

# “Holidays” Extension Activities - December 2020

*Parents, did you know that making crafts, cooking, and playing games with your kids helps them to develop many different skills that they need to be successful in school and beyond?*

**Make a paper bag candle holder** – Work on some fine motor skills. Use a hole punch and scissors to build up muscles. Let your child work on opening the bag and turning on the battery-operated tea lights! Monitor your child as they will likely be tasks that they will need help with and those tea lights have small batteries. Candles are a nice warm glow that are calming in our cold environment.

**Make a holiday treat!** It doesn't have to be fancy, just some special treat that is special to you and your family. Talk about why this treat is special. What do you like about it? Is it salty, sweet, sticky, gooey...??? Let your child help pour, mix, measure, and cut (plastic knives can be a safe alternative to cut dough...) with your assistance. Allow for a bit of mess and have fun together! All these skills are life skills that your child will regularly use someday!

**Get outside.** There is so much fun to have on a winter day. Go for a walk and look at lights. On a sunny day, squint your eyes and move your head back and forth while looking at the snow. Do you see sparkly diamonds in the snow? Use a sled or a flattened cardboard box to slide down a hill. How did you like to play in the snow when you were small? Tell your child that story.

**Sing out loud.** Kids love to move and sing to songs like Jingle Bells. Let them bang on a bucket or pot, or shake bells or other instruments while you both dance and sing. Keeping the beat and hearing high and low sounds are important for language development. Get jingling!

**Read a book!** Snuggle up under some warm blankets and read a special holiday book. Reading about different holidays allows your child to learn some new and different vocabulary that isn't used at any other time of the year. The library has lots of holiday items to choose from, and membership is free! Ask for assistance from one of our knowledgeable staff members. They would love to help.

*Send your pictures, ideas or comments, to Lac La Biche County Libraries at [www.llbcl.ca](http://www.llbcl.ca)! We would love to hear from you!!!*

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