

My Favorite Elf on the Shelf Ideas

Tightrope Arrival

Materials: String or yarn, tape, elves

Your elves make a thrilling entrance by sliding into the kitchen on a tightrope. Hang a piece of string from one side of the room to the other and clip them on for a dramatic “in-flight” arrival.



Melted Snowman Scene

Materials: marshmallows, plastic cup, twigs, carrot, elves

Create a silly melted snowman using marshmallows and accessories. Pose the elves nearby as if they're mourning their melty friend.

Spa Day Relaxation

Materials: Small bowls, marshmallows, cucumbers, nail polish, washcloth, elves

Set up a cozy elf spa with marshmallow foot baths, cucumber eye masks, and tiny towels. Add a playful list of “spa services” for extra fun.



Brownie Baking Elves

Materials: Brownies, crumbs, mini kitchen tools (optional), elves

Place the elves in the kitchen beside a plate of brownies – crumbs everywhere – with a note saying they baked a “treat just for you!”



Magic Pasta

Materials: Fishing line, fork, noodles, bowl, elves

Use fishing line to suspend a fork so it looks like noodles are magically floating. Elves sit nearby proudly next to their “magic trick.”



TP Mischief

Materials: Toilet paper, elves

Elves unravel toilet paper throughout the bathroom – across the shower, sink, and fixtures. Quick, chaotic, and guaranteed laughs.



Danger! Thin Ice!

Materials: Saran wrap, powdered sugar, marshmallows, elves

Stretch saran wrap over the sink to create an "icy lake." Sprinkle powdered sugar and marshmallows, then position an elf halfway through like the ice cracked beneath them. Add a "DANGER: THIN ICE!" note.



Toilet Paper Hide 'N Seek Snowman

Materials: Toilet paper rolls, Sharpie, carrot (or paper), elves

Stack toilet paper rolls into a snowman. Add Sharpie-drawn buttons and a carrot nose. Hide one elf inside the rolls and another riding on top.



"I Love You DEER-ly!" Ride

Materials: Toy or inflatable reindeer, small sign, elves

Perch the elves on a plush or inflatable reindeer with a tiny handwritten sign that says "I love you DEER-ly!" It's sweet, simple, and so fun for kids to discover.



[Grab my FULL list with 25 Ideas here!](#)



Emergency Elf Kit

Last-Minute Ideas for When You Forget
These require no crafting, no materials, *under 30 seconds*.

The Freezer Chill

Pop the elf in the freezer with a note:
"BRR! I wanted to feel at home!"

Wrapped in a Washcloth

Wrap the elf like a burrito with a washcloth:
"Cozy burrito mode: activated."

The Dishwasher Hideout

Open the dishwasher and perch the elf inside the
top rack like they climbed in.
Add a quick note:
"Cleaning mission: complete!"

Sitting in a Shoe

Place the elf in someone's shoe with a note:
"I'm sole searching!"

Window Watcher

Stick the elf behind the blinds or curtains with just
their face peeking out. No note needed — kids
LOVE this creepy-cute surprise.

Elf on the Shelf “Use What You Already Have” Checklist

Keeping these in one spot makes the month SO much easier!

Kitchen Items

- Marshmallows
- Powdered sugar
- Toothpicks
- Cereal
- Noodles / ramen
- Plastic wrap
- Aluminum foil
- Mixing bowls
- Candy canes

Bathroom + Linen Closet

- Toilet paper
- Washcloth
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips
- Hair ties
- Towels
- Cucumber slices (for spa day)

Craft Supplies

- Crayons / markers
- Tape
- String or yarn
- Glue stick
- Sharpie
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Stickers

Around the House

- Stuffed reindeer or plush toys
- Toy cars
- Small bowls
- Fishing line (for floating pasta)
- Books
- Phone on selfie mode
- Wrapping paper scraps
- Mini holiday props (ornaments, tiny trees, etc.)

Optional Helpful Extras

- Mini chalkboard or letterboard
- Extra ribbon
- Mini cookie cutters
- Leftover seasonal candy

