

News Notes

A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant
Cognitive Disabilities
Educational Equity for All



December 2018



Interactive Sites for Education

This useful site curates activities from all over the Web. Search by holiday or season (Christmas, Hanukkah, or Winter) and then browse a selection of fun games and activities. Kids can "Add with Santa," play "Tic-Tac-Dreidel," or "Create a Snowflake."

<http://interactivesites.weebly.com/holidays.html>



ActivityVillage.co.uk

Kwanzaa Activities

Celebrating Kwanzaa with the kids? We've got information, some fun colouring pages, puzzles, worksheets and other printables to make your celebrations special!

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/kwanzaa>



101 Hanukkah Activities for Kids

"Crafts and other experiential activities, besides for being fun, imprint unforgettable memories in young children that are likely to remain positive associations long after and into adulthood."

<https://www.care.com/c/stories/3633/101-hanukkah-activities-for-kids/>

Winter Holidays



Be accurate
and sensitive

Religious and cultural holidays offer excellent opportunities to teach about culture, religion and their historical importance. During the winter season and especially in December, we celebrate:

- Chanukah (depending on the Hebrew calendar),
- Winter Solstice (December 21),
- Christmas (December 25),
- Kwanzaa (December 26),
- Three Kings Day (January 6) and
- Ramadan (depends on Islamic calendar and periodically aligns with winter holidays--next time is 2030).

School related activities should focus on more than one holiday. In order to avoid student discomfort, do not put children on the spot and ask them to explain their own religious practices or observances or to bring religious objects to class as a basis of discussion. On the other hand, children and families who volunteer to share information about the holidays they observe, and their traditions associated with the holiday can be a welcome addition to classroom discussion. Before allowing a student or adult family member to present information about their holiday observances, it is advisable to consult with your principal or administration regarding any related school or district policies.

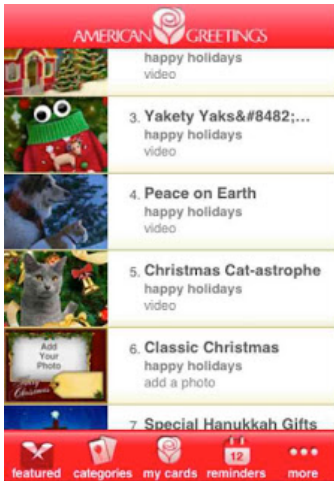
Be aware that some religions teach that celebrating holidays and birthdays is unacceptable. Children should always be permitted not to participate and should have the opportunity to engage in other optional, enjoyable activities.

Remember to be inclusive and don't make assumptions. Notify parents of your holiday celebrations in case they have concerns. <https://goo.gl/gz99dp>

EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



American Greetings eCard

Fantastic free app! Great videos to watch & include. Must be online to use videos. *Ideas:* Watch the video and comment, narrate, etc. before completing the card.

itunes app.

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or some combination of holidays, these events offer rich opportunities for building language in people who use AAC.

<http://practicalaac.org/practical/holiday-photos-in-aac-learning-3-ideas-for-using-them-to-build-language/>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/ZrNJNP>

<https://goo.gl/85y2in>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/winter-holiday-activities-6874>

<https://www.teachingtraveling.com/2015/11/17/free-travel-for-teachers/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Texas Project FIRST
Families, Information, Resources,
Support & Training
Free Online Learning

<https://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/265>



10 (Non-Tech) Holiday Gift Ideas to Promote Kids' Language, Learning

The holidays provide an ideal opportunity to get back to the basics in childhood play and use them to foster communication and social interaction. Enjoy these ideas for low(er)-tech holiday gifts to do just that.

1. Traditional toys,
2. Books
3. Board, card and conversation-based question games
4. Costumes and other dress-up accessories
5. Building toys, blocks and crafts
6. Outdoor toys
7. Puzzles
8. Cooking supplies
9. Crayons, colored pencils, coloring books
10. Tickets to child-friendly shows

<https://blog.asha.org/2016/11/29/10-non-tech-holiday-gift-ideas-to-promote-kids-language-learning/>

Songs for Teaching

Using Music to Promote Learning

Educational Songs for a December Theme Unit Music Suggestions for the Month of December.

The educational songs on this page are compiled from a variety of different artists and albums. We have grouped them together to help you narrow your search.

These December songs for children teach about winter weather, Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa.

<https://www.songsforteaching.com/themeunits/decembersongs.htm>



We have downloadable packs of **quality teaching materials**, including **child-friendly eBooks**, **differentiated activity resources** and **classroom display materials** covering a wide range of subjects and topics.

- Thousands of Resources
- Differentiated Printables
- Many of our resources are available at different levels of difficulty, so you can choose the ones that match the age and ability levels in your classroom.
- Time-Saving Materials
- Unlimited Downloads
- Free Updates for a Year
- Support in our Forum
- Member Treats

All Teaching Packs members also have access to special freebies and discounts from other educational providers. Our current list of treats includes discounts for BrainPOP, Paperzip resources, Third Space Learning, Alan Peat books, Mathsticks+ and Storytime magazines.

FREE preview packs of teaching resources!

<https://www.teachingpacks.co.uk/join/>