



PREPARING TO BE SANTA

Slip into the world of SANTA and prepare for one of the most enjoyable sleigh rides of your life. Once again, see the wonders of the world through the eyes of a child. By following these suggestions from DANCER, PRANCER, and the whole gang, you will ensure a most memorable experience for both SANTA and the children (both young and old) whose lives he touches. We have asked each of the eight reindeer, as well as RUDOLPH, to give us a suggestion for the jolly old elf.



RUDOLPH

Watch out for Red Rouge. Red is fine on my nose but to SANTA'S wig and beard it is a true GRINCH. It is very hard to remove and acts as if it is alive by spreading as SANTA perspires. The beard rests very high on the cheek and will cover the area normally covered with rouge. Between the beard and the wig, most of SANTA'S face is covered. Once rouge is in the beard it seems to travel down the hair fibers and is very difficult to remove. No one wants SANTA with a pink beard.



DONNER

While "visions of candy canes" may "dance in their head" a candy cane, sucker, or apple in a child's hand can really gum up SANTA'S wig and beard. Ask one of the adults to help by holding the candy while the children are talking to Santa.



DANCER

Beware of the four-year-old in the 40 year old body. All of us want to be young again, but watch out for the mother who wants to be a little girl and bounds up to SANTA and jumps on his knee. She may be too heavy for SANTA'S knee and throne, neither of which you want to see knocked out of joint or worse yet, broken. Gently reach out to her as she approaches and keep her in control.



PRANCER

Trust all children but, beware and keep the younger ones on your knee and a little off balance. Avoid letting them touch SANTA'S beard. Even if the wig and beard have been put on very securely, the youngest of children have been known to accidentally pull the beard off. This can be embarrassing for SANTA and traumatize the child.



BLITZEN

Wait for the children to approach you. Greet them by name when at all possible. Tone down the Ho-Ho-Ho's as many children can be frightened by SANTA when he comes on too boisterously and strong. Remember you are the lovable, jolly spirit of Christmas. Laugh and smile a lot. Give them love. Let them set the parameters.



COMET

Refer to yourself in the third person as much as possible. Make such statements as "SANTA would really enjoy a plate of cookies and maybe a carrot for the reindeer." (We reindeer get hungry too.) By the way, "SANTA would really like you to help your parents all year."



CUPID

Make no promises. Above all, promise the children nothing unless you know it to be true. Nod your head a lot and laugh with sincerity, but be vague in your commitments. By not promising anything, (especially guaranteeing they will receive a specific gift), you will keep the parents happy and the child will not be disgruntled with SANTA next year.



DASHER

If doing SANTA for family members, remove any items such as rings, watches, jewelry, that might give you away. Remember, children are much more observant than you think. White gloves are also a good idea as they help hide your hands.



VIXEN

Take a trip to a toy store to familiarize yourself with the toys of the day. You might also want to go to some of the electronic stores to keep up with the times. No child will be impressed if SANTA does not know the difference between Tickle-me-Elmo and an iPod.

Above all, feel the role, relax, and enjoy yourself. You are SANTA CLAUS and are loved by millions of sweet innocent children throughout the world. Every child is your friend – your trusted confidant. As SANTA CLAUS, you are keeping bright the torch for one of the most beautiful customs from the ages. Also, you as SANTA will receive as much, if not more pleasure than you give. Those who portray SANTA are some of the most giving and loving people in the world. ENJOY!