



Teaching Children Generosity: Getting & Giving During the Holidays

"What I found with more affluent families is that they were spending so much time and energy trying to provide the goods, and the good life for their children, they often neglected the effort to bring out the goodness in children."

-Robert Coles, *The Moral Intelligence of Children* (Random House, 1997)

As parents, it's natural for us to want to give our children the things we didn't have. And in today's world, it's often easy to confuse the wants of our children with their actual needs. Often we respond to every "I want" because we can and it makes us feel good, not necessarily because we should. Especially during the holidays, many of us tend to give generously to our children even those of us who typically practice moderation.

There are an infinite numbers of toys, games, and treats in today's world. And no matter how much our children have, they will always want more, and there will always be a friend who has more. How can we change this mindset and raise caring and giving children that know the importance of giving rather than getting? How do we avoid over spoiling our kids during the holidays? Here are some tips on how we can teach our children to moderate their wants, be thankful for what they have, and give to others.

[Read More...](#)



FROM THE WEB

[What Makes a Good Toy?](#)

[6 Activities for the Chilly Days Ahead](#)

[PRODUCT RECALLS FROM CPSC](#)

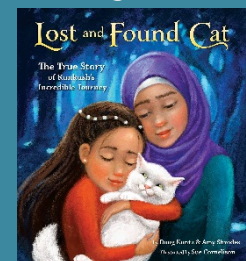
Information regarding recalls issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission

[Please review your home for these items.](#)

BRIGHT HORIZONS
FamilyMatters
WEBINAR SERIES

[VIDEO CLASSES & WEBINARS ON
PARENTING TOPICS](#)

Growing Readers



Title: Lost and Found Cat,

By: by Amy Shrodes and Doug Kuntz

The true story of a family fleeing Iraq and their determination to keep their beautiful white cat with them as they travel.

[Check out more Books of Excellence from
the Bright Horizons Growing Readers
Library.](#)



Infants

Language Works: Infants explore books in a different manner than preschool children. They explore books with their mouths, investigate the mechanics of books by turning pages back and forth, look at books with their eyes, manipulate moveable parts of books, or cuddle up to a caregiver to listen to a story. This hands on exploration of books helps to lay the foundation for later literacy and reading skills.



Toddlers

Well Aware: The small hill on the Toddler playground provides opportunities for children to challenge their large motor skills – whether walking or running up and down or by pushing the wagons and mowers over it. The hill is also often a gathering place for small groups of children to take advantage of the different perspective of the playground.



Twos

STEM: the Twos continue to explore and experiment with the magnetic tiles, they also continue to develop social skills through more cooperative play. We learn to take turns and be patient by waiting for someone to be finished with a tile that we would like to use. We learn to work together by taking turns to add tiles to the same structure



Preschool

Science Rocks: The Preschool class went to the STEM lab to explore the properties of candy canes. This inquiry stemmed from the observation that candy canes often turn white while they are being eaten. For the experiment, the children placed small pieces of candy in a cylinder of water and waited. After a few minutes the children noticed the water turning pink and the candy canes losing their stripes.



Kindergarten Prep

Language Works: The Kindergarten Prep children used magazines to facilitate conversations with peers. As they sorted through the magazines, they discussed the items they see and the different experiences they have had regarding some of the products. Discussion often revolved around food and drink and children's preferences. Through regular conversations, children learn to speak more fluently in past, present and future tenses.

Giving Gifts from the Heart

Have you considered that generosity is a learned behavior that delights the givers as well as the receivers? By making gifts and cards for others, children experience the intrinsic joy of giving something they have created.

It's easy for adults to decide what to make and which materials to use. But remember, this is an offering from children. Within the realm of available resources, help them develop their ideas. Inspire their thoughts about the recipient. "What do you think you'd like to make for Aunt Alice?" "What does she like to do?" Remember, it's what children create that counts; suggest they draw pictures and dictate their sentiments.

In addition to family and friends, think about people beyond those we typically hold near and dear to us. Cards, artwork, and crafts made by children are a heartfelt way to say you care and show appreciation to military personnel, firefighters, police officers, librarians, residents in nursing homes, and others in the community.

Children are very resourceful and might have their own ideas for gifts. Below are a few simple gift suggestions to consider:

Picture frames

Children glue four wooden tongue depressors together to make a frame and then decorate the frame with paint, and add recycled materials such as odd puzzle pieces, small pieces of paper or fabric, and twigs. Be aware of choking hazards with young children.

Decorative boxes

Children paint recycled or purchased wooden/cardboard boxes and then decoupage photographs from magazines or photos of themselves onto the surfaces.

Sculptures

Children can create sculptures using commercial or home-made clays, wood, or recycled objects. Be sure to have lots of glue on hand.

Paper holders

These might be as simple as finding a unique rock, painting it, and using glue to attach a clothespin. A second option is to glue wood scraps together, paint the sculpture and add one or two clothespins to the top.

Planters

Children paint pots and use Mod Podge (purchased at a craft shop) to attach colorful tissue paper (cut into small squares). Another option is to use photographs and pictures from magazines.

Jewelry

Children make necklaces or bracelets by stringing commercial or homemade beads. They can create pins by gluing found objects (such as loose puzzle pieces or Legos) to a pin back and painting over the creation.

2019 Parent Satisfaction Survey

We value your feedback!

Each year, we ask families to give us important feedback and opinions about our center. This information helps us assess our strengths, and identify areas for improvement. We are truly committed to providing the highest quality education for your child and we believe that every opinion counts.

The survey is available from January 2nd – 31st. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts!

brighthorizons.com/parentsurvey

Featured Parenting Podcast Episode

Building Your Parenting Village



Overwhelmed by working parenthood? Stop trying to do it all alone. “People say I need help, but I don’t know where to get it,” says our guest Daisy Dowling. Get Daisy’s tips on who to ask for help, how to rally your village of volunteers, and why her secret isn’t doing more — but getting more done.

Ep. 22: Building Your Parenting Village

brighthorizons.com/bhpodcastep22

Bright Horizons at Argonne Child Development Center

9700 S. Cass Ave., Building 952, Lemont, IL 60439

630-252-9601 | argonne@brighthorizons.com

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

