



## OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TODAY'S FAMILY LEARNING TIP



Educating & Empowering Families

### December

- 1 December 1 is World AIDS Awareness Day. Help your child learn more about this disease and the progress researchers have made toward a cure by visiting [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org) together.
- 2 Have your teenagers started practicing for their driver's licenses yet? Check out [www.mva.maryland.gov/drivers/rookie-driver/](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/drivers/rookie-driver/) for information about Maryland's three-stage licensing system.
- 3 There's a mystery to solve, and it's playing out on stage! Learn who's wearing out the princesses' shoes at the Pumpkin Theatre's *The Dancing Princesses*. For more information, go to [www.pumpkintheatre.org](http://www.pumpkintheatre.org).
- 4 How are your teenager's college applications coming along? Check in and offer your support. Do any essays need to be edited? Does his or her résumé need to be proofed?
- 5 It's almost time for the holidays! Get your family in the holiday spirit by going to the train garden at the Fire Museum of Maryland. Learn more at [www.firemuseummd.org](http://www.firemuseummd.org).
- 6 Whether it's for clothes, food, or something else, shopping is a great way for your child to practice working with budgets, decimals, and fractions. The next time you go shopping, be sure to take your child with you!
- 7 Who doesn't love receiving letters in the mail? Encourage your children to write letters to family members or friends and then visit the post office together to send them!
- 8 It's the season of giving, but that doesn't mean you need to spend a lot! Help your children brainstorm handmade gift ideas or check out [www.parents.com/holiday/christmas/crafts/holiday-gifts-kids-can-make/](http://www.parents.com/holiday/christmas/crafts/holiday-gifts-kids-can-make/).
- 9 You're invited! Bring your family to Oregon Ridge Nature Center's Holiday Celebration for an evening of decorating and other festivities. Go to [www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org](http://www.oregonridgenaturecenter.org) for more.
- 10 It's Human Rights Day. With younger children, talk about what human rights are. With older children, discuss global challenges to human rights and what they can do to help.
- 11 Plan a family game night that's as fun as it is educational by asking your child to read the directions for a new board game.



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- 12 Poinsettias are everywhere this season, which means it's easy to find some to draw! Try drawing these flowers with your child. Do you notice anything about the poinsettias' petals? They're actually modified leaves! Here are some more facts <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poinsettia>.
- 13 Knitting can be a lot of fun, once you get the hang of it. Teach your children how to knit – or learn how to do it with them! – at [www.imaginationsoup.net/2014/10/09/teaching-kids-knit/](http://www.imaginationsoup.net/2014/10/09/teaching-kids-knit/).
- 14 A lot of books have been made into movies and vice versa. Check out one set, like the story of Rapunzel and the film *Tangled*, with your child and discuss your thoughts. How were they similar and different?
- 15 Today is Bill of Rights Day. The Bill of Rights is a list of 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Can your children name all 10? Here's the first: the right to free speech. Check out the rest at [www.billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/](http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/).
- 16 Does your family speak another language – or is it learning to? Check out the International Children's Digital Library at [www.en.childrenslibrary.org](http://www.en.childrenslibrary.org) for books from around the world.
- 17 Do your children have any parties coming up? Or are they just excited for the new year? Either way, encourage them to make a countdown. It'll boost their excitement and help them practice their math skills!
- 18 Has your family made cookies for the holidays yet? Go to [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com) or another recipe website for free – and delicious! – ideas.
- 19 Whom does your child admire? Encourage your child to learn more about that person by writing a short biography for him or her. Your child can conduct an interview or do research online!
- 20 Caroling is a fun way to connect with your community and celebrate winter. Teach your little ones some songs from [www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/winter/songs](http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/winter/songs) and then go caroling.
- 21 Today is the winter solstice. What's a solstice, and what does it have to do with the sun? Challenge your children to find out!
- 22 Winter break begins at the end of the school day today, but that doesn't mean your children have to stop learning! Go to [www.todaysparent.com/family/activities/50-essential-winter-activities/](http://www.todaysparent.com/family/activities/50-essential-winter-activities/) for winter learning ideas!
- 23 Do your children like science? Are they interested in engineering? Then let them check out NASA Quest Challenges, free science and engineering interactives for students, at [www.quest.nasa.gov](http://www.quest.nasa.gov).



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- 24 Are your children ready for some holiday math? Have them listen to the song “Twelve Days of Christmas” and then total up the gifts. How many did they get?
- 25 Latkes, or potato pancakes, are often an important part of meals during Hanukkah. Sufganiyot are, too. Do your children know what sufganiyot are? Challenge them to find out!
- 26 This year marks the 50th celebration of Kwanzaa, a holiday whose name is derived from Swahili. Do your children know what Kwanzaa translates to in English? Help them find out by going online!
- 27 When there’s no snow outside, your children can make some inside! Using paper or coffee filters, help them cut out snowflakes to make a winter wonderland indoors!
- 28 Your children probably learned the Pledge of Allegiance in school, but do they know about its history? Help them find out by visiting [www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/pledge.htm) together.
- 29 *Mad Libs* are not only fun; they also help teach children grammar. Visit the library to check out a copy or create your own at home by writing a story with nouns, adjectives, and other words
- 30 Have your children ever tried acting? It’s not only fun but a great way to practice memorization skills. Get them started by picking out a script from [www.dramanotebook.com/plays-for-kids/](http://www.dramanotebook.com/plays-for-kids/).
- 31 The Babylonians celebrated the first New Year around 4,000 years ago, but a lot has changed since then. How do people ring in the new year today? What traditions does your family have? Discuss your ideas together!