Elf YOURSELF

Above: Each child "adopted" an elf to take home.
Right: Hot cocoa is a welcome treat.

What's red and green and fun all over? This elf-themed children's holiday party!

Have you heard of Elf on the Shelf? This naughty little doll appears around Christmas time and does all sorts of cheeky things in your home, to the delight of your children. Andressa Hara of Twinkle Twinkle Little Party (twinkletwinklelittleparty.com) put together this elf-themed children's backyard holiday celebration, saying, "If you're a mum like me, you know it's all about the kids!"

At this party, taking an elf home was part of the fun. Andressa set up an "adoption centre" with elves and adoption certificates for the children to fill out. "The kids absolutely loved playing with their new buddies!" she says.

Even though the weather is warm, little ones will love hot cocoa with marshmallows – or iced cocoa if it's really too unbearably hot outside. Continue the cosy theme by incorporating soft blankets and festive pillows with the décor – even if they don't get used, they sure look inviting.

The dessert table featured holiday-inspired desserts, as well as fun décor elements such as a festive garland, Christmas globes, and wrapped presents. A children's activity table featured "paint your own biscuit" as the highlight of the event – a unique way to keep the children happy and entertained, and the best part was that they could eat their creation afterward.

"I hope you feel inspired to host a fun and memorable holiday gathering!" says Andressa.

"Paint your own biscuit" was a party highlight.

The dessert table featured simple holiday sweets and festive decor.

CREDITS: STYLING & PHOTOGRAPHY: TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE PARTY (TWINKLETWINKLELITTLEPARTY.COM). CUSTOM INVITATIONS AND CARDS: TINY PRINTS (TINYPRINTS.COM/PHOTOCARDS.HTM). CUSTOM PILLOWS AND BLANKET: TINY PRINTS (TINYPRINTS.COM/PERSONALIZED-PHOTO-GIFTS-CENTER.HTM). ELVES: TARGET (TARGET.COM). PAINT YOUR OWN BISCUIT: BLUE SUGAR COOKIE & CO (FACEBOOK.COM/BLUESUGARCOOKIECO/?FREF=TS). CUSTOM T-SHIRTS: GREAT STITCH (ETSY.COM/SHOP/GREATSTITCH). CAKES, COOKIES AND CUPCAKES: LOCAL BAKERY.