

# Keep Your Kids Reading over the Holidays



As the holiday season moves into full swing and kids are home from school, it's easy to get lost in the preparation and forget to keep children on a regular reading schedule. Unfortunately, in many states, assessment tests are right around the corner.

One of the things kids look forward to in December is the academic downtime, but there's no reason why they can't keep their minds sharp during the holidays. And, believe it or not, they can have fun while doing it. **Reading doesn't have to mean sitting at a table with a boring school book for a set amount of time each day.** You can easily 'sneak' reading into daily activities. Here are a few tips that parents and guardians can use to sneak learning into the holidays at home:



- A. Have your children read **holiday cards** when they are received in the mail, and let them write a message in outgoing cards.
- B. Let children read **ingredients from holiday recipes** while you bake together. It's a great way for them to learn measurements and temperatures.
- C. Set aside time for kids to **"show off" their new reading skills to visiting relatives.** Children love being the focus of attention, and grandparents are usually more than willing to see their progress.
- D. **Make special holiday readings a tradition.** Find a special book and have each member of the family read from it at the same time each year.
- E. Even if books don't make your child's wish list, make sure you **give at least one as a gift**, and encourage them to read it.
- F. **Find books that focus on an interest your child has.** For example if they ask for a bike, find a book on Lance Armstrong, or a children's book that includes a bicycle adventure. There are books out there to suit every interest under the sun – it just takes a little browsing.
- G. **Talk to your kids** about the family's holiday traditions.
- H. **Encourage older children to read** with younger children.
- I. **Point to the words as you read** aloud to your child.
- J. **Encourage your child to read** (or pretend read) to you. **Applaud your child's efforts to read** and don't worry if your child does not read all of the words correctly.
- K. **Point out print in the child's environment:** on cereal boxes, food labels, toys, restaurants, and traffic signs.
- L. **Let your child see you reading** books, magazines, and newspapers.
- M. When watching television, **have the captioning feature turned-on so that your child can view the words while hearing them performed aloud.**



**Happy Holidays from the District Office!**