

D E C E M B E R
N E W S L E T T E R

INVITATIONS FOR LEARNING

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Gifts that last.....

A good gift for a young child should?

- Be able to be moved around often
- Have more than one purpose
- Be able to be taken apart and put back together
- Make a child feel "bigger than life"
- Allow a child to push, pull or throw
- Allow a child to decide how it is to be used
- Be able to be used indoors and outdoors

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I made my annual trip to a major toy store to see what they considered to be the "BEST TOYS OF THE YEAR". Most of these toys were plastic, ran on batteries or were electronic.

This is the time of year when the holiday frenzy takes place. Young children are bombarded with toy ads from catalogs, television and on the internet.

Many adults purchase toys that the company promises:

- long hours of peaceful "bliss"
- learning various skill development
- future knowledge building

The reality is that few, if any, will deliver on these promises. Even well made toys have a relatively short life expectancy for young children.

Young children do not have the ability to select what they want and need in this media frenzy world.

Some adults purchase toys based on what they like or thought they wanted as a child, but never received it. This is the time to be less "egocentric" than the child.

Remember what you liked to play as a child. Usually it was outdoors, sometimes made by yourself or others around you, cost very little(if anything) and could be used in a variety of ways.

Children today, still want and need those same experiences. So, I am making my annual plea to reconsider those fancy, sparkly, all electronic toys and go with your childhood instinct.

Happy Holidays.

Gifts that Last

(I know that adults are still going to purchase some gifts that children think they want. In addition these are gifts that will benefit the most.)

- **Brief cases** - filled with stamps, envelopes, writing pads, pens, pencils, etc.
- **Plungers** - of different sizes and shapes for using on all kinds of surfaces
- **Flashlights** - of different sizes and beams for night time adventures and shadow making
- **Tool box** - filled with hammers, tape measures, rulers, goggles, etc.
- **Tent Making Kit** - various size blankets and sheets, ropes, clothespins, and masking tape
- **Blocks** - scrapes of wood (sanded and smoothed) from lumber yards of different sizes and shapes for construction
- **Suitcase dress up kits** - add capes, boots, pirate patches, umbrellas, tap dance shoes, etc.
- **Tree Cookies** - take tree stumps and saw them into round "tree cookies" great for making step walks, etc.