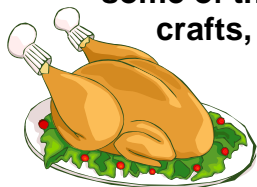


## Holiday and Vacation Activities for Parents and Kids

Stumped for ways to keep your kids busy during vacations and holidays? Look at some of these Internet sites. There's a wealth of free coloring sheets, games, crafts, recipes, that can be printed and used.



If you don't have access to the Web, or if you have trouble getting to the right pages, ask your local library staff to help.

\* Reading Is Fundamental, Parents section: <http://www.rif.org/parents/> The site also has actual calendars with ideas for every day. One section is a list of activities for summer good year-round. [http://www.rif.org/parents/articles/what\\_can\\_families\\_do.msp](http://www.rif.org/parents/articles/what_can_families_do.msp). On this page, <http://www.rif.org/parents/activities/>, you can search for activities according to age. For example, you can search for Rainy Day Activities for kids 5 to 8 and get an inventory of ideas.



\* The PBS site links to special pages for each of the PBS kids' shows. There are downloadable coloring sheets. The Arthur site has downloadable activities, like guides to make paper hats, a play, etc. <http://www.pbskids.org>

\* For activities that include a broad menu of ways adults can have fun and help children learn, try some hints from the U. S. Dept of Education, compiled according to age <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/CheckFamilies/index.html>.

\* This site, sponsored by the Kansas Dept. of Education, has a pages full of kids' activities. <http://readyforlearning.net> Click on any of the categories at the left, then select "activities" under the topic. You'll have to do some exploration to decide what fits your needs. For example, in one December activity, the parent helps the child decorate 25 envelopes, put a piece of candy in each, then hang them on string as a way to count the days.



\* Kidsource Online also has lists. This specific page is labeled "summer" but could be used any time <http://www.kidsource.com/education/summer.activities.art.html> Another section goes day by day in the summer, but also could be used in winter, and a December calendar has day-by-day preschool activities. Get a sample at <http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content2/summertime.fun.html>

\* Another federal program from previous years, Read\*Write\*Now," still contains a great deal of wonderful activities for adults to work with kids, catalogued by age birth to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. <http://www.ed.gov/Family/RWN/Activ97/index.html>

\* The Crayola web site has lots of stuff you can download and do, not just coloring sheets. For example, a search for "Christmas" results in this page with Bingo cards and crossword puzzles. Or search for "Summer" or a current holiday. <[www.crayola.com/](http://www.crayola.com/)>

\* Country Crafts at <<http://home.att.net/~DLeddy/>> has ideas for kids as well as adults.



\* Do It Yourself Network lets you search for both children's projects and children's crafts on the crafts page. <[www.diynetwork.com/diy/crafts](http://www.diynetwork.com/diy/crafts)>

\* Make Stuff is another crafts site, and it has special section for children, as well as some recipes. For example, there's one for a paper bag reindeer puppet. <[www.make-stuff.com/kids/index.html](http://www.make-stuff.com/kids/index.html)>

\* The Idea Box site now is heavily commercial. However, if you continue on into the site, you'll find recipes that kids can help with.

<[www.theideabox.com/ib.php?web=ideasbytype&type=Recipe](http://www.theideabox.com/ib.php?web=ideasbytype&type=Recipe)>

\* Enchanted Learning has not only English activities, but also Spanish! Many are geared toward a formal learning situation and require membership; but certainly parents and homecare providers can use some resources and adapt these. There are even downloadable, easy-to-read booklets. <[www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html)>



\* Family Fun Magazine has a companion website with crafts, recipes, party activities, travel, on and on, searchable by age. <[www.familyfun.go.com](http://www.familyfun.go.com)>



Two of the most fun things to do at holiday time are also the easiest:

(1) Make a book (with your child or ask an older sibling to work with a younger) using pictures cut from magazines OR drawing pictures, adding a few lines of a simple story.

(2) Do something to share with others--make a book for a neighbor child, take candy to seniors' residence, collect cans and donate money to Salvation Army.

**REMEMBER, libraries have FREE books and activities year-round.**  
**Check our website for more resources—telephone stories, Spanish, etc.**  
**<[www.cde.state.co.us/ca'elib/Childrens\\_Literacy\\_Resources.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/ca'elib/Childrens_Literacy_Resources.htm)>**

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For information, contact 303-866-6900.

