



Christmas Countdown Paper Chain Garland

The Paper Chain Garland is a countdown-to-Christmas classic. Make your countdown garland even better by planning a special activity for your kids each day. This is easy to do with these printable garland links. Just print the links on colored paper or special scrapbook paper, cut along the dotted lines and create your Countdown garland!

Here are the activities that are included on the links in this printable:

- Get and decorate a Christmas Tree.
- Plan to attend a local Christmas Tree lighting.
- Go to a Christmas Parade.
- Backwards dinner—eat dessert first
- Crash Supper—Plan with another mom ahead of time that you are going to bring dinner and spend the evening with them. The kids will be so excited to surprise their friends!
- A Treasure Hunt Dinner—Hide the different courses throughout the house and give the kids clues to gather their dinner.
- Eat out at your favorite restaurant.

- Family Game Nights—there are several options of games, but you can make your own with the cards on pages 17-18. Check out these board games and these card games.
- Family Movie Nights—there are several options of movies, but you can make your own with the printable cards on pages 17-18. Check out these good family films and these holiday films.
- Draw or paint a picture. Hang your creations in a special “gallery” in your home.
- Make Christmas cards for friends.
- Make Christmas ornaments.
- Make a nativity.
- Make Fudge. Try this Super Simple Fudge recipe.
- Bake and decorate Jesus Cookies. (We use these Nativity Cookie Cutters.)
- Bake and decorate sugar cookies. Kids will love “painting” cookies with a simple frosting made of powdered sugar and water.
- Make a Gingerbread House.
- Go out for donuts.
- An “impromptu” ice cream run—have the kids wear their jammies!
- Have a camp-out inside. Let the kids build a fort OR set up a tent.
- Let the kids choose the special activity for the day!
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
- Buy toys to donate to Toys for Tots or other charitable organization

- Sing Christmas carols at the local nursing home
- Take coloring pages and crayons to the local Children's hospital or doctor's waiting room.
- Do something nice for a neighbor.
- Go shopping for the local food pantry.

Of course, feel free to create your own personal links as well! Just cut strips that are 1.5 inches by 8.5 inches long.

Supplies needed:

- 8.5 x 11" colored or scrapbook paper
- computer & printer
- scissors or paper cutter
- stapler or tape

To create the garland:

- Print out the activity links onto holiday colored paper or scrapbook paper.
- Cut along the dotted lines to create your strips. If you want to make your own, cut blank strips (1.5 inches x 8.5 inches) and write your own activities onto them.
- Choose 24 activities and place them in the order that you wish to do them. The 25th link should be the "Merry Christmas" link.

- Starting with your first activity, loop the strip into a circle and secure with tape or a staple. Take the second activity, insert it through the first activity loop and secure with tape or a staple. Repeat until you have a chain of 25 links.
- Hang your garland in a special place and enjoy 25 days of Christmas fun!

Get and decorate a Christmas tree!

Go to a Christmas Tree Lighting.

Go to a Christmas Parade.

Backwards Dinner — Eat dessert first!

Have a “Crash Supper” with friends.

Eat out at our favorite restaurant.

Have a treasure hunt dinner.

Have a Family Movie Night!

Have a Family Game Night!

Draw or paint a holiday picture.

Make Christmas cards for friends.

Make Christmas ornaments.

Make a nativity.

Make fudge.

Bake and decorate Jesus Cookies.

Bake and decorate sugar cookies.

Make a Gingerbread House.

Go out for donuts.

Go out for ice cream.

Have a camp-out inside!

Kids' Choice!

Volunteer at a soup kitchen
or homeless shelter.

Buy toys to donate to charity.

Sing Christmas carols at the nursing home.

Take coloring pages and crayons to the
hospital or doctor's waiting room.

Do something nice for a neighbor.

Go shopping for the local food pantry.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!