

A New Twist on Elf on the Shelf by Stephanie Miller

Tis the season for Elf on The Shelf. To those unfamiliar with this new(ish) holiday tradition occurring in many households across the country, let me enlighten you...

Essentially, parents (or grandparents) purchase an elf for the household and this elf is present throughout the holiday season. The elf is responsible for watching over the children and reporting back to Santa. Some parents really go all out, creating intricate "scenes" involving their mischievous little elf, for their children to excitedly discover every morning. Perhaps the elf has gotten into a bag of chocolate chips while searching for a midnight snack, or maybe it's sitting amidst gift wrapping supplies, as if the elf was trying to help with some late night present wrapping.

I'm not one of those parents. I admire their creative Elf on The Shelf Facebook and Instagram posts from afar. Instead of creatively planning our Josie the Elf's next adventure, I often find myself frantically trying to move the elf to a new location before the kiddos wake up each morning. Full disclosure--the elf gives me anxiety!

So this year, I'm taking a different approach. Josie the Elf is going to pick out a special holiday themed book every night. When my children wake up each morning, they're going to find Josie snuggled up in different locations, reading a book. We will read this book as a family before the kids go to bed. We always spend time reading as a family before bedtime, and having Josie pick out our special books during the month of December will be a fun little twist to our bedtime routine. Consider going to the library and picking out some holiday themed books or DVDs to enjoy with your family during this holiday season. I'm certain the amazing staff there could help any patron come up with some fun and unique ways to incorporate reading, group activities (i.e. baking, crafting) or movie watching into your family's holiday traditions.

Enjoy the upcoming holiday season, whether it's continuing the Elf on the Shelf tradition, or some other activity that's meaningful to your family!