



# Christmas Survival Kit



Written and Illustrated By Pam Sargant



**Other books by this author:**

**Mother's Survival Kit**  
**The Puddle People**

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## Dedication

### **To my mother**

“The older my children get, the more I appreciate how my mother handled 5 of us in rural Ontario without a car or any of the fancy gadgets my children feel are necessary to life now. I feel more and more nostalgic for those simpler times and I try to share some of that with my children.”

**M. Pamela Sargent**

## **Introduction**

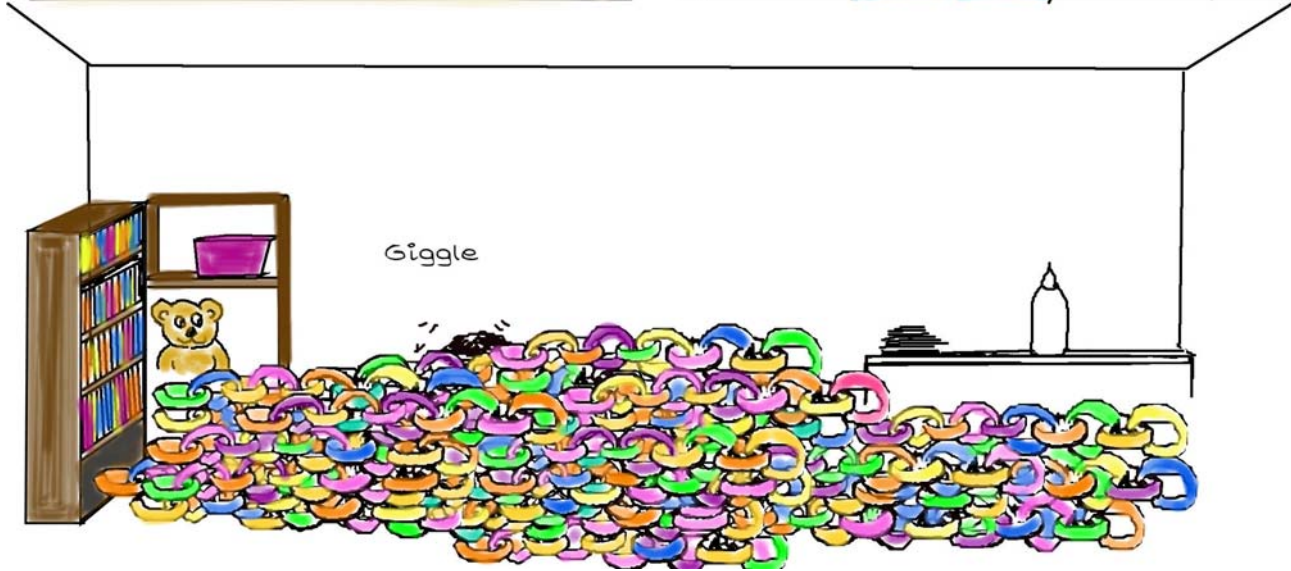
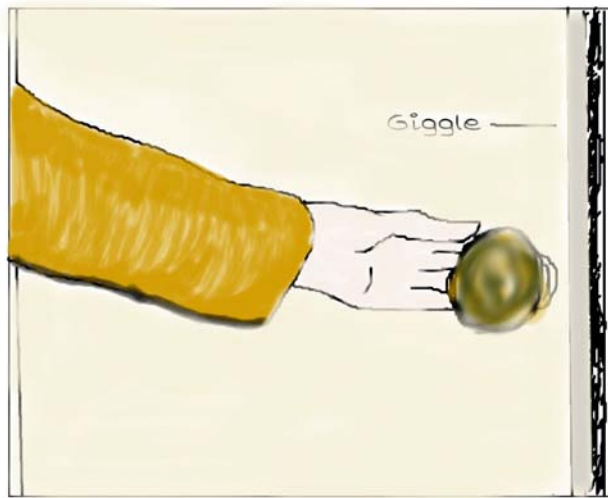
You may celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, or just go with the flow during the month of December. Regardless of how you celebrate, this can be the happiest time of the year, and also the most stressful. Money, shopping, visiting, decorating, money, baking, cleaning, working, money, Santa lists, Santa photos, money...did I miss anything? I probably did, I never seem to have enough time to get everything done during the holidays. Some years just getting my Christmas cards out on time is more than I can handle.

It's time to sit back and take a good long hard look at how we celebrate during this special time of year. No matter what you celebrate, family and children seem to be the main theme. We scrimp, save, and slave away to make sure the kids have the best holiday, that we have the best looking house on the block, that all our customers are happy, that all our extended family members are happy. It goes on and on, but really how much time do we really spend on the important things, like our children?

In this book you will find many activities you can share with your children in preparation for the season. There are decorations, gift ideas and of course our coloring pages. In the process of bonding with your children, you will also save some money and believe it or not relieve some of your stress. Nothing releases stress more than an uninterrupted hour playing and creating with your children. There are but a few rules. 1. Get your hands dirty, get in there and do the craft with your child. 2. Allow your child to freely express his/her creativity. If they don't exactly follow the directions, that's okay. 3. Laugh a lot. Enjoy your child's unique sense of humor. Just plain old enjoy your child for who he/she is. 4. Don't let anything interrupt your time with your child. Turn off the phone, the computer, the TV, and even the radio, unless you have Christmas music playing softly in the background.

You will be surprised as the years go by, how much your children will appreciate, look forward to, and remember these special times with you.

Happy Holidays!



## Christmas Centerpiece

### Materials Needed

- Several Pine or Fir Boughs (Left over from your Christmas Tree)
  - Pipe Cleaners
  - Small Styrofoam Balls
  - Tinsel
  - Miniature Ornaments
  - Cardboard
  - Crayons
  - Markers
  - Scissors
  - Small Plant Holder
  - Florists Styrofoam
  - Assorted Beads and Buttons
  - Christmas Cards
1. Take the plant holder and put the florists foam into it. We cut the foam to make it fit as closely as possible and fill in the empty spots with scraps. This is your base for your mini Christmas tree. Let your children use the markers to decorate the plant holders to their hearts content.
  2. Take the tree boughs and start trimming. Take a few trimmed pieces and tie them together, making it look like a whole tree. Stick this into the florists foam and voila you have a tree ready for trimming.
  3. You can buy miniature ornaments to adorn your centerpiece at any dollar store, or you can make your own using some of the crafts listed in this book.



## Ornaments for Christmas Centerpiece

### Pipe Cleaner Candy Canes

#### Materials:

- Pipe cleaners in two colors
  - Scissors
1. Cut pipe cleaners to 1 ½ inches
  2. Twist two colors together so both colors show in an alternating pattern
  3. Bend the twisted pipe cleaners into a cane shape

### Bead Garlands

You can get beads of assorted sized at any dollar or craft store. You can also make your own beads out of beans, pasta or play dough.

#### Materials:

- Beads
  - Needle
  - String/Thread
  - Scissors
1. Tie one bead to the end of string
  2. Thread beads onto string until garland reaches the desired length
  3. Tie one bead to the other end of the string

This is great for teaching small motor skills and hand – eye co-ordination.

### Button Ornaments

#### Materials:

- Buttons of assorted sizes
  - Thread
  - Scissors
  - Paint
1. You can paint designs on the buttons or leave them as they are
  2. Loop thread through one hole of a button and tie off

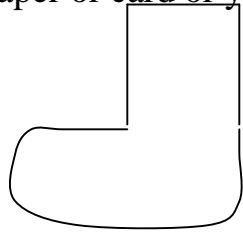


## Mini Stockings

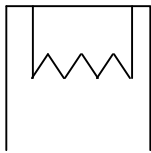
### Materials:

- Wallpaper
- Construction Paper
- Wrapping Paper
- Card paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- String
- Glue
- Hole punch – optional

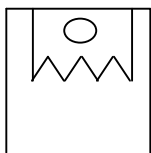
1. Take the paper or card or your choice and cut out stocking shapes



2. Reinforce the top of the stockings with tape.



3. Cut a hole at the top of the stockings



4. Thread string through the hole and tie off in a loop

