
I N S I G H T S

FOR FAMILIES



Resources for winter break



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INSIGHTS FOR FAMILIES is provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education. Insights is produced by Marcia Latta, communications consultant.

Throughout late fall and winter, schools are closed for a series of holiday and in-service breaks. Some students are out of school for as much as a week at Thanksgiving, two weeks or more for winter break, and several days in between for grading days, snow days and holidays starting with Veterans Day and ending with President's Day.

This time off doesn't have to break learning momentum. Think of it as a chance for supplemental learning. You can keep your kids engaged in academics even when they are not in school.

There are many resources on the Internet that can help you fill those long winter days when school is out. Start with a search for winter break activities.

Here are some options to get you started:

FamilyEducation.com

Subscribe to the email newsletter at family education.com The free subscription gets you immediate access to a printable download of winter activities for kids that includes instructions for a winter scavenger hunt, coloring pages and crafts for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

<http://printables.familyeducation.com/winter/childrens-art-activities/64866.html>

Yahoo Voices: voices.yahoo.com

Yahoo voices lists several posts for winter break activities.

Top 10 Educational Winter Break Activities for Elementary and Middle Schools (*<http://voices.yahoo.com/top-10-educational-winter-break-activities-elementary-6966556.html?cat=4>*) has links to related content that includes:

- Fun and Educational Winter Break Activities that Keep Your Kids Learning
- Winter Break Activities to Keep Your Child's Science Skills Sharp and Ready for Learning
- Winter Break + Math Activities = Keeping Math Skills Sharp

No Time for Flash Cards

For a list of simple activities you can do in or around your own house, check out 31 things for kids to do during winter break.

www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/12/31-things-for-kids-to-do-during-winter-break.html

Check events in your area

Don't forget to search for activities and events in your area. Some communities have library programs, camp activities and other organized events especially for children during school breaks.

Don't forget safety

School breaks, especially the prolonged break at winter, require some thought to keeping children safe. Cold weather, unattended time at home while parents work and the chaos of a crowded mall during holiday shopping all pose safety risks for children.

Parenting.com

Must-know winter health & safety tips

www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/12/07/winter.health.safety.parenting/index.html

Check out this refresher for a variety of winter concerns.

- Staying safe in cold weather
- Age-appropriate winter sports
- Managing cold and flu symptoms
- Keeping skin healthy during cold weather
- Dressing for weather

Safelyeverafter.com

Internet Safe-Smarts Tip Sheet for Kids

www.safelyeverafter.com/internet_tips_kids.html

During school breaks, students may spend more time online. This site has tips for parents and students. These tips are in the form of a contract for the student Internet user, and include agreements, such as:

- Not giving out personal information.
- Never agreeing to meet any contacts who are online only in person
- Never sending a picture to anyone without telling parents first.
- Never sharing passwords with anyone but parents.

FamilyEducation.com

Expert Advice: Strangers and Safety during the Holidays

<http://life.familyeducation.com/safety/stranger-safety/59187.html>

During the busy holiday season, children can become separated from parents while shopping or may be at risk for greater “stranger danger” in public places. These tips, also from SafelyEverAfter.com, were posted by family education.com.

- Make sure your child stays close enough for you to see him or her.
- Dress your young child in bright clothing to be able to spot them easily.
- If they become separated, teach them to find a “safe stranger” for help, a mom with kids or a cashier. Older kids should know a place to meet.
- Be sure that your child knows never to leave the building to go looking for you.
- Don't leave children along in public places such as arcades, movie theatres, play areas, etc.
- Bring your children into the restroom with you. For older children of the opposite gender, wait outside and call in that you are right there if they need you.
- Be sure your child knows your cell phone number.