



The Gift of Literacy during the Holiday Season

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It is no secret that literacy can unlock opportunity for all children. Creating a literacy-rich environment at home, in school, and in the community enhances academic achievement and the likelihood for future success.

Since we know that every child is capable of success with the right support, we encourage family members to help support children's capacity for learning and reading. But making this **FUN** is the key!

Creating opportunities for reading at every corner is a great way to nurture a joy of reading. Here are some tips on supporting literacy at home and in the community during the holiday season:

Holiday reading tips:

- Cool gifts: 10 books for the two weeks child will be off from school. Gift wrap each book and put them under the tree. Provide an area where the child can enjoy some reading on a bean bag chair or pillows, some comfy covers and some stuff animals.
- Make holiday or winter reading a tradition by reading the same book each year, or give a new holiday book.
- Have your children read holiday cards aloud. Go to a greeting card store with your child and read the greeting cards together. Later, vote for the ones whose words convey the best Holidays wish or get-well.
- Make homemade holiday cards with your children and have them write personalized messages in each card to handout to family and friends.
- Children's books that reflect a family's culture and language are important too. A good reading is how the family culture celebrates the holidays.
- Best time of the year to create a holiday snack by reading and following directions from a recipe. Children will learn measurements, time and temperatures, as well as how to follow sequenced directions. Pick out a recipe together. Make a shopping list together for all the ingredients. Go to the store with your child and find the items on your list. Have your child help put away the groceries at home. Then read the recipe and prepare a meal together. Best time of the year.
- Take time to read comic strips together. Share favorites from your own childhood and have your child put his favorites on the fridge. Read them aloud, and often. Repetition is a great way to build reading skills. Soon, he'll love looking forward to the "Sunday funnies" each week.
- Write your own winter books with your children and read them aloud to the family.
- Visit your local library; this will open the world to some exciting reading. Enjoy this time with your children.

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