

Brrrrrr! December has come in snowy! What a time the children had playing in that first snow of the season! Close your eyes and remember when you loved the cold and the snow as much as your children. Go outside and enjoy an afternoon with them. When you're cold and ready to come inside have a book ready. Cuddle up and read. Your children will always remember the fun they had with you!

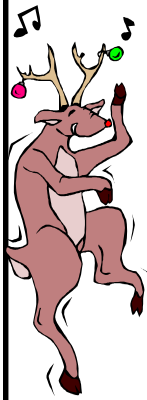
Be sure to read with your children and have them see you read. The more we read, the more they read.

Ideas for the month: Quick & Easy Recipes

Hot Cocoa Mix

1 box 8 qt. dry milk 1 lb Nestle Quik
1 jar (6-10 ounce) Cremora or powdered cream 1 cup powdered sugar

Mix together and store in tight fitting container. Mix 1/3 cup of mix with one cup of hot water.



Reindeer Food

1/2 cup granola 10 peanuts 20 raisins
5 chocolate chips 15 M&M's

Add the ingredients together into a bag and shake.

How to Feed the Reindeer: It's the night before Christmas and you know what to do. You're going to treat Santa, but feed those reindeer too! Wait until Christmas Eve. Open bag and sprinkle Reindeer Food on the lawn. Hop into bed. Listen for Santa. Close your eyes and wait for morning!

Dial-A-Story - Bloomington Public Library's Dial-A-Story can be heard in either **English or Spanish**. The program works by calling 827-4636 on a touch tone phone. After the opening message, enter 1111 for English or 4444 for Spanish. Dial-A-Story is available 24 hours.

Below are book ideas for the month. You can find these books (and more!) at one of the public libraries or even at your school library. Please take advantage of the libraries. Books make WONDERFUL presents!



Winter Eyes by Douglas Florian

Wild Horse Winter by Tetsuya Honda

Who Will Guide My Sleigh Tonight? by Jerry Pallota

Snowmen at Christmas by Caralyn & Mark Buehner

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert

A Very Special Snowflake by Don Hoffman

Where Do Snowmen Go? by Lisa Funari-Willever

Horrible Harry and the Christmas Surprise by Suzy Kline

My child brings a book home every night. What do I do?

- Look at the cover. Discuss the picture and predict what the story might be about.
- Take a picture walk. Go page by page and discuss the pictures, predicting what might be happening in the story. ****Don't read the words yet!****
- Relate to personal stories (example: If the book is about cats, ask what they know about cats).
- Read the title together. (Kindergarten Parent – count the words and letters in the title.)
- Turn to the title page and read the title again. The child can read the word “by” then you read the name of the author. Ask them what the author does. Then do the same thing with the illustrator.
- Read the book one page at a time. (Kindergarten and first grade parents – Make sure your child is tracking the print using their “pointer” finger.)
- After you have “read” through once, figuring out the story, go back and see if their predictions were correct, how the story differed, etc.
- Then read the whole story through one more time fluidly.
- Discuss the story. What happened? Sequence of events, characters, etc.
- Relate to personal stories.

Websites of the Month

www.familyfun.com ~ This website has recipes, printables and crafts.

www.readingrockets.org ~ This website has information on helping your child with reading.

Attached please find the December issue of Building Readers.
There are many ideas to help you and your child.

There is only one pretty child in
the world, and every mother has it.

~ Chinese Proverb

Idea For Family Conversation

From KidTalk Conversation Cards

In the ballet *The Nutcracker*, the Nutcracker is a toy soldier who comes to life and takes Clara on a wonderful trip to the Land of the Sugar Plum Fairies. Pinocchio is the story of a wooden marionette made by a toy maker, Geppetto, and what happens when he comes to life.

If one of your favorite toys could come alive for one day, which toy would you choose? What would you want to do with that toy?

Have a wonderful December! Please read with and to your children and read as a family. Just 10 minutes a day will make such a difference! If you have any questions about Title I, please feel free to contact your child's Title I teacher or Terri Daugherty, Title I Family Coordinator, at 452-0907 or daughets@unit5.org.

