

EXPECT SUCCESS



IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING DECEMBER

"Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful."

December marks the start of the winter season. Time to get out hats and mittens, snow pants and scarves-ready or not. Many are preparing to celebrate important family traditions and holiday gatherings. There is shopping to be done, cookies to be made, decorations to be hung. The hustle and bustle is contagious, but sometimes exhausting. In the hectic pace of the month, I would like to share some ideas for celebrating December and winter that have little to no cost but can be fun and relaxing. The suggestions below have been placed on coupons that can be cut out and placed in a jar for your child to pick on a weekend night or over winter break. Enjoy!



<p>NIGHT WALK OR NIGHT RIDE</p> <p>Go for a night walk to see the lights in your neighborhood or hop in the car and take a ride around town. Talk about the constellations and the holiday scenes.</p> 	<p>TENT CITY</p> <p>Creating a tent city in your living room is free and totally cool. Use sheets and blankets, chairs and furniture to set up the tents. Books make great weights to keep the tent in place. A sleepover on the floor may be a great way to end the night.</p> 
<p>FAMILY PUZZLE</p> <p>Jigsaw puzzles are great brain builders to exercise problem-solving strategies, visual skills, and tactile skills. If you don't have one in a closet, ask a friend or neighbor or visit a thrift store to buy a used one.</p> 	<p> SCAVENGER HUNT</p> <p>Fun for the young and old. It can be a simple hunt in your house using letters of the alphabet or leaving some clues. Or take a car ride scavenger hunt looking for items around town. Use your cell phone to snap a picture of each item to prove you found it. Invite some friends to add to the fun.</p>
<p> SNOWFLAKE CHAIN</p> <p>Paper snowflakes are easy to create and pretty to hang. Use any paper in the house (magazine pages and scrap paper bring color). Fold corner to corner making a triangle and cut designs on each side. Unfold to see what beauty has been made. Connect with tape to make a chain to hang in a window.</p>	<p>DEERFIELD CHAMBER EVENTS</p> <p>The Deerfield Chamber of Commerce has many family events planned. Check out the Festival of Trees Cookie Walk on December 7th on Main Street. Saturday, December 10th gingerbread house building starts at 3pm at the elementary along with horse drawn wagon rides. Top it off with a visit to Santa at the fire station on Sunday, December 11th.</p>
<p>HOMEMADE PIZZA</p> <p>Kids love pizza and making their own adds to the fun. Buy a bag of pizza crust mix and let them knead the dough. A small can of pizza sauce and shredded cheese will top it off. This is an easy meal to turn into some family fun.</p> 	<p>DEERFIELD SPORTING EVENTS</p> <p>Winter basketball and wrestling seasons are in full swing. Check the school website to see the dates and times of the many home events. Don't miss the discounts or "free" admission nights. It's a great way to show your child ways to be involved when they get to high school.</p>