

Homemade CHRISTMAS

By Emma Taylor

Sadly Christmas has become very commercial but you can make the decision not to buy into the consumerism and make your Christmas gifts instead. What great ways to get your whole family involved and give a teaching moment to your children. Homemade gifts are often much nicer than store-bought items; here are some ideas to get you started.

Gifts from the kitchen can include baked goods, an assortment of Christmas cookies, herb-infused vinegars or oils, preserves or jams, dry mixes for breads, cookies, pancakes, or soups (to name just a few), candy, herbed soft cheese or pate. The limit is your imagination. You can add personal touches like cookie cutters with the cookie mixes or tiny bottles of maple syrup to go with the pancake mix.

Homemade gift certificates are another great idea; babysitting certificates for a parent's night out are always a hit. Coupon books are a great way for kids to participate and can include anything from cleaning their room to free hugs!

You can make use of any special talents you may have; i.e.) knitting, sewing, photography or painting and make something beautiful. Dollar stores carry a full range of beads and jewelry findings and you can find instructions for making bracelets, earrings or necklaces online or at the library.

Themed baskets are also a lovely way to use your "personalize a gift"; a collection of handmade items. For the food lovers in your life you can fill a basket with homemade pasta, a jar of homemade sauce, herb-infused olive oil, bread mix, and hand sewn placemats or napkins.

Another great idea is making handmade Christmas tree ornaments, wreaths or garlands. You can make the same ones for everyone or a different one for each person on your list.

If you aren't the crafty type but still want to give something handmade there are lots of craft fairs in the coming weeks before Christmas. You can also check out local artisans for great gift ideas. [LH](#)





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