



7 Family Time and Learning Tips for the Holidays

By: Laura Bay

The holiday season is here! Like most families, my household is already in a flurry of activity—decorating, purchasing gifts, preparing for guests and baking cookies and pies.

This is also a special time for family fun and togetherness. But with the holiday rush, the to-do list seems to grow exponentially by the minute.

In the busyness of the season, it's important to keep learning and quality time with family at the top of the list while your kids are home on break from school.

Research shows that families who spend quality time together and connect activities at home to what children are learning in school have a stronger emotional bond and better communication—and the kids do better academically.

The holiday season also provides great opportunities to expose children to new ideas and information, reinforce skills and knowledge, and encourage creativity, which supports their success in school.

As you are shopping, baking and celebrating special traditions, here are some ideas to mix quality time with learning:

Create a Budget — Encourage your kids to write a list of the people they want to buy gifts for. Then have them allocate a certain amount for each person on their list. While shopping for gifts, help your kids keep track of spending and their remaining budget.

December 2021

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Please check Brightwheel every day. There is important information there! Also, make sure your child always has a change of clothes and/or diapers/pull-ups, if necessary. Thank You!

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Caterpillars/Buttercup Butterflies



Christmas spirit is here! We are learning about each others personal development: feelings and getting ready to do our Christmas activities. The babies will be singing Feliz Navidad for the holiday song. Come out and celebrate holiday program on December 17, 2021. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

-Ms. Meme, Ms. Stacey & Ms. Bailey

Pixie Butterflies

Greetings Pixie families! For the month of December, the Pixies will welcome the new season with a variety of winter activities ranging from play snow to practicing for our Holiday program! Pixies will also be creating winter art activities to take home! We look forward to a wonderful new month!

- Ms. Vanessa & Ms. Ally



Elf Butterflies



December is finally here! The Elf Butterflies are getting ready for our Holiday performance and we would love to see every family there! We also want to remind our parents that with the holidays, comes colder weather. Please bring in a jacket or a sweater so the kids don't turn into snow men. Happy Holidays from the Elf class to you!

-Ms. Stephanie & Ms. Madison

Julia Butterflies

Happy December! This month we will continue our study of clothes while learning about where to get clothes and how they are made! We will also work on writing and spelling our names. We look forward to seeing you at the holiday program where we will sing a song about Kwanzaa! Happy holidays!

-Ms. Paige & Ms. Fallon





Ms. Amy's 10 Year Anniversary— December 7th
Ms. Paige's Birthday—December 21st
Ms. Heather's Birthday— December 27th

7 Family Time and Learning Tips for the Holidays ... continued

Cook Together — Include your children in meal prep and baking for holiday gatherings. It's a great way to have fun and teach kids about cooking and nutrition. While you're cooking, you can practice math and reading skills—and demonstrate cool science concepts through various cooking techniques.

Make Holiday Greeting Cards and Gifts — Have your kids write holiday cards or letters to family and friends. It's a great opportunity for children to practice their handwriting, as well as their grammar, spelling and creative writing skills. Also, making gifts at home is a way to encourage creativity.

Explore Your City — When you feel a bit of cabin fever, plan a family outing. Many local parks and zoos feature light displays and other festivities to celebrate the season. You can also visit a local museum and historic sites, or see a play at a local theater.

Play Games — Playing board and trivia games during holiday get-togethers is a good way to enjoy quality time together. Look for ideas online. There are a variety of games—for all ages—that are fun and educational as well.

Enjoy the Great Outdoors — Play with your kids in the backyard or at a local park. If it snows, build a snowman or hit the slopes! You can find fun outdoor games that promote physical activity.

And Read Every Day — Take your kids to the local library and borrow books to read over the winter break. And spend time reading together—it helps children develop their literacy skills and excel academically.

Clothespin Snowman Craft

If you think your clothespins look pretty boring, why not give them a quirky makeover? This clothespin craft is super cute and these little fellows will look great pretty much everywhere, holding your favorite notes, holding gift tags and more!

What you will need:

- Natural Wood Clothespins
- Yarn in Various Colors
- Glue
- Orange Mini Pompoms
- White Paint
- Paint Brush
- Black Marker
- Scissors



1. Paint the clothespins white. Be careful as the paint can “glue” the clothespin, open it up a few times while it dries.
2. Take a short piece of yarn and wrap it around the clothespin, making a bow. Add a drop of glue to secure it.
3. Now take a black marker and draw two black eyes, mouth and black buttons on the snowman body.
4. Glue on an orange mini pom-pom for the nose.
5. Wait for the glue to dry and your clothespin snowman craft is done.



Super Supper

1lb. Chicken Salad

**Pick-up days are
December
17th, 20th,
21st and
22nd.**

\$7.00 each

**Payment is
due before
pick-up.**

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Mission:
The Winter Park Day Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and educational environment that is affordable and supports family diversity.

Vision:
The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

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