

Winter 2012

Choices in care, education, and support.



Important dates:

December 4- 2:00 Story

Time at the Library

December 6- 10:30 am

Play & Learn at our
office

December 27- Office

closed for the Holidays.

December 31- New Year's

Eve Party 6:00 pm Turtle

Rock Park

January 3- 10:30 am Play

& Learn at our office

February 7- 10:30 am Play

& Learn at our office.

New California Car Seat Law

Effective January 1, 2012 children under the age of 8 years OR less than 4 feet 9 inches must ride in a booster seat, in the back seat.

These recommendations are based upon safety studies related to the position of the belt and the height of the passenger. For added safety- although the law has an age listed, keep your kids in a belt positioning booster seat until they meet the minimum recommended height. *Please note: law only requires boosters for children under 8 years OR under 4 feet 9 inches.*

California Law Requiring Carbon Monoxide Devices

On May 7, 2010, Senate Bill 183 was enacted into law and is known as the *Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act*. This act applies to existing housing as well as new construction. It covers every "dwelling unit intended for human occupancy" and requires dwelling units to install a carbon monoxide alarm.

This law became effective July 1, 2011. All other dwelling units (such as apartments) must have proper carbon monoxide detectors installed no later than January 1, 2013.

Please note, special carbon monoxide alarms or devices aren't necessary. Carbon monoxide alarms can be purchased in most retail stores for around \$20-\$40. For more information on these requirements, visit the website of the State Fire Marshal, <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>.

Back to Basics Holiday Fun

Resist the commercialism and high pace of the holidays. Take time to connect with family while creating holiday decorations. It's easy, it's inexpensive, it's relaxing, it's fun!

Salt Dough

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 cup cold water

In a large bowl mix salt and flour. Gradually add water and mix. Knead dough. Roll into 1/8" thick pieces. Cut shapes with cookie cutters or butter knife. Place shapes on wax paper. Use a straw to make a hole for hanging. Allow shapes to dry a day or two, turning them over periodically to speed up drying. Place in oven at 200 degrees to dry more quickly. Cover with aluminum foil if they begin to brown.

Variations: Add food coloring or paint to the water to make a colored dough. Or add glitter glue or paint and embellishments to the dough after it dries. Seal painted objects with a clear spray or varnish to keep them looking great year after year.



Cinnamon Ornaments

1 1/2 cups ground cinnamon
1 cup applesauce
1/4 cup white school glue (like Elmer's)



1. Mix cinnamon, applesauce, and glue together in a bowl. The dough should be as thick as cookie dough. Add a bit of water if the dough is too stiff.
2. Remove from bowl and knead. Put it back in the bowl, cover with plastic wrap, and let sit for at least a half hour.
3. Remove the dough, knead again to make sure it's smooth. Flatten/roll the dough between waxed paper until it's between 1/4" thick and 1/8" thick.
4. Cut out desired shapes, use a straw to punch a hole for the ribbon to hang.
5. Gently place the shapes on a piece of clean wax paper. They will take 3-5 days to dry, and you will need to turn them over a couple of times a day for them to dry evenly and flat.
6. When dry, thread a piece of ribbon or yarn through the hole to hang.

Variations - use acrylic paints or fabric paints to paint details, like white 'frosting' on a gingerbread man or gingerbread house, or eyes on a reindeer.

Graham Cracker Houses with Royal Icing



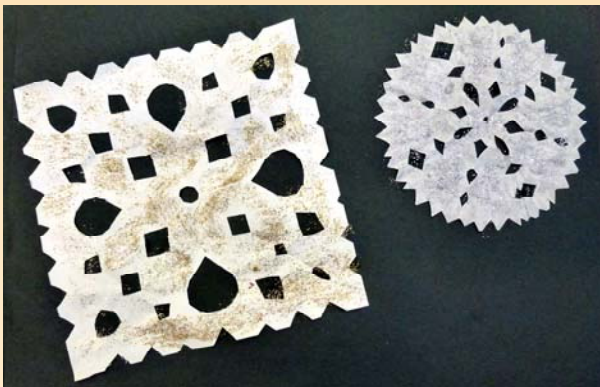
Ginger bread houses with graham crackers, candy and royal icing. Quick, easy and relatively inexpensive.

3 Tablespoons meringue powder
4 cups powdered sugar
6 Tablespoons water

Beat all ingredients on low speed with an electric mixer for 7-10 minutes or until icing forms peaks. Keep icing covered with a wet kitchen towel at all times. It dries out easily. Create a pastry bag by loading a sandwich bag with icing and cutting a small hole in one of the bottom corners.

Paper Snowflakes

White paper and scissors are all that are needed for these timeless winter decorations. Place in window or string together for a festive banner. Use white paper muffin liners for daintier snowflakes. Paint with glitter glue for extra eye appeal.



Holiday Garland

A package of construction paper is all you need for holiday garland. Make the traditional paper chain.



Use circles and glue two between a long piece of string and keep going until you have the length you want.



Cut triangles and hang point down and spell out a message with a letter on each triangle. If you staple the triangles together they will rotate slightly and allow flexibility in hanging.



Storytime at the Library

Sunday, December 4th
2:00pm

Cookie decorating

Holiday crafts

Pictures with Santa (bring your camera)

Hosted by: Friends of the Library
The Alpine County Chamber of Commerce
& Choices for Children



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Our mission is to enrich children's lives through innovative support, education, and enhanced family and provider services. Our programs put families at the center of a community of support services.