean by consumable gifts? Events, shared activities, and food are all examples of gifts that create memories instead of clutter. Key to giving a consumable gift to children is to have something they can enjoy at the moment and something to get excited about for later. Another benefit of a consumable gift is that the giver and the receiver will spend more time together at a later date, which means it is a win-win. In my opinion, good relationships are what life is all about. Consumable gifts fit

every pocketbook. Costs can range from barely anything (if you are teaching a skill like golf, cooking, or sewing) to mid-range (going to a sporting event, tickets to a zoo/museum, or services like a manicure) to extravagant (a daytrip to a big city toy store, skiing, or a waterpark). Below I have a few ideas for presents that can be opened at the celebration, but promise the big gift later. The only limit is your imagination.

### Examples of Consumable Gifts



**Theme: Girls' Day Out**  
 For Now: Nail Polish  
 For Later: Manicure + Lunch



**Theme: American Girl Tea**  
 For Now: Teacup Ornament  
 For Later: Trip to Big City



**Theme: Take Me Out to the Ball Game**  
 For Now: Baseball  
 For Later: Tickets to Game



**Theme: Making Cookies**  
 For Now: Cookie Cutter  
 For Later: Date to Make Cutout Cookies



**Theme: Little Golf Pro**  
 For Now: Golf Balls  
 For Later: Golfing Lessons with Papa



**Theme: Personalized Bag**  
 For Now: Bag  
 For Later: Enrollment Fees for Activity; Bag from 31