

Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine

Vol. 1; Issue 2

www.kidsholidaycraftsmagazine.com

September 2003

National Baby Safety Month

Baby safety tips and checklists

Learn more about Rosh Hashanah

Ease the morning blues with these tips

Raccoon poem, facts and crafts

Fun money activities for 6-8 year olds

Make a first aid kit

Playground safety tips and checklist

Ideas to make breakfast fun

Have dinner with the family tonight



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From the Editor

Well, we made it to the second issue of *Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine*!

This month's 22-page issue has loads of stuff! We have a lot of safety tips for new parents in our celebration of National Baby Safety Month. We also have some great stories, a wonderful poem and lots of fun stuff to do.

We opened up the Reference section last month. If you have a favorite website that you go, then send us the URL with the name of the website for review by the KHCM staff.

The forums are open now too. (Thank you Owen!) Come register and let's get some discussion going on!

I am also looking into creating a *Kids Holiday Crafts* e-book based on the crafts on the Kids Holiday Crafts website. The first edition would feature five crafts from each of seven major holidays -- New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let me know what you think of the idea!

I have to give a very special thanks to Emily Puro (*Rosh Hashanah: A Different Kind of New*

Year, page 10, with a recipe and two crafts and *Flowers for Mother*, page 15 with craft) and Anne Ramaley.

Emily has been amazing. Not only has she produced some wonderful work for the magazine and done a great job with the copy editing, but she's been one of my biggest supporters with regular e-mails telling me what a great job I'm doing. Anne has been right there with Emily with the encouraging words.

I also have to give Owen another big thank you. He's been wonderful about getting me my stats and telling me I haven't lost my mind (yet!). It hasn't been a booming start but we're getting there! All things come with time, at least that's what I've heard. I hope it's true!

We're getting back into the swing of school. I can't believe it is September again already! We've done the back-to-school clothes shopping and gotten the supplies my daughter, who is 8, is going to need to start school this year. We've moved to a new school this year with entering second grade so it is going to be very exciting.

Well, that's it for now. I hope you enjoy this month's issue!

Nancy Cavanaugh

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I just read your August edition and was very impressed. It looks very professional.

Way to go!

Patty K. in NJ

To the Editor:

Congratulations on your first issue. It looks like *Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine* is going to be a stellar hit. I especially love the variety in the crafts and stories.

There really is something there for everyone. My son, who is 4, loved hearing "The

Tale of Peter Rabbit."

Well done! I can't wait to see what you do next month!

Anne A. in NH

Letters to the Editor

If you have something to say about what you've seen here, good or bad, please send us a letter. Send your letters to editor@kidsholidaycrafts.com.

Celebrate National Baby Safety Month



National
Baby Safety Month

September is National Baby Safety Month. The purpose of the 'celebration' is to bring attention to baby safety. *Kids Holiday Crafts*

Magazine believes that this is an important issue and something that every parent should be aware of.

This month we offer safety tips on cribs, playpens, car seats, childproofing your home and setting up a safe home office.

Stop by the forums to further discuss product recalls, product recommendations, tips and more.

Safe Car Seat Checklist



Does your child ride in the back seat?

The back seat is generally the safest place in a crash. If your vehicle has a passenger air bag, it is essential for children 12 and under to ride in back.

Does your child ride facing the right way?

Infants should ride in rear-facing restraints, preferably in the back seat, until about age 1 and at least 20-22 lbs. Infants who weigh 20 lbs. before 1 year of age should ride in a restraint approved for higher rear facing weights. Always read your child restraint owner's manual for instructions on properly using the restraint. Children over age 1 and at least 20 pounds may ride facing forward.

Does the safety belt hold the seat tightly in place?

Put the belt through the right slot. If your safety seat can be used facing either way, use the correct belt slots for each direction. The safety belt must stay tight when securing the safety seat. Check the vehicle owner's manual for tips on using the safety belts.

For more information call your local safety group or the DOT Auto Safety Hotline: 1-888-DASH-2-DOT.

Safety Checklist For Cribs

Cribs should have:

- A firm, tight-fitting mattress so a baby cannot get trapped between the mattress and the crib.
- No missing, loose, broken or improperly installed screws, brackets or other hardware on the crib or mattress support.
- No more than 2 3/8 inches (about the width of a soda can) between crib slats so a baby's head cannot fit through the slats; no missing or cracked slats.
- No corner posts over 1/16 inch high so a baby's clothing cannot catch.
- No cutouts in the headboard or foot board so a baby's head cannot get trapped.



For more information, contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov.

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How to Childproof Your Home

About 2.5 million children are injured or killed by hazards in the home each year. The good news is that many of these incidents can be prevented by using simple child safety devices on the market today.

Any safety device you buy should be sturdy enough to prevent injury to your child, yet easy for you to use. It's important to follow installation instructions carefully. In addition, if you have older children in the house, be sure they re-secure safety devices. Remember, too, that no device is completely childproof; determined youngsters have been known to disable them.

You can childproof your home for a fraction of what it would cost to have a professional do it, and safety devices are easy to find. You can buy them at hardware stores, baby equipment shops, supermarkets, drug stores, home and linen stores, and through mail order catalogues.

Here are some child safety devices that can help prevent many injuries to young children.

1. **Use Safety Gates** to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children away from

dangerous areas. Safety gates can help keep children away from stairs or rooms that have hazards in them. Look for safety gates that children cannot dislodge easily, but that adults can open and close without difficulty. For the top of stairs, gates that screw to the wall are more secure than "pressure gates."

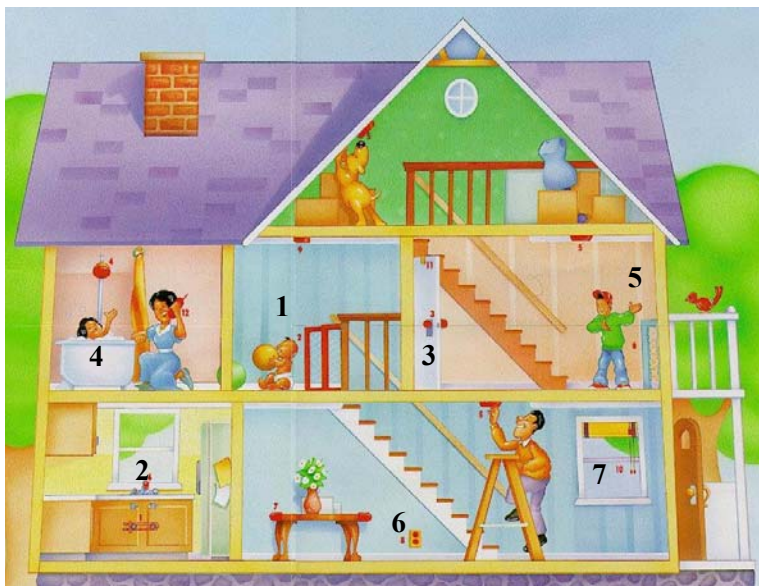


New safety gates that meet safety standards display a certification seal from the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA). If you have an older safety gate, be sure it doesn't have "V" shapes that are large enough for a child's head and neck to fit into.

2. **Use Safety Latches and Locks** for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries. Safety latches and locks on cabinets and drawers can help prevent children from gaining access to medicine and household cleaners, as well as knives and other sharp objects.

Look for safety latches and locks that adults can easily install and use, but are sturdy enough to withstand pulls and tugs from children. Safety latches are not a guarantee of protection, but they can make it more difficult for children to reach dangerous substances. Even products with child-resistant packaging should be locked away, out of reach; this packaging is not childproof.

3. **Use Door Knob Covers and Door Locks** to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with



possible dangers. Door knob covers and door locks can help keep children away from places with hazards, including swimming pools.

Be sure the door knob cover is sturdy enough not to break, but allows a door to be opened quickly by an adult in case of emergency. By restricting access to potentially hazardous rooms in the home, door knob covers can help prevent many kinds of injuries. To prevent access to swimming pools, door locks should be placed high out of reach of young children. Locks should be used in addition to fences and door alarms. Sliding glass doors, with locks that must be re-secured after each use, are often not an effective barrier to pools.

4. **Use Anti-Scald Devices** for faucets and shower heads and set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent burns from hot water. Anti-scald devices for regulating water temperature can help prevent burns.

5. **Use Window Guards and Safety Netting** to help prevent falls from windows, balconies, decks, and landings. Window guards and safety netting for balconies and decks can help prevent serious falls.

Check these safety devices frequently to make sure they are secure and properly installed and maintained. There should be no more than four inches between the bars of the window guard. If you have window guards, be sure at least one window in each room can be easily used for escape in a fire. Window screens



are not effective for preventing children from falling out of windows.

6. **Use Outlet Covers and Outlet Plates** to help prevent electrocution. Outlet covers and outlet plates can help protect children from electrical shock and possible electrocution. Be sure the outlet protectors cannot be easily removed by children and are large enough so that children cannot choke on them.

7. **Cut Window Blind Cords**; use Safety Tassels and Inner Cord Stops to help prevent children from strangling in blind cord loops. Window blind cord safety tassels on miniblinds and tension devices on vertical blinds and drapery cords can help prevent deaths and injuries from strangulation in the loops of cords. Inner cord stops can help prevent strangulation in the inner cords of window blinds.

Use Your Crib Safely


For infants under 12 months of age, follow these practices to reduce the risk of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) and prevent suffocation:

- Place baby on his/her back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress.
- Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like bumper pads or pillow-like stuffed toys in the crib.
- Consider using a sleeper instead of a blanket.
- If you do use a blanket, place baby with feet towards the foot of the crib. Tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, covering baby only as high as his/her chest.
- Use only a fitted bottom sheet specifically made for crib use.



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A Childproof and Workable Home Office

By Rachel Goldstein

If you have young children, then deciding how to design your home office has probably given you a headache. There have been times of chaos in my own home when my young children have ripped up or colored on important papers, stuck objects into disk drives, and jammed the printers with toys. With this under my belt, I can give you some good advice on how to prevent this happening in your home office.

First of all, if you have young kids, separating work from family is going to be nearly impossible. In addition, you are going to need to be very innovative at times in order to get any work done. When designing your home office, envision what layout would work best for you when you are working and taking care of the kids at the same time.

Layout Suggestions:

1. **Locate Office Near Kitchen** - If your kids are anything like mine, locating your office near the kitchen is essential. My kids are always thirsty and it makes them happy to get a full sippy cup. My first office was located on the second floor, and was quickly moved downstairs for this reason.

2. **Buy a Cheap TV / VCR** - In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with letting your children watch TV, especially if you have to finish your work. We bought a very cheap TV and VCR (\$200) and placed it in my office. When the kids become bored of all of their toys, I pop in their favorite tape.

3. **Small Table / Desk** - A good idea is to find

a small table or desk for your children. You can give them a toy phone, paper, pencils, a Rolodex, folders, and other office materials so that they can pretend to be you. In addition, they will love it if you ask them to help you with your work.



4. **Bookshelf or Drawer** - Fill a bookshelf or drawer with toys or knick-knacks that the kids can play with. You should change these toys weekly so they won't get bored of these playthings.

5. **Old Keyboard** - If you have an old keyboard lying around somewhere, by all means give it to your children. Kids love to imitate their parents.

Childproofing:

About 2 million kids are injured or killed in their own homes every year by hazards. This is why childproofing your home and office is so important. Here are some important childproofing suggestions to follow:

1. **Doorstops** - Use doorstops to prevent your kids' fingers and hands from being pinched or crushed in your office door.

2. **Window Blinds** - I am sure that you have heard of all of the injuries and deaths caused by blinds and cords. For this reason, make sure that your blinds are safe. On older miniblinds cut the cord loop, remove the buckle, and put safety tassels on the cord. Make sure that this cord remains tight; if not, you will need new blinds.

3. **Outlet Covers** - Purchase outlet protectors for all of your free electrical sockets. Make sure

that they aren't easily removed or they might become a choking hazard.

4. **Safety Locks** - If you have drawers in your office that contain dangerous items, you should invest in safety locks. Safety locks can prevent poisoning, choking, and other injuries.

5. **Safety Gates** - Use safety gates wherever you foresee danger for your kids. I use safety gates everywhere, including my home office. I put a gate from my desk to the wall to prevent the kids from touching the computer equipment. It works great.

6. **Corner Cushions** - If there are sharp corners on any furniture in your office, invest in corner cushions to prevent injuries from falls.

7. **Tie up Cords** - Tie up and hide electronic cords. Try running the cords under rugs or behind furniture.

8. **Surge Protector Covers** - I have two surge

protectors in my office. I invested in covers for them so the kids cannot play with them.

9. **Put Away Small Items** - Keep staples, paper clips, rubber bands, and other small items away from the reach of your children.

As a work-at-home parent you will need to make many adjustments in your life, this includes your home office. Your home office will grow as your children do. Moving things around and adding new features will probably be something you do regularly to keep your kids and work life balanced. Remember to always keep safety guidelines in check and enjoy working at home with your kids.

<http://www.Allfreelancework.com> - 1000s of freelance jobs, articles, and resources.

Playpen Safety Checklist

For playpen safety, look for:

- Mesh less than 1/4 inch in size, smaller than the tiny buttons on a baby's clothing.

- Mesh with no tears, holes or loose threads that could entangle a baby.

- Mesh securely attached to top rail and floor plate.

- Top rail cover with no tears or holes.

- Place baby on his/her back in a crib with a firm, tight-fitting mattress.

- Do not put pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, pillow-like bumper pads or pillow-like stuffed toys in the crib.

- Consider using a sleeper instead of a blanket.

- If you do use a blanket, tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, covering baby only as high as his/her chest.

- Use only a fitted bottom sheet specifically made for crib use.



Use High Chairs Safely

There are some very real concerns when it comes to safety issues for high chairs. Feeding time is often a very hectic time. However, possible safety hazards can easily be avoided.

Here are a couple of practical high chair safety tips you can implement right away:

- The first rule is always to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Use the chair only for its intended purpose. This alone reduces the risk of accidents considerably.

- High chairs should be fitted with safety straps. Never rely on the feeding tray alone to restrain baby.

- Do not place the high chair next to a table, counter, wall or anything else the baby can push off from.

- Do not allow baby to stand in a high chair. Standing greatly increases the risk of the high chair toppling over.

- Never leave baby unsupervised in a high chair - not even for a minute. Before feeding time, make sure you have everything you are going to need within easy reach.

Rosh Hashanah: A Different Kind of New Year

By Emily Puro

When you think of celebrating the New Year, what comes to mind? Do you think of parties, music, staying up late, and lots of noise? On December 31, that's how many of us will celebrate the beginning of 2004, but not all New Year's celebrations are alike.

This year, starting on September 26 through the 28, Jewish people around the world will welcome a new year in a different way. The year will be 5764, and the holiday is Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah means "head of the year" in Hebrew and is traditionally a thoughtful time during which Jewish people reflect upon their lives and their place in the world. We think about what we have done during the past year, what we hope to do during the coming year, and about how our actions affect the world in which we live. It is also a time to ask forgiveness from people we may have hurt, and to forgive those who have hurt us. Traditionally, the two days of Rosh Hashanah are spent in prayer, and the thoughtful reflection continues until Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, ten days later.

There are some similarities between Rosh Hashanah and American New Year, though. For one thing, sweet treats play a major role in both celebrations. Eating sweets on Rosh Hashanah symbolizes the hope for a sweet year ahead, and bitter or sour foods are not eaten during the holiday. Probably the most common sweet treat eaten during Rosh Hashanah is apple dipped in honey, "tapuach b'dvash" in Hebrew. Many other sweet dishes are eaten as well.

Another similarity between the two New Year's celebrations is noise. While many Americans celebrate New Year's Eve with noise makers, the Bible commands that the Jewish people sound the Shofar, or Ram's horn, during Rosh Hashanah.

Perhaps the most important similarity between American New Year and Rosh

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Hashanah is the tradition of spending time with friends and loved ones. Rosh Hashanah is a time to connect and reconnect with people who are important in our lives. It is a time to apologize to people we have hurt, and to forgive those who have hurt us. It is a time to remember loved ones who have died, and to enjoy time with those dear to us.

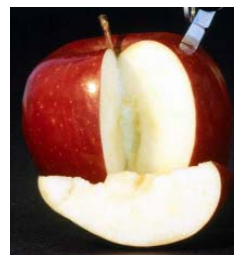
Apples Dipped in Honey

By Emily Puro

Eating sweet foods during Rosh Hashanah symbolizes our hope for a sweet year ahead. The most common sweet tradition is apples dipped in honey, which combines our hope for a sweet year (honey) with our hope for a "fruitful" or successful year (apples).

What You Need:

Apples
Honey
Bowl and plates



What To Do:

1. Core the apples and cut them into slices. Pour the honey in a bowl.
 2. Give each person a plate with some apple slices on it.
 3. Have each person dip the apple slices in honey as they eat them. You can give each person his or her own bowl of honey, or share one large bowl "family style."
- This can be a great opportunity to discuss what makes life "sweet." What does each member of the family or group enjoy most, and what are each person's hopes for the future?

Make Your Own Rosh Hashanah Greeting Cards

By Emily Puro

At Rosh Hashanah, many Jewish people connect with loved ones who live far away by sending New Year's cards. A card you make yourself holds special meaning because of the time and effort you put into it.

Whether or not you observe Rosh Hashanah

as the new year, sending a handmade card is a great way to say, "I'm thinking about you and I want you to know how important you are in my life."

An easy way to make a greeting card is to simply fold construction paper in half and color a picture on the front. You can also decorate the front with stickers, or glue on flower petals, leaves, feathers, glitter, etc.

Be creative. Try recycling old greeting cards by cutting out the pictures and gluing them on new cards. Make a collage using pictures from several old greeting cards to create a festive "Happy New Year" or "I'm Thinking Of You" card.



Make Beeswax Candles

By Emily Puro

Rosh Hashanah is a time to remember loved ones who have died, and one way to do that is to light a candle in their memory. Because honey is common in many Rosh Hashanah dishes, we combine the two traditions here to make candles out of beeswax. You can use the candles to honor loved ones, or simply to decorate a festive holiday table.

What You'll Need:

Sheets of beeswax in assorted colors

Scissors

Wicks (1" longer than the sheet of beeswax)

What To Do:

Lay a wick, which should be at least 1" longer than the sheets of beeswax, along the edge of one sheet of beeswax so that the wick sticks over the edge at least one inch (this will be the part you light). Bend the edge of the wax over the wick and press down, then roll the wax around the wick very tightly.

Try to roll it as evenly as possible. When the candle is rolled completely, smooth the seam with your thumb, and pinch the wax around the wick to hold the wick in place.

NOTE: Beeswax should be very soft at room temperature. If it feels stiff, warm it a little (be careful not to melt it) with a hair dryer.

Kids Holiday Crafts Mailing List



A free mailing list to talk about kid's crafts, what did and didn't work, and general announcements about the website. No membership needed!

Do you need craft supplies?

Stop by the Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine Shopping page for loads of craft supplies from MakingFriends.com at great prices!



8 Tips to Ease the Morning Blues

By Barbara Myers

The morning blues are usually caused by the evening didn't do's. A little preparation the night before can help you ease into your day. Here are some ideas to help.

1. Lay out complete outfits (including shoes and outerwear) for every household member each evening. Make sure everything is clean and presentable.
2. Have everyone take baths/showers at night to free up time and bathroom space in the morning. You can always wet your hair in the sink before styling.
3. Place breakfast dishes, cereals and cups on the table for breakfast after you clean up the

dinner dishes every night.

4. Pack lunches and set out lunch money.
 5. Have everyone prepare his or her briefcase, backpack and purse, and place them by the door.
 6. Install a key hook by the door and make sure your keys are on it.
 7. Keep the TV and radio off (unless you have a small child, then it can be a much-needed sitter while you get dressed). They're too distracting and can cause you to run late.
 8. Let the answering machine pick up the phone. You can screen calls and only answer the truly important ones.
- Have a stress-free morning tomorrow!

Plan a Family Dinner Night Tonight

By Rocky & Terri Morris

Whenever we have the chance to share our own story, a big part of what we tell revolves around spending time with our six children. Whether it's playing together, watching a movie or swimming at the beach, there's sure to be a fun time had by all!

One of our favorite times together is at the dinner table. And as you can imagine, it's usually quite packed. There have been times while living in tight quarters when we were forced to eat while sitting on the couch. And although that wouldn't be our first choosing, we've usually made it a requirement that we, at least, did it together.

As several of our children have now become teenagers our household is busier than ever, making it more difficult to plan things together

as a family. But still, one thing we have insisted on keeping as a family, besides worshipping together, is also eating together as often as possible. Think about it. You've got to eat and doing it together gives you another chance to accomplish several things.

1. **You are what you eat!** - We've all got to eat and you're nourishing your body. So make it as healthy as possible for everyone.
2. **Make it fun!** - Tell jokes, a story or the recap of everyone's day. In fact, you could even



Stay at Home Parents Mailing List

A free mailing list for parents who stay at home with their kids.

Chat about life and the trials of being at home, get sanity checks, and make new friends. Come join the fun!



make it an assignment that is rotated from person to person that they are responsible for the joke or story at the next dinner. Also, this can give you the chance to get caught up on schooling, work and upcoming events on the family calendar.

3. A place for everything and everything in its place - If you don't know already, learn and then teach your children the proper way to set a dinner table. That may sound like something so trivial. But it's nice to know.

4. Don't forget the etiquette - Elbows off the table. Chew with your mouth closed. Don't talk with food in your mouth. Good manners can go a long way and will follow your children throughout their adult life.

Perhaps you can only meet together one or

possibly two nights each week. If that's the case, make it something special. Turn it into an event. You could possibly take turns choosing the menu. Turn the preparation into a project. Start a tradition. Maybe Thursdays can be salad night and include several different kinds of toppings. Or how about Fridays being Build-your-own-potato night? Or how about Taco Tuesday or even Spaghetti Night Saturday?



Our family dinner nights are usually times of food, fun, fellowship and, of course, the building of stronger bonds together and we know yours can be as well. By the way, even when you choose to eat out at some fast-food joint, you can still make it an opportunity to do all these things.

We know if you'll start soon by shutting off the TV, firing up the cook-top and breaking bread together around your table, you, too, will strengthen your relationships and make memories that won't soon be forgotten. Try it tonight!

Making Breakfast Cool

By Nancy Cavanaugh

Does your child always give you a hassle about eating breakfast? Here are some quick and simple ways to make breakfast more interesting and more edible!

- Add berries to cereal to make it more colorful.
- Wrap sausage links up in pancakes and add an orange peel to the end to make "Pigs in Blankets."
- Fruit and whipped cream or ice cream make waffles delicious.
- Use a round roll mold to make two scrambled egg circles. Cut one circle in half then slightly round out the flat side. Put the halves around the whole circle to create a mouse. Use ketchup to make the face. Serve with slices of cheese.
- Make English muffin or bagel pizzas. Just toast slightly. Then add some pizza sauce and shredded mozzarella cheese. Put in a 350F oven until the cheese is melted.



Personalized First Aid Kit

Thanks go to Belinda of Troy, IL for this idea!

You need:

- Mini Storage Box
- Paint Markers
- First Aid and/or

Emergency Supplies: Band-aids, Antiseptic Cream, Safety Pins, Q-Tips, Needle & Thread, and Quarters

Instructions:

It's easy. Decorate the mini storage box with paint markers. Fill with supplies.



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Flowers for Mother

By Emily Puro

Mother's birthday was coming
to Big Forest Rock,
so the raccoon cubs gathered
for a family talk.

Brother raccoon cried out
in a voice loud and clear,
"We must not give Mom nuts
like we do every year.

"We must think of a gift
that is different and new.
I can't think of anything.
How about you two?"

They thought and they thought
and then after a while,
Sister said, "Flowers
always make Mother smile."

"Flowers, yes flowers!"
they shouted with glee.
"Let's go get the prettiest
flowers we see!"

So they walked through the woods
'til they came to a place
just loaded with flowers.
They started to race.

Right over a fence
to some daisies they ran.
Then they looked up and saw
a huge frying pan!

Mrs. Bulldog was holding it
over her head,
running right toward them
and here's what she said:

"Stay out of my garden!
Leave those flowers alone!"

Get out of my yard now
and go on back home!"

The cubs started running
and none of them stopped
'til they ran to the edge of the woods
and they dropped.

As Sister caught her breath,
still looking quite pale,
she said, "I know a store
that has flowers for sale."

So they went to the shop
just to check on the price,
And they saw a bright bunch
that was cheery and nice.

The flower shop lady,
with bouquet in hand,
said, "Yes, these are lovely.
Yes, these smell just grand!"

Then the flower shop lady
said just one thing more.
She said, "They're a bargain
at ten-eighty-four."

"Ten dollars and eighty-four cents?"
they all cried.
"We'd never save that much
as long as we tried!"

The children walked out
feeling low, low, low down.
They wondered what to do
as they wandered the town.

Then Brother Raccoon
spied a rose bush ahead.
"Roses are our
mother's favorite!" he said.

So he walked to the bush
and he smelled the sweet smell,
then he reached for a stem
and he yelled a loud yell!

"Hey! Those thorns scratched me!"
he cried with a moan.
"I guess we had better
leave roses alone!"

But Little Raccoon was
right there by his sleeve,
with his nose in a rose,
just refusing to leave.

"Those roses smell great.
We must get them for Mother,"
he said with a grin
to his sister and brother.

But as he bent closer,
a terrible thing!
A bee chose his nose
as the next place to sting!

OUCH!

As the children walked home
with their heads hanging low,
Little Raccoon saw something
in the grass down below.

"Dandelion flowers!
Now I have a hunch,"
he thought to himself,
and he picked a small bunch.

As he ran to tell
Sister and Brother the news,
the wind began blowing,
it blew and it blew.

It blew all the petals
of his flowers away
and he looked at the bare stems
and just had to say,

Raccoon Fun Facts

By Emily Puro

Have you ever seen a raccoon? You might see one in your own backyard!

Raccoons are among the most common wild animals found in cities and towns. In the wild, they live mostly in forests, but can also be found in wetlands and plains. As their



forest homes have been cut down or otherwise destroyed, raccoons have adapted well to living in urban areas (cities and towns).

- Raccoons are mammals, just like people (that means they have hair, are warm-blooded, and that babies drink milk from their mothers).

- Raccoons are among the most intelligent of wild animals.

- Raccoons are most active at night, but healthy raccoons also look for food during the day.

- Young raccoons sometimes wag their tails when they are happy.

- Raccoons are great climbers, but they are slow runners.

- Raccoons eat almost everything! They eat different things in different seasons, depending on what is available where they live. Corn and grapes are among their favorite fruit and vegetable crops, and garbage pails and outside pet dishes are very popular with raccoons living in urban areas (towns and cities).

- Raccoon babies can be called kits or cubs.

"WELL I KNOW NOW THAT THIS
REALLY IS NOT OUR DAY!"

The children sat down
and they started to cry.
What more could they do?
Just what else could they try?

The cubs sat there sobbing
and blowing their noses,
thinking of daisies,
dandelions, and roses.

When up walked Miss Squirrel.
Oh, what a surprise!
She said, "What's the problem?
Come on, dry your eyes."

The raccoons explained
why they felt so upset.
But Miss Squirrel just smiled
and said "Don't give up yet.

"You young ones will laugh
for not one of you knows
that the answer you seek
is right under your nose!"

The raccoon cubs looked puzzled.

They sat there, those three.
Then they saw a bright flower,
now how could that be?

Miss Squirrel smiled wide
and she said, "Just watch how
I turn tissue to flowers."
The cubs shouted, "Wow!"

She folded and twisted
and tore off the ends.
Then she fluffed up a flower
to give to her friends.

Then they all made some flowers
for a beautiful bouquet
to give their sweet mother
on her special day.

When they gave their dear mother
this wonderful gift,
her eyes filled with water,
she started to sniff.

"I'm so happy I'm crying,"
she said, her nose runny.
"Can you get me a tissue?"
Well that sure was funny!

Make Your Own Tissue Paper Flowers

By Emily Puro

To make tissue paper flowers like the raccoons, follow these easy directions.

Materials:

- Facial tissue, assorted colors
- Pipe Cleaners

Directions:

1. Lay out four pieces of facial tissue, one on top of the other (can be the same color or different colors).
2. Fold them "accordion style."
3. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the center of the folded tissues.



4. Fan out the tissue.
5. Tear off about one to two inches from each end of the tissue.
6. Carefully separate the four layers of tissue, fluffing each one to make a flower (it's OK if you tear the tissue a little).

NOTE: To make giant tissue paper flowers, substitute four to eight pieces of tissue paper (the kind you use when wrapping presents) for the facial tissue, and ribbon or string for the pipe cleaners. With these giant flowers, skip step 5 in which you tear off the ends.

Play it Safe on the Playground

Each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.

Make sure your children follow these rules:

Swings:

- Sit in the center of the swing; never stand or kneel.
- Hold on with both hands.
- Stop the swing before getting off.
- Walk way around the swing.
- Never push anyone else in the swing.
- Have one person in the swing at one time.
- Avoid swinging empty swings, and never twist swing chains.
- Avoid putting head and feet through exercise rings on the swing sets.

Slides:

- Hold on with both hands going up the steps of the slide, taking one step at a time; never go up the sliding surface of the frame.
- Slide down feet first, always sitting up
- Be sure no one is in front of the slide before sliding down.
- Be patient, avoid pushing or shoving.
- Leave the bottom of the slide after they have taken their turn.

Seesaws

- Sit facing each other, not leaning back.
- Keep a firm hold with both hands.
- Never stand or run on the board.
- Keep feet out from underneath the board as it descends.



Is the Playground Really Safe?

Use this checklist to determine if the playground is really safe for your children.

1. Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or are mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.
2. Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
3. Make sure play structures more than 30 inches high are spaced at least 9 feet apart.
4. Check for dangerous hardware, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.
5. Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.
6. Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
7. Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
8. Make sure elevated surfaces have guardrails to prevent falls.
9. Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
10. Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.

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Money Activities for 6-8 Year Olds

By Misty Weaver-Ostinato

At this age your child is beginning to understand what money can do. By planning activities and giving guidance when your child wants to buy something you can begin to teach them how to save and spend wisely.

Give your child money every week based on the responsibilities she has around the house. Then help her start setting goals.

Your child will need guidance on how to spend her money. Suggest alternatives that can help your child stretch her money, instead of buying that new book suggest a trip to the library.

Help your child set appropriate long term plans for her money. Your child should have short and long term goals to keep them motivated. A short term goal could be a new bike and a long term goal could be college savings.

A matching program is a great opportunity for a relative, such as an aunt or grandparent, to

offer support. They might consider matching money for that new bike. This is a great chance to teach your child about 401k's, how employers often match money for their employees to help them save for the future. This will increase the chances of your child taking advantage of all the investing opportunities that come their way in the future.



Reinforcing your child's desire to have and use money is important at this age. They are beginning to understand the power money has and they need to understand how to use that power. With your help they will be able to make money work for them far into the future!



Classic Crossing the Road Jokes

Q: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?

A: Because he didn't have any body to go with!

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?

A: To prove he wasn't chicken.

Q: Why did the turtle cross the road?

A: To get to the Shell station.



Q: Why wouldn't the skeleton cross the road?

A: Because he didn't have the guts!

Don't forget to click on the ads to go to the advertiser's site!

The Shape of Things

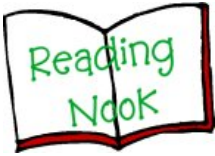
By Suzanne Miles

Here is a quick puzzle for little ones ages 4-5 years old. In the puzzle below can you find the name of the shapes?

DIAMOND RECTANGLE SQUARE
CIRCLE TRIANGLE

C	I	R	C	L	E	Q	E	T	C	A	L
T	S	T	R	I	A	N	G	L	E	I	R
R	Q	R	A	N	C	E	D	C	T	T	L
R	U	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	A	S	S
E	A	O	N	E	N	D	U	R	U	R	C
C	R	E	C	T	A	N	G	L	E	E	E
C	E	T	R	A	G	D	I	S	U	T	R





The Nut Tree

By Charles Langley

Earl Squirrel lived in a backyard with a beautiful nut tree. He loved to scamper up and down it and jump from limb to limb. In the Spring he watched the blossoms form and followed their progress as they turned to tiny nutlets and eventually to full size nuts.

When harvest time came he busied himself collecting nuts and stashing them in his storehouse for use as food through the coming Winter. Due to his efforts there were fewer nuts on the tree each day until finally just one beautiful nut remained on a limb at the very top of the tree. Earl tried several times to go out on the limb to retrieve the nut, but each time the limb began to bend and he backed off to keep from falling.

He realized that the nut would eventually fall of its own accord and decided to play it safe and wait for it on the ground. Each day he spent a time looking up at the nut and wishing. When the day he was waiting for came he sat watching the wind swing the nut back and forth.

Finally it let go and headed downward. Earl raised his paws to catch it, but it never reached him. Instead it disappeared from sight in the beak of a bird that swooped down to carry it

away.

Earl was very angry. He sat swishing his beautifully groomed tail to show his mood. First he was angry at the tree, but he thought better of that. How could he be angry with the generous source of all those stored goodies?

Then he was angry with the nut. But how could he blame the nut for hanging on until nature told it to let go?

He tried to be angry with the bird. Then he thought of all the nuts he had packed away while the bird managed to get just one.

He thought it over carefully. There were no two ways about it. He was a very lucky squirrel and had no room in his furry mind for anger at anyone. He put a squirrely smile on his stubbly handsome face and sat consider-

ing his good fortune.

Suddenly there was a loud "plop" and something landed in front of him. It was that last magnificent nut. The bird had realized he couldn't crack the hard shell and, not wanting to waste it, had dropped it at Earl's feet.

There is a moral to this story. All things come to him who waits, as long as he doesn't let anger cloud his vision of what is good luck and what is bad.



Constitutional Facts and Figures

- The United States Constitution is the oldest national constitution in the world.

- Twelve states participated in the Constitutional Convention; Rhode Island resisted the idea of a central government that might interfere in the state's internal affairs.

- Two delegates of the 39 delegates went on to become presidents of the United States --

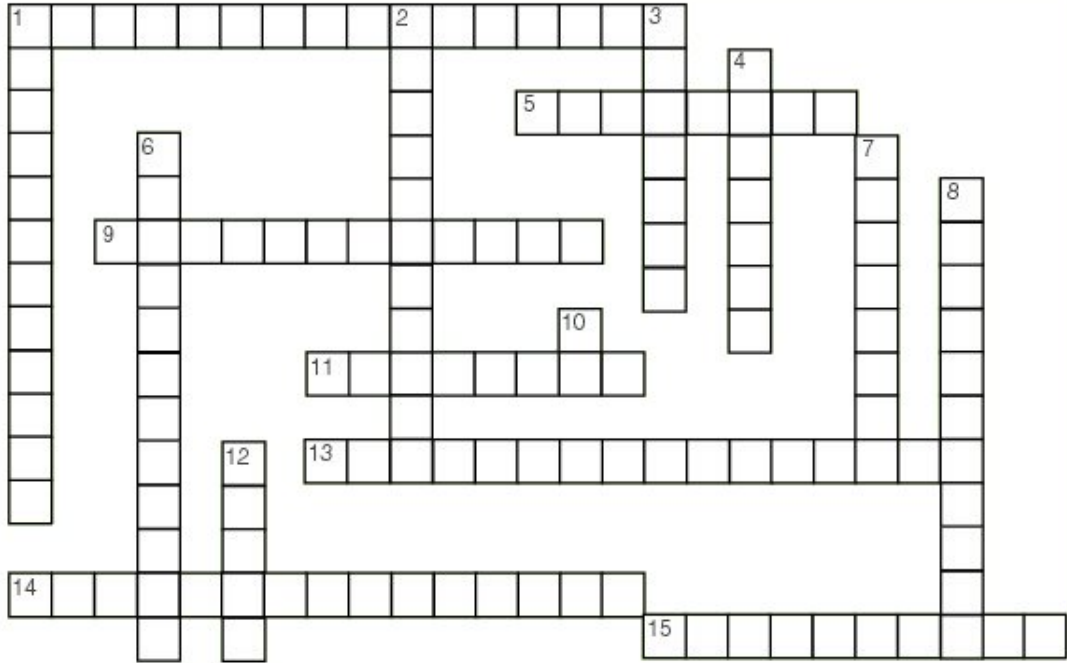
George Washington and James Madison.

- The Constitution was drafted in less than 100 working days.

- The original Constitution has had several homes. In 1814, it was moved to Leesburg, Virginia. During World War II it was kept at Fort Knox, Kentucky. In 1952 it was moved to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Celebrate the 7th Annual Constitution Day

The 7th annual nationwide celebration of Constitution Day will take place on September 17th. To help celebrate this most important day in the history of the United States we offer this crossword puzzle for kids in grades 6-8.



ACROSS

1. Place where the original Constitution can be viewed. (16 letters)
5. First state to ratify the Constitution. (8 letters)
9. Fearing tyranny from a strong central government, some states demanded this be added to the Constitution. (12 letters)
11. He is known as the "Sage of the Constitutional Convention." (8 letters)
13. These essays were written to defend and promote the ratification of the new Constitution. (16 letters)
14. Name given to the group who did not favor ratification of the Constitution. (15 letters)
15. This amendment was repealed. (10 letters)

DOWN

1. This state's signing ratified the Constitution. (12 letters)
2. State that did not send delegates to the Constitutional Convention. (11 letters)
3. The 13th Amendment abolished . (7 letters)
4. He introduced the Bill of Rights in the House of Representatives on June 8, 1789. (7 letters).
6. The Constitutional Convention met in this city. (12 letters)
7. The part of the Constitution where you find the phrase "in order to form a more perfect union." (8 letters)
8. Number of amendments to the Constitution. (11 letters)
10. Article that establishes the Constitution as the supreme law of the country. (2 letters)
12. The Nineteenth Amendment protects the voting rights of _____. (5 letters)

Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine is looking for writers. If you're interested, click here for the submission guidelines.

Fun Juicy Tomato Facts for Fall

By Melissa Markham

The tomato is the number one 'vegetable' that families buy today. However, it isn't really a vegetable, it is a fruit. Vegetables are the stems, leaves and roots of a plant that are eaten. Examples would be lettuce, carrots, and turnips. Fruits are the edible parts of a plant that contain the seeds for growing.

The tomato has been grown for 1,300 years.

The Aztecs and the Incas first grew it in South America. When the Spanish explorers came, they took the tomato back home to Spain. The tomato quickly became a popular ingredient in spaghetti sauce, lasagna, shish kabobs, chutneys, and Gazpacho soup.

In spite of its popularity in the Mediterranean countries of Italy, Spain, Greece and India, 200 years would pass before the American colonists would eat tomatoes. For some reason, by the time the tomato plant reached England and America, it was thought to be poisonous. The tomato plant was only grown to decorate yards and gardens.



In the early 1800s, Thomas Jefferson helped Americans to realize that the tomato wasn't poisonous. It became a popular ingredient in New England's seafood chowders and in New Orleans' gumbos and jambalayas. Tomato-based ketchup was created in the late 1800s, and is found in most American kitchens today.

The average American eats 17 pounds of tomatoes a year.

Tomatoes come in a wide-range of colors: red, pink, yellow, black and white. The best way to store a fresh tomato is to set it on a kitchen counter, stem side down out of the sun. The tomato will continue to ripen and will have its best flavor if

kept at room temperature.

The tomato is so well loved that there are several tomato festivals held in its honor around the world. The Thomas Jefferson Tomato Faire is held annually in August in Lynchburg, VA. La Tomatina occurs in Bunol, Spain every August as well. And then there is the Carmel, CA Tomato Fest that is held each September.

Kitchen Sink Sandwich

By Melissa Markham

Ingredients:

2 slices of bread
1 sun-warmed, ripe tomato, sliced
Mayonnaise
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Put some mayonnaise on the bread. Place tomatoes on one slice of bread and then salt and pepper to taste. Top with the other slice of bread. Eat over the kitchen sink while the juice runs down your arms to your elbows! YUM!

Vegetable or Fruit Pop Quiz

Here's a quick quiz. Circle whether the item on the left is a Fruit or a Vegetable. Answers are on the next page.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Carrot | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 2. Cucumber | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 3. Lettuce | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 4. Tomato | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 5. Cabbage | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 6. Apple | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 7. Potato | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 8. Orange | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 9. Radish | Fruit | Vegetable |
| 10. Onion | Fruit | Vegetable |



Emily Puro is a freelance writer and editor based in Portland, Oregon. As the mother of an active and imaginative preschooler, Emily appreciates the ideas and stories she

finds on the Kids Holiday Craft website and in the magazine and is proud to be a contributor. Contact Emily for writing or editing services at puroe@lycos.com.

Misty Weaver-Ostinato can be found at Moms-Budget.com (www.momsbudget.com). This article was provided by the Family Content Archives at: www.Family-Content.com

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Since returning to writing three years ago after a fifty-nine year hiatus, **Charles Langley** has written over one hundred short stories, articles, poems or columns for print magazines, ezines and books. Last year Gannett newspapers gave him a full page nationwide write-up about his days as cub reporter at the Hauptmann trial in Flemington, NJ, in 1935.

Suzanne Miles has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in art. She has taken children's writing courses with Barbara Seuling and is currently enrolled in the writing course at The Institute of Children's Literature. She is a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers

Answers to tomato quiz:
1,3,5,7,9,10 are vegetables
2,4,6,8 are fruits.

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Melissa Markham is a stay home mom, homeschooler, and writer. She lives in Virginia with her husband, 17 year old step son, 6 year old son, and 3 year old daughter. She has been published in Weeonesmagazine.com, Focus on the Family Clubhouse, Lighthouse Magazine, Story Art, Boys Quest, The Writer, The Willamette Writer, FellowScript, and The Working Writer. She is currently working on several fiction and nonfiction picture book manuscripts.

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Bear Pawsibilities

Are you a bear lover?
Then look no further!
Bear Pawsibilities has links to many sites selling collectible bears and supplies as well as an extensive list of free bear patterns to sew, knit, crochet and more. You can also meet Baby Ileana (left), my only collector bear.