

# Ten Things for Grandparents of Grandchildren Being Raised in Interfaith Families to do During Holiday Time



**BIG TENT JUDAISM**

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- 1** Be the best Jew you can be.
- 2** Model a welcoming attitude to all, especially toward your non-Jewish son/daughter-in-law.
- 3** Separate out difficulties in your relationship with your adult child from the relationship you want to nurture with your grandchildren. Don't let them bubble to the surface this time of year.
- 4** Throw the best holiday parties ever. Keep them focused on celebration, not confrontation.
- 5** Make no assumptions about holiday observances or ritual practices. Most families celebrate holidays through the lens of family, not religion. And, yes, sometimes a Christmas tree is just a tree.
- 6** Support the exposure to the other side of the family, along with holidays and customs.
- 7** Share your own Jewish narrative with your grandchildren, especially as it includes their parent, your adult child. And wear your own Jewish identity proudly.
- 8** Display, demonstrate, and share beautiful holiday ritual objects and explain why they're personally meaningful to you.
- 9** Give gifts relevant to the meaning of the holiday, but only if it won't cause discomfort for anyone in the home (and not as the only gifts).
- 10** If the other side of the family celebrates a different holiday, wish them the proper seasonal greeting for their holiday even if it isn't your own. And if they offer you the same greetings, a simple thank you, you too, is all you need to say.