



GRACE UNITED LEARNING CENTER

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The Grace Times



WHAT CHILDREN WANT THIS SEASON

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Chances are your children have a long list of gifts they'd like to receive during the holidays. Are you frustrated because they don't seem to understand the spirit of the season? Maybe they just need some coaching. According to Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli [in their book **Unplug the Christmas Machine**, pp. 55-64], children really want four things during the holiday season.



waited for them for weeks. Robinson and Staeheli suggest making other parts of the holiday as exciting as opening presents.

days are over. Their new toys can't possibly be all they thought they would be after they've before the holiday. They also suggest saving a few for the week after the main event. For example, consider hosting a potluck dinner for family and friends a week after the holiday.

4. Strong family traditions. Traditions are important to children because they give them comfort and security. They help children understand how the season will unfold, and they bring back happy memories of past holidays together. Robinson and Staeheli say that most families have more traditions than they realize and that even simple traditions will do. They advise asking your children which activities mean the most to them. Then, be sure to do them every year.

Give your children these four gifts and you'll give yourself a lovely present as well. You'll spend more time doing the things that really matter and less frenzied time at the mall and the toy store.

Attention Parents!!

Our
Christmas
Program is on
December 18,
2015 at 6:30
PM



Relaxed and loving time with the family. During the holiday season, lives become crowded with program practices, shopping trips, and parties. Lots of gifts and attention when the holiday arrives won't make up for your absence now. "Children," say the authors, "want love in a steady, constant way."

They advise setting firm priorities so you can give your children the attention they need. Consider turning down some social invitations to spend more time with your family.

Realistic expectations about gifts. Children who think only about gifts at this time of year can feel terribly let down when the holi-



It is easier to build-up a child than it is to repair an adult.

Choose your words wisely.

Spend time with your children show them how much you love and appreciate them.

REMINDERS

Please continue to sign your child in and out

Parents please make sure your child has sufficient diapers, wipes and change of clothing while they are at the center.



11 Tips for Holiday Home Safety

As you're sprucing up your home this season, keep an eye out for these common holiday trip-ups, fire hazards, and other safety issues.

1. Merry and Bright: Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and discard any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders, or loose connections. When replacing bulbs, unplug the light string and be sure to match voltage and wattage to the original bulb.

2. Lights Out: Always turn off holiday lights when you leave the house unattended or when going to bed.

3. Fresh Is Best: Try to purchase a freshly cut tree, as they are more resistant to ignition. Keep your Christmas tree watered and away from open candles.

4. Timing Is Everything: Use an outdoor timer certified by CSA International to switch lights on and off. Lights should be turned on after 7 p.m. to avoid the electrici-

ty rush hour.

5. Check for the Certification Mark: When purchasing light strings, extension cords, spotlights, electrical decorations, gas appliances, or carbon monoxide alarms, look for the certification mark of an accredited certification organization such as CSA International, UL, or ETL to ensure that the products comply with applicable standards for safety and performance.

6. One and Done: Never connect more than one extension cord together; instead use a single cord that is long enough to reach the outlet without stretching, but not so long that it can get easily tangled.

7. The Great Outdoors: When hanging outdoor lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal rain gutters. Use insulated tape or plastic clips instead of metal nails or tacks to hold them in place.

8. Climbing Up: Using a ladder when you put up lights? Choose the correct ladder for the job and double check for a certification mark to ensure your portable ladder complies with applicable standards.

9. Sound the Alarm: Test your smoke alarms monthly to make sure they work, and be sure to install smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on every level of your home -- especially near sleeping areas.

10. Filter-Friendly Furnace: Prevent CO hazards in your home, have a qualified heating contractor perform a yearly maintenance check of your heating and venting system, and clean or replace your filter frequently during the heating seasons.

11. Clean the Clutter: Do not store combustible materials such as gasoline, propane, paper, chemicals, paint, rags, and cleaning supplies together. Propane cylinders should be stored outside the home.

Announcements



*Please Support our Book Fair
Monday to Wednesday
December 14-16*

Grace Achievers

Nylah Francis is our Grace Student of the month.

Nylah has applied herself to her work and the results are showing. When the semester started she was

having difficulty with concepts but with hard work and practicing at home she is doing great in class. Nylah is also very helpful. . She cleans up without being told and is

always looking for ways to help me in the classroom

Nylah

Grace Salutes You!



Christmas Almond Cookies



- Ingredients**
- ½ cup slivered almonds
 - ½ cup unsalted butter
 - ½ cup sugar
 - 1 egg yolk
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - ½ teaspoon almond extract
 - 1 cup cake flour
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
- Chocolate Topping:**
- ½ cup chocolate chips
 - 1 teaspoon shortening

- Cooking Instructions**
1. Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Toast almonds on cookie sheet 8-10 minutes or until fragrant and golden in color. Let cool completely.
 2. In large bowl beat butter with an electric mixer on medium until smooth. Add sugar. Beat until combined, scraping side of bowl occasionally. Beat in egg yolk until combined. Add vanilla and almond extracts. Beat until combined.
 3. In miniature food processor grind cooled nuts finely. Add flour, ground nuts and salt. Beat until combined, scraping down side of bowl occasionally.
 4. Form dough into rectangle 12-inches-by-1½ -inches-by 1½ inches. Chill rectangle in freezer at least one hour. Slice cookies ¼-inch thick.
 5. Bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
 6. Remove from oven and cool on cookie sheet 5 minutes. Remove to cooling rack to cool completely.
 7. In microwavable bowl, melt chocolate and shortening 1 minute. Stir to combine. If chocolate is not melted, return to microwave in 30 second intervals until melted. Using a knife or small off-set spatula. spread a thin layer of chocolate on half of each cookie. Transfer to cooling rack to dry completely

Christmas Recipes



Resource Center

<p>Childfun.com</p> <p>Preschoolrainbow.org</p> <p>Earlychildhood.com</p> <p>Scholastic.com</p>	<p>Earlyliteracylearning.org</p> <p>Readingrockets.org</p> <p>Jumpstart.com</p> <p>Parentfurther.com</p>	<p>Thelearningcommunity.us</p> <p>Life.familyeducation.com</p> <p>Theintentionalparent.org</p>
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“because learning never stops”

December Birthdays

<p>Morgan McMillan Dec 2</p> <p>Juana Fernandez (Infant Room Teacher) Dec 3</p>	<p>Bernice Joseph Dec 9</p> <p>Khamiya Moore Dec 14</p>	<p>Ascania Garcia (Assistant teacher/Kitchen aide) Dec 28</p>
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CONNECT THE DOTS

CONNECT THE DOTS

Start with the letter **A** and connect the dots in alphabetical order until you reach the letter **Z**.



A ● ● **B** ● ● **Y** ● ● **Z**

C ● ● **D** ● ● **W** ● ● **X**

E ● ● **F** ● ● **U** ● ● **V**

G ● ● **H** ● ● **S** ● ● **T**

I ● ● **J** ● ● **Q** ● ● **R**

K ● ● **L** ● ● **O** ● ● **P**

M ● ● **N**



Then
decorate the
Christmas
tree!