



#WakeUpWednesday

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a Tech-Free Christmas

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinecollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season – Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

- CHRISTMAS CRAFTING**
Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.
- NATURE QUEST**
Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.
- CAROL KARAOKE**
Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.
- WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE**
How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmas gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.
- TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING**
Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.
- WRAP IT UP**
Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parceling up those presents into a creative adventure.
- WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND**
Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.
- BE A SEASONAL CHEF**
Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.
- ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY**
Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Felchler.
- SNOWY SCULPTURES**
If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!
- GAMES NIGHT GALA**
Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!
- GOODWILL TO ALL**
You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert
Miake Wood design and deliver the UK's only specialist peer- and parent-led mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their wellbeing provision. Miake also shares the mental health of pupils and parents in partnership.

The National College **NOS National Online Safety** #WakeUpWednesday

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There's no disputing how integral the digital world has become to modern life 🌐📱 It can prove difficult for many young people to stay off smart phones, tablets and other devices for a single day – even one as special as Christmas. In fact, according to a survey by e-commerce platform Groupon, almost 80% of parents and carers would prefer a festive period that's free from technology 📵

Going online, of course, is useful for checking in with friends and relations who we can't be with, or for arranging celebrations – but if we allow gadgets to dominate our Yuletide break, that precious time could pass in a flash. This #WakeUpWednesday, we've got suggestions for keeping a handle on device use over the holidays, so your family can be truly together this Christmas.

[Click here](#) to download the guide