December 2020 Oklahoma's Award-Winning Magazine for Parents & Families www.tulsakids.com

tulsakids

FOR PARENTS. FOR FAMILIES.



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: LESSONS TO LAST A LIFETIME

TOYS, TOYS, TOYS: NEW, NOTEWORTHY

GENDER-FREE GIFTING

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS, LIGHTS, HOLIDAY MARKETS, SANTAS, SHOWS, FESTIVALS AND PARADES

HOMEMADE ORNAMENTS TO KEEP AND SHARE

HOLIDAY COOKIE RECIPES

PARENTING MEDIA ASSOCIATION 2020 GOLD Award Winner Editorial Awards Competition

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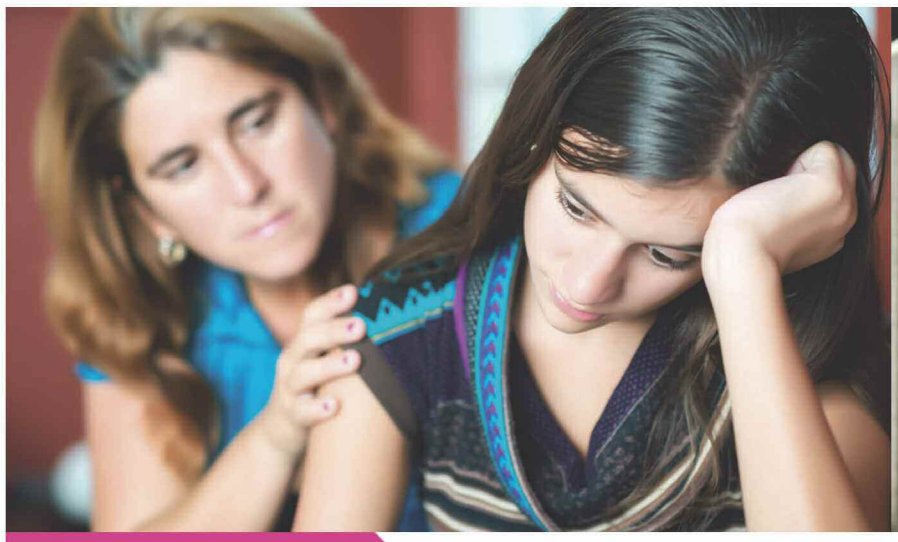
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tulsakids

December 2020

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A COVID Kind of Christmas

Because of COVID, I just skipped over Thanksgiving and moved on. There was some back and forth about whether or not any of our kids would come home or if we would drive to Urbana to pick up one of them since she can work remotely, or if we should try to get together with my sister and my 92-year-old mom. After the stress, after weighing the risks, after the Sturm and Drang, we decided to do – nothing.

I put the Christmas tree was up in early November. What?! It seemed like the thing to do. Our house needed some light and cheering up, especially now that my husband and I spend so much time there. Alone.

There won't be any holiday gatherings – at least not for us. Am I feeling a little sorry for myself? Yes. But it's better than getting COVID or possibly giving it to someone I care about. Love means not sharing virus germs.

There are still lots of things to do. And you can find all kinds of advice on how to fill your time in any number of productive ways. Clean the closets. Paint the kitchen. Organize the garage. Make meals for neighbors. Learn a new language. Watch YouTube videos on how to cut your own hair or do-it-yourself open-heart surgery (well, maybe not that last one).

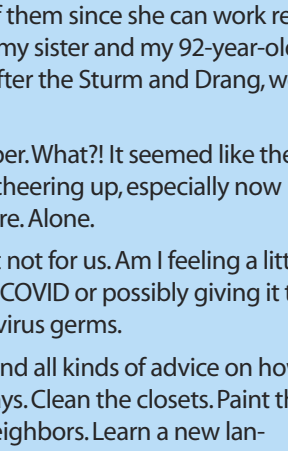
But wait! I have a better idea. Grab your favorite beverage, find a comfortable seat and read TulsaKids magazine. You may be getting our digital edition delivered directly to your inbox each month. If not, you can always find the flipbook on our website.

If you're reading this right now, thank you! I hope you'll find some interesting articles, and even some things to do in this issue, if you're so inclined. I found Natalie Hanson's column on patience particularly poignant, soothing – and timely.

If you're looking for toys for the kids, we have some great ideas from professionals in the know. If you can, shop local to support our small businesses. Most store owners are happy to help you out over the phone and provide curbside service. Others are carefully creating safe shopping experiences for customers.

As with most of life right now, the pandemic has caused a change in lifestyle and a shift in thinking.

Let's say good-bye and good riddance to 2020 and look forward to 2021 – the year of the vaccine. In the meantime, stay well, my friends!



Betty Casey
associate publisher and
editor in chief



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ON OUR COVER:

JACK MULL, OUR COVER KID, BRINGS IN THE HOLIDAY PACKAGES! JACK IS WEARING A SWEATER AND VEST BY THE BEAUFORT BONNET COMPANY, **PROVIDED BY LOLLY GARDEN CHILDREN'S CLOTHING AT UTICA SQUARE**. HE'S WEARING HIS OWN JEANS AND SHOES.

PHOTO BY LESLIE HOYT
www.lesliehoyt.com

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If you like to read TulsaKids, you may not know that you can watch us, too! Every Thursday morning on Tulsa's Channel 8, the local ABC affiliate, join Editor Betty Casey on Good Day Tulsa for tips to plan your family's weekend and more. Watch Good Morning Oklahoma on Tuesdays for tips on timely topics and family information you'll want to know.

MEET THE NEW ZOO ANIMALS

The Tulsa Zoo recently welcomed three new additions: an Asian elephant, a giraffe and a white rhino.

The zoo's three new animals are:

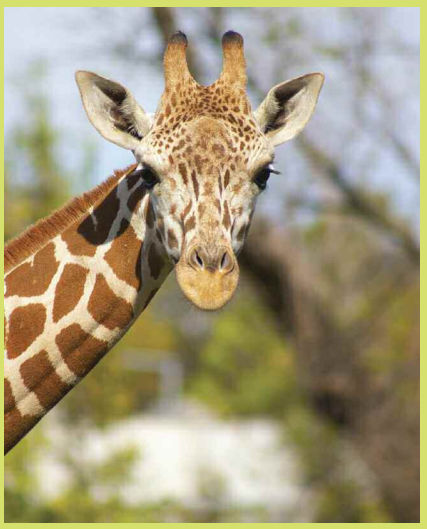
Booper, a 48-year-old female Asian elephant. She comes to the zoo from an animal facility that is discontinuing its elephant program. Tulsa Zoo is honored to have been chosen to give Booper a new home where she will be a companion to new herd mates female Sooky and male Sneezy.

Eighteen-month-old female giraffe Zoe comes from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Zoe joins male Hekaya and females Lexi and Pili as part of an Association of Zoos Aquariums Species Survival Plan.

Sally, a 14-year-old female white rhino, comes from Columbus Zoo/The Wilds. She joins female Jeannie and male Rudo in conjunction with a future SSP breeding recommendation with Rudo.

An SSP is a carefully managed AZA program through which accredited zoos work collaboratively in the best interest of species, ensuring healthy, genetically diverse animal populations, says Vice President of Animal Conservation and Science Joe Barkowski.







"Transfer of animals among zoos and aquariums can happen for a number of reasons, and not every move happens for breeding purposes," Barkowski says. "In some cases, transfers occur to balance the numbers held between facilities. That was the case with our young male giraffe, Ohe, who relocated to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo to augment their herd. Other animals such as our African lions Shatari and Kalu were brought together to ensure they have similar social opportunities like their wild counterparts."

Zoo guests can meet the three new additions at Lost Kingdom: Elephants, Osage Casino & Hotel Giraffe Barn, and Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve.

CWRU CORONAVIRUS RESEARCH SURVEY

Researchers at the SOAR Institute, Case Western Reserve University, want to learn more about the impact of the coronavirus on children, parents and families. Was your family impacted by the coronavirus? Are you or your child struggling with anxiety or depression about the coronavirus or social distancing? If you have a child ages 5-17 and have been impacted by the coronavirus, you are invited to fill out the online research questionnaires. The survey takes approximately 45 minutes. We hope to use this research study to learn more about how families have been impacted by recent events related to the coronavirus. If you complete the research surveys, you will be entered into a raffle to win one of four $25 gift cards. You can participate by going to https://cwru.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1O0uCidvCzmrvdr

CASCIA HALL OPENS MIDTOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

The second annual Cascia Hall Midtown Christmas Tree Lot will be open to the public on November 28 and 29 from 11am - 7pm, December 4 from 4 - 7pm, and December 5 and 6 from 11am - 7pm.

The tree lot will feature over 200 Fraser fir trees for purchase as well as noble fir wreaths for sale. These trees are soft to the touch; needles are flat and short with rounded tips and a silvery underside. They will be available in 6 - 7 feet, 7 - 8 feet and 10 feet sizes. The wreaths will be 26 and 30 inches in size.

The tree lot will also feature a special Santa's Village with activities including: Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt, Kids' Christmas Train, Cascia Corn Hole, Giant Connect 4, Arts & Crafts, Giant Jenga, photo staging areas and more. Custom-made rustic Christmas floral arrangements from Sincerely Yours Flower Truck, S'mores, Christmas Photo op with the Commando Bulldog, Topeca coffee and hot chocolate, and a visit from Puppy Haven Rescue are also part of the festivities. Visit www.casciahall.com/walk for more information.

JASON REYNOLDS TO RECEIVE THE 2021 ANNE V. ZARROW AWARD FOR YOUNG READERS' LITERATURE

New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds is the winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2021 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. He will accept the award at a public presentation on Thursday, May 6 at 7 p.m. He also will present awards to winners of the 2021 Young People's Creative Writing Contest at the ceremony.

Named the 2020-2021 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Reynolds has written over a dozen fiction, nonfiction and poetry books for middle-grade and young adult readers. Inspired by rap as he grew up in Maryland, Reynolds began writing poetry when he was just 9. It's through this form that he broke into the publishing industry, starting with the nonfiction poetry and visual art memoir "My Name is Jason," co-written with Jason Griffin. A self-proclaimed nonreader, Reynolds didn't read a book in full until he was 18. Now he writes the books he wishes he could have read as a young adult and discourages others from staying or becoming nonreaders.



PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES J. REDDINGTON

Other works of poetry by Reynolds include "For Every One" and "Long Way Down," a novel in verse that received great acclaim as a Newbery Honor Book, a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award, a National Book Award finalist and more. Most recently, Reynolds collaborated with Ibram X. Kendi on the youth nonfiction book "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You."

His fiction works include "Ghost," the first title in his Track series; "The Boy in the Black Suit," a 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book; "When I Was the Greatest"; "All American Boys," co-written with Brendan Kiely and recipient of the 2016 Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature; "As Brave As You," winner of the 2016 Kirkus Prize, the 2017 Schneider Family Book Award and the 2017 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/Teen; the Marvel Comics novel "Miles Morales: Spider-Man"; and "Look Both Ways," also a National Book Award finalist.

The Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature gives formal recognition, on behalf of the Tulsa County community, to a nationally acclaimed author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature for young adults. The award, presented by the Tulsa Library Trust, consists of a $10,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book.

For more information on the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature or library programming, call the AskUs Hotline at 918.549.7323 or visit the library's website, www.tulsalibrary.org.

CRSOK LAUNCHES FREE COVID CRISIS COUNSELING

Counseling and Recovery Services of Oklahoma (CRSOK) has been awarded two federal emergency grants through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) for the purposes of providing crisis intervention and therapy services, wellness programs and medication management for Oklahomans experiencing mild to severe mental health and/or substance abuse issues related to the impact of COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 crisis is causing increases in depression, anxiety, trauma, and grief for a number of Oklahomans already grappling with existing behavioral health and substance abuse disorders", says CRSOK Clinical Director Andre Campbell. "These grants will help us provide free support and services to local adults adversely affected."

Through these grants, CRSOK will deliver a full array of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for those who seek them because of COVID-related increases in their symptoms. The stressors of frustration and boredom, family financial loss, increased risk of abuse and domestic violence in the home, disruption in nutrition, and decreased physical activity will result in an increase in the severity of mental illnesses. We can help those with mild to moderate symptoms recognize their reaction to hardship, manage stress, and help build coping and grounding skills for the recovery process. In addition to supportive crisis counseling, CRSOK counselors will provide information and education, and help link impacted individuals to appropriate resources.

CRSOK will also provide services and support to treat the most vulnerable citizens, those with severe cases of serious mental illness (SMI) and co-occurring substance use disorders, who are at the greatest risk for increased depression, anxiety, suicidality, and decompensation into illness requiring hospitalization. The goal is to meet their needs with the methods safest for them. CRSOK already has protocols in place and is mobilized for telehealth/telephone services and supports.

All services will be conducted by trained and coached clinicians who will safely conduct outreach activities, provide de-escalation processes, employment support, and linkages to housing. CRSOK will utilize telehealth/telephone/messaging for crisis diversion and initial crisis response in hopes to decrease crisis center and hospital admissions.

TulsaKids'12 Days of Christmas Giveaways

Happy Holidays from TulsaKids!

Enter a new giveaway daily from December 1-12.
Details and links available at tulsakids.com/contests.

Sunday, December 1	Monday, December 2	Tuesday, December 3	Wednesday, December 4
Enter to win 4 admission passes to Arvest Winterfest, plus 4 hot chocolate vouchers!	Enter to win 2 complimentary season seats to ORU basketball!	Enter to win a swimsuit, goggles and Family Swim pass (for a family of 4-5) at Miller Swim School!	Enter to win 4 tickets to Tulsa Ballet's "The Lost Nutcracker"!
Thursday, December 5	**Friday, December 6**	**Saturday, December 7**	**Sunday, December 8**
Enter to win a Camp Registration Certificate from SoccerCity!	Enter to win a Family Membership plus some fun merch from Discovery Lab!	Enter to win a Sea Turtle Encounter from Oklahoma Aquarium!	Enter to win a Dual/Family Membership from ahha Tulsa!
Monday, December 9	**Tuesday, December 10**	**Wednesday, December 11**	**Thursday, December 12**
Enter to win one of 2 $150 gift cards to Hideaway Pizza!	Enter to win a gift card to Ihloff Salon and Day Spa!	Enter to win a $100 gift card to Melting Pot - Tulsa!	Enter to win a mystery gift! See tulsakids.com/contests for details.



TULSAKIDS' 2021 EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT GUIDE + VIRTUAL SCHOOL FAIR

Our Education & Enrichment Guide helps local families find the best scholastic and extracurricular options available. Look for our 2021 Education & Enrichment Guide in our January magazine and online at tulsakids.com/guides.

Plus, new this year, TulsaKids will host a **Virtual School Fair** on **Facebook**, where you'll have a chance to learn more about all of these opportunities in a special one-day, virtual event. Follow @tulsakidsmagazine on Facebook for updates.

tulsakids.com

What's Going On(line)?

TULSAKIDS' HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN GUIDE



We're ready to deck the halls and embrace a safe holiday season! Head to tulsakids.com/holiday for everything from the best Christmas light displays in Tulsa, local gift ideas, places to find Santa, at-home activities, seasonal recipes and more!

@TULSAKIDS: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS DAILY FUN

This holiday season may be difficult, so we'll be sharing fun, kid-friendly DIY activities every day on social media through December 25! Do you have a favorite Christmas craft or holiday recipe? Tag @tulsakids on Instagram, or email a photo and instructions to tara.rittler@gmail.com so we can share!



BY KILEY ROBERSON

gender-free gifting

It's the gift-giving season, and if toys or children's items are on your list this year, you might pause before you hit the stores for those last-minute sales. Older kids are pretty good about telling us exactly what they'd like for gifts, and babies love everything. But for our toddler to pre-k tikes, gift buying can sometimes be a challenge, especially for those of us looking to break the mold of gender stereotypes.

There are plenty of reasons to get children gifts that defy gender stereotypes. Maybe you've made a conscious decision to raise your kids in a gender-neutral way or your child self-identifies as fluid or nonconforming, or perhaps you're the cool aunt who wants to help your niece or nephew start a gender revolution in middle school. Maybe you're like me and simply want to raise kids who don't feel tied to traditional gender roles.

As a mom of both a girl and a boy, I hear comments all the time about how nice it must be to have one of each. "You must get the best of both worlds," one friend will say. "A sweet little girl and a rowdy, silly boy." While my children do have very different personalities, something rubs me the wrong way about suggesting that it's simply left to their anatomy to decide their behavior. In fact, this idea of gender roles influencing behavior is a big topic of debate. While it's easy to get sucked into the extremes of each side, experts in the field say that gender stereotypes are real and aren't the product of the child, but rather their environment.



GENDER-NEUTRAL TOYS SEND THE MESSAGE OF LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES TO CHILDREN.

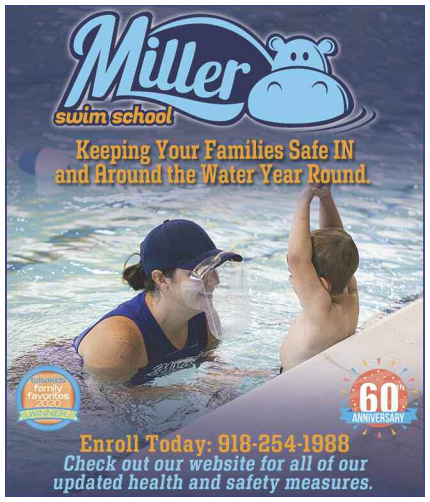
This environmental impact can be seen front and center in the world of retail. According to whoever arranges toys in the big box stores, boys' stuff is about sports, action and aggression (think footballs, action figures and light sabers) and girls' stuff is about appearances, nurturing and quieter play (think baby dolls, dress-up/make-up kits and crafts kits).

According to researchers, science projects and construction toys are more likely to feature pictures of boys on the boxes while kitchen sets picture girls. Doctor kits are still marketed for boys and nursing kits for girls despite the fact that more women than men are graduating from medical schools and nursing has long embraced men into its ranks.

What we choose for our children is something to consider. If we want to let our girls know it's okay to be strong and even tough and our boys know that it's all right to be sensitive and to care for babies; if we want to encourage scientific curiosity in our girls and appreciation for the arts in our boys, how do we expose them to all that is possible when toys are packaged and marketed in such gender-specific ways? If we want to give our kids every chance to discover who they are rather than what the marketing departments of manufacturers think they ought to be, how do we offer more choices?

Experts say the best way is variety. Provide toys and opportunities for role-playing that don't emphasize gender stereotypes. Some suggestions include things like pretend kitchens and food, sandboxes, balls, animal figures, cars, art supplies, science kits, musical instruments and books, books, books!

Why is it important to get beyond the idea that certain toys are girly or boyish? Because play matters. Play is the "work" of childhood. The kids are having a good time but they are also rehearsing the roles they will play as adults and integrating the not so subtle messages they see and hear into their identity. Research shows that kids who are encouraged to play with gender-neutral toys do better academically, socially, artistically and physically. When toys are limited by gender, it limits a child's imagination and goals.



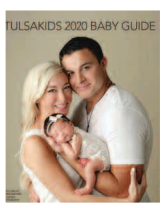
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BY MARY BETH RITCHIE, LCSW

helping kids manage stress

Adults are not the only ones who struggle with stress management. Our school-age children do too. There are numerous things that can lead our children to suffer from stress. There may be a variety of problems or conflicts at home. School expectations may be contributing to stress. Some children may be having difficulties with peers. In addition to these common sources of stress, children are now dealing with the stresses of COVID-19 as well. Many adults have found ways to help manage their stress, but most of our children haven't been taught stress management techniques. What can parents do to help their children deal with stress?

Manage Your Own Stress – One of the most important things parents can do to help their children manage stress is to manage their own well. Children pick up on the stress of their parents, and it's highly contagious! If you are feeling stressed, it's likely that your child will be, too. Take measures to reduce your own stress, and your children will benefit indirectly.

Make Sleep a Priority – The Sleep Foundation recommends nine to 11 hours of sleep per night for our school-age children. The Center for Disease Control recommends nine to 12 hours. A lack of proper sleep can lead to many physical and mental health problems, including heightened levels of stress. Be sure your child is getting the necessary hours of sleep as recommended by the experts. This can significantly reduce the stress levels experienced by your child.



Make Exercise a Priority – Physical activity is a terrific way to reduce stress. For children, this won't look like jogging or going to the gym. Children should be running, playing, riding bikes, swimming, climbing trees or jungle gyms, and a variety of similar activities. You may want to consider some organized activities, such as soccer, ballet lessons, or martial arts classes. If you have a backyard, you may want to think about adding toys or structures that encouurage outdoor play. Take your child on nature walks and to parks.

Make Downtime a Priority – Don't overschedule your children. Many activities may be curtailed during the pandemic, but it's still important to allow children to have downtime with unstructured play away from technology.

Mistakes are Learning Opportunities – I notice, in my third grade classroom, that many of my students are afraid of making mistakes. This can lead to stress. I strive to teach students that mistakes are actually good! They are opportunities to learn something new. A child can't learn new skills without making errors along the way. If a child wants to learn to do something new, like how to play football, or how to play the guitar, it won't happen without making many mistakes. I actually make it a point to call attention to my own mistakes in the classroom. It's important for our children to witness mistakes being made by the adults in their lives. Children watch how we handle our own mistakes. Set a good example. If appropriate, share with them what you learned from your mistake. Reinforce this type of thinking with

continued next page

your children. Mistakes are a part of life and are not to be feared.

Encourage Creativity – When children seem stressed, you may want to consider encouraging them to write or draw. Many children will express their thoughts and feelings through their writing and drawings. This can be especially helpful for those children who have trouble talking about their feelings. Creative activities can also be a wonderful way to relax with your children.

Stress Management Techniques – Our young children can learn some of the same stress management strategies used by adults. Consider teaching them some deep breathing or muscle relaxation exercises. You may want to explore aromatherapy, meditation, or yoga. You might even want to practice these activities as a family.

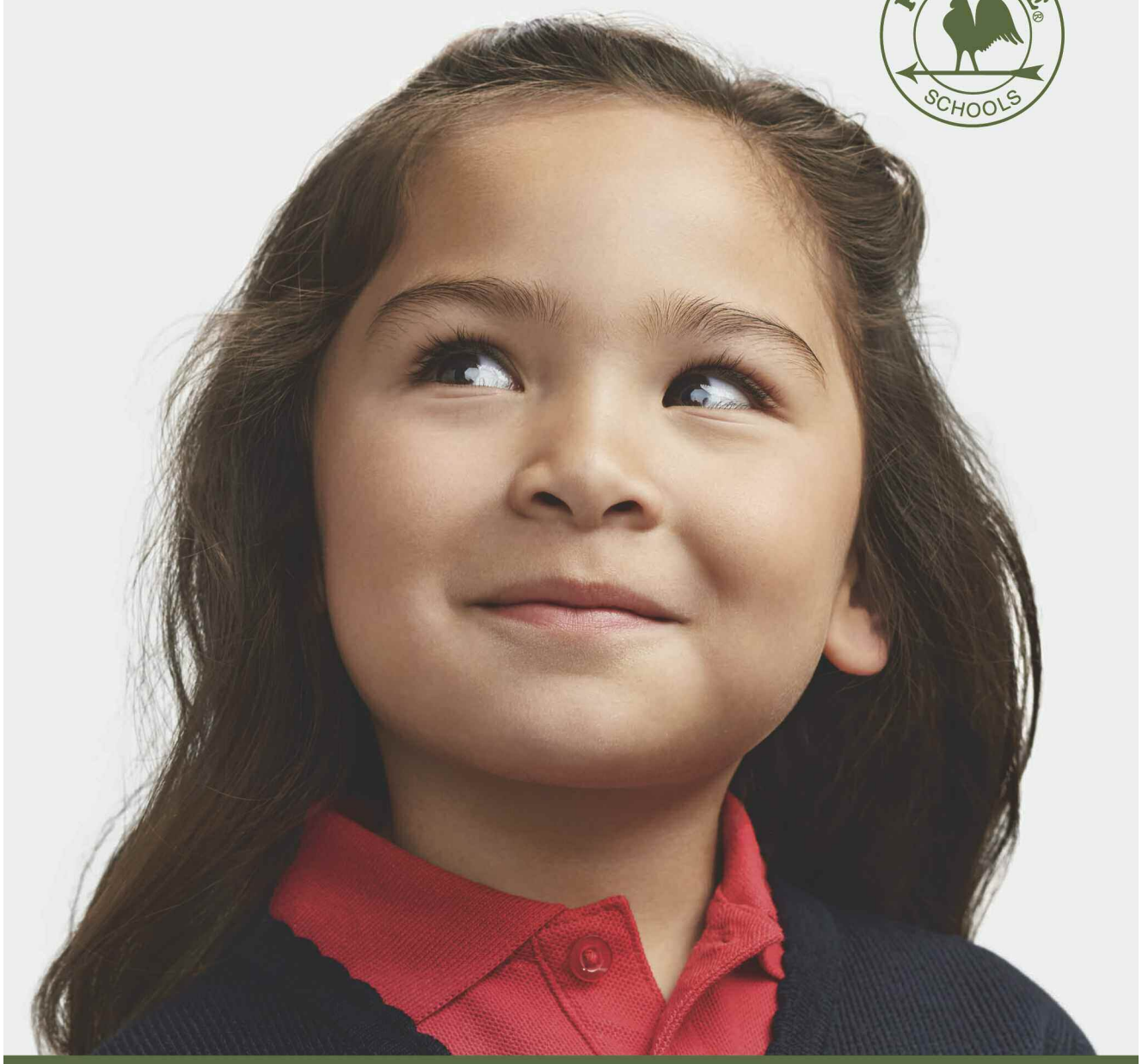
Laughter is the Best Medicine – There are many physical and mental benefits of laughter. Laughter increases your endorphins, which can lead to a reduction in the physical symptoms of stress. Enjoy a funny movie with your child. Tell jokes and watch some appropriate stand-up comedy. Make it a point to spend time with friends or family members who make you laugh. Be silly! Have fun and laugh!

Remember that our children experience stress too. Much like adults, they need to learn how to manage their stress. Take time to discuss these things, and teach these skills. Learn and practice some of the techniques shared in this article. It's likely that your children will be amenable to more laughter, downtime and physical activity. They might even get excited about trying yoga or a new hobby. Soon, your children may actually be encouraging you to manage your own stress better!

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BY JULIE WENGER WATSON

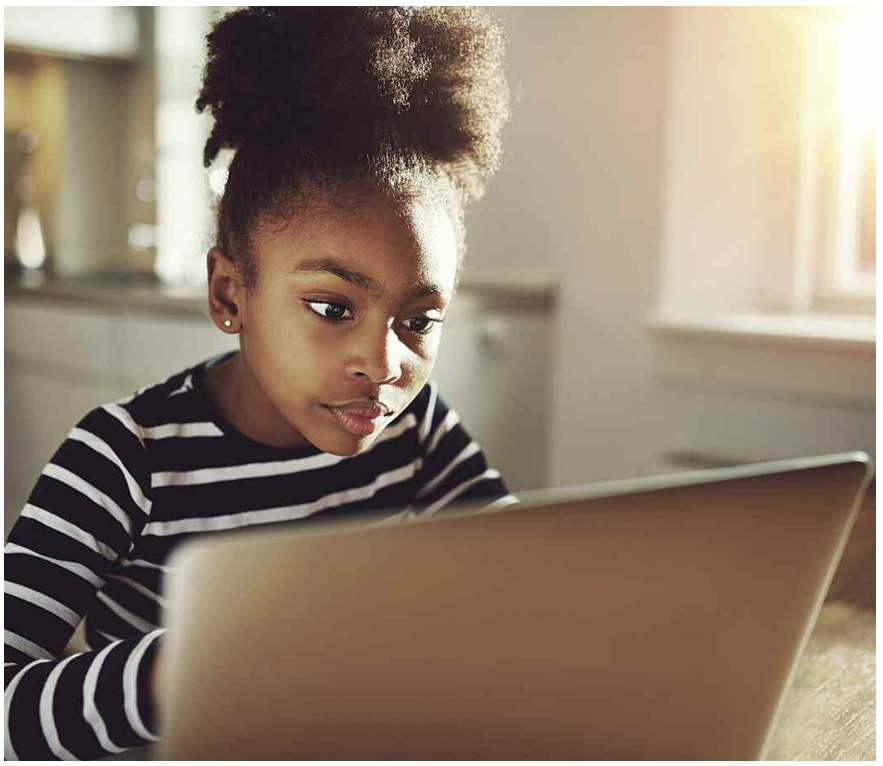
black girls can C.O.D.E.: new program for middle school girls

According to the Pew Research Center, of the approximately 5 million people employed in the computing field, minorities make up just 30 percent, with African American women representing only about 3 percent. Locally, the Tulsa Chapter of the international nonprofit The Links, Incorporated is hoping to change that. This fall, the organization is offering Black Girls Can C.O.D.E. (Coding Opportunities for Developing Empowerment), a program to encourage African American girls to become innovators in STEM fields. The Links is a service organization whose membership is made up of professional women of African descent; it has 288 chapters in 41 states.

The goal of the program is to introduce computer-coding lessons to Tulsa-area African American girls, grades 5-8. Lessons began in November and run for six months, with bi-weekly sessions of 60-90 minutes. Students were required to complete a short application in order to be considered. Tulsa's Links chapter is offering the program free of charge.

Valerie Aldridge, vice president of programs for Links, is thrilled about the potential.

"It's a brand-new signature program for our chapter, and we would love for this to be a national model," she says. "As students transition out of elementary school and into the middle school grades, the technology piece is so important. It also speaks to other Oklahoma State Academic standards like science and math. Coding is the underlying technology for computer games, websites, graphics, and computer language. Coding is the underlying thread to all of that. If we can build on that interest now, we can maybe even plant a seed for a career opportunity."



No previous experience is required in order to participate.

"It's really an entry level program," Aldridge explains. "This is for kids who've never had any experience with coding before. Technology isn't something that's in every single school. It's not offered everywhere to everyone. We wanted to create a baseline introduction to the world of coding and what it's about."

A certified instructor teaches the course. In addition to learning some basics, Aldridge hopes the girls will be inspired by the possibilities this skill set represents.

"I hope they come away with a new interest in coding technology and wanting to learn more and wanting to investigate careers and possibilities," she says. "The technology space is definitely underserved by African Americans, as a whole, but in particular, African American females, so seeing themselves in the adult who's leading the lessons and seeing themselves in the technology space would be a great takeaway."

Robin Jones, the chapter's president, concurs.

"We want to just take away that fear when someone says, 'coding' or 'computer science.' To just give them an understanding of all the different jobs that involve coding," Jones says.

To learn more about The Links, Incorporated and Black Girls Can C.O.D.E., visit www.tulsalinksinc.net.

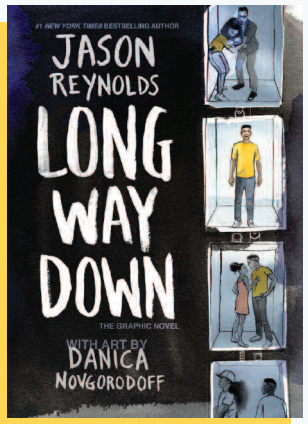
Mr. Henry's Books

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Virtual via ZOOM **Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021**
9:30-11 a.m. ▶ REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Attention, middle-school and high-school teachers and librarians!

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You will:

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- Learn how to incorporate various elements of *Long Way Down* into your classroom and receive lesson plans on how to use Jason Reynolds' works in a variety of school subjects.
- Be introduced to the Tulsa City-County Library's Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature.
- Gain an opportunity to win a virtual classroom visit by Jason Reynolds on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

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Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 12, 2021

Register at: www.tulsalibrary.org/mr-henrys-books-registration

Every participant will receive their copies of *Long Way Down*, as well as an official continuing-education certificate, after the workshop by picking them up at their neighborhood Tulsa City-County Library location.

A drawing will be held among participants for four classroom sets of the newly released graphic novel version of *Long Way Down*.

Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County.

Mr. Henry's Books is a program of the Tulsa City-County Library, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

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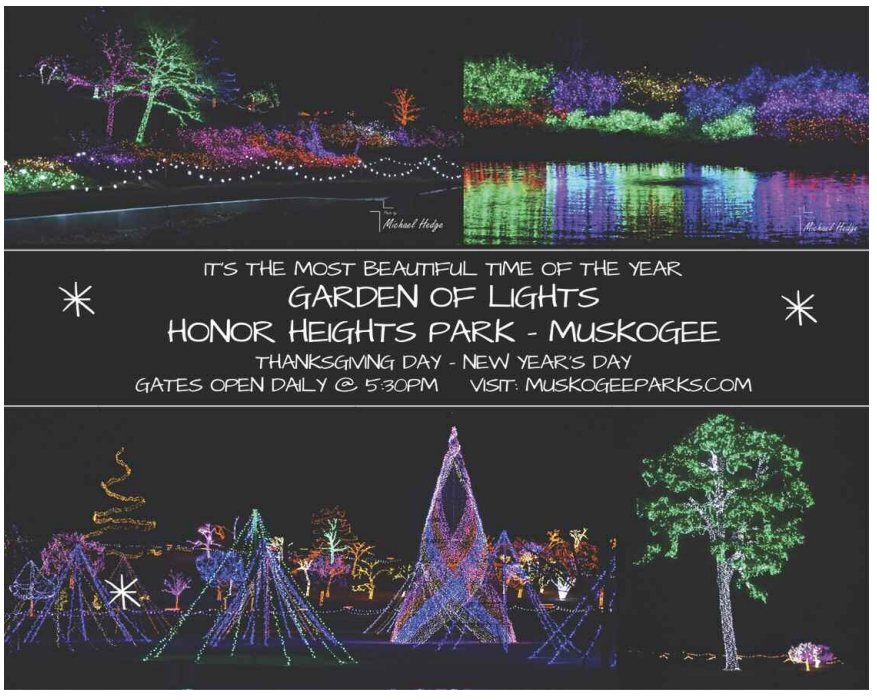
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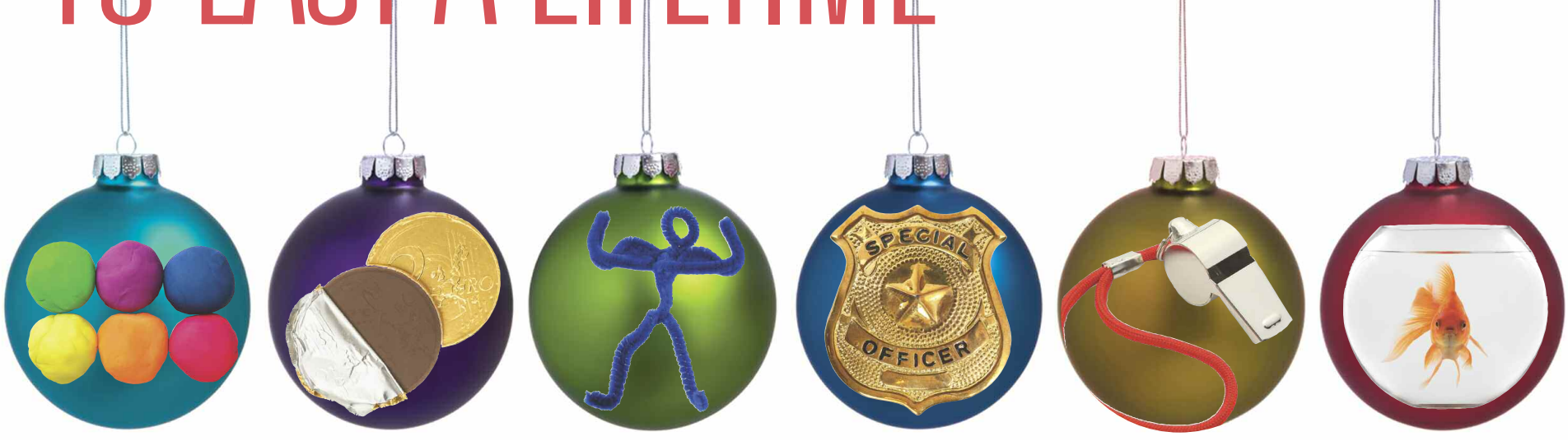


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BY DENISE YEARIAN

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: LESSONS TO LAST A LIFETIME



The best gifts are ones that are free. This holiday season give your children a gift that will last a lifetime—the gift of values. On each day preceding Christmas, present your children with the designated "gift" then discuss how its "value" can be applied to their lives.

On the first day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…modeling clay!

Clay is a lot like compassion—soft and pliable. As you and your children shape the clay, remind them to keep their heart soft and pliable toward people less fortunate than themselves. Then make plans as a family to reach out to someone in need.

On the second day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…chocolate coins!

Generosity, like chocolate, is sweet—to the giver and the receiver! As you delve into the chocolate, talk about generous acts family members have done in the past. Together, plan to do one anonymous act of generosity for someone else. Then bask in the sweet rewards of giving!

On the third day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…pipe cleaners!

Just as a pipe cleaner can be bent and twisted, so can the

continued next page

truth. Ask your children about their experiences with honesty and dishonesty and discuss how trust was affected. Create "people" from the pipe cleaners and role-play similar situations.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a sheriff's badge!

Courage, like a star-shaped badge, has many points. Ask your children about situations in their lives that require courage. Encourage them to stick up for someone who is being bullied, or to say no to things they know are wrong. Keep the lesson alive by letting each child wear the badge for a day.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a whistle!

Self-discipline means blowing the whistle on an activity that needs to be curtailed. Help your children identify one activity that requires self-discipline. Then commit as a family to use self-discipline during the next week—exercise together, skip desserts, cut screen use, etc. Follow up on your success. What benefits did you reap? Was it worth the hardship?

On the sixth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a goldfish!

Talk with your children about what it means to be responsible for someone or something. Then give them a fish and together make a list of tasks involved for caring for that fish. Every time a chore is carried out, put a star or checkmark next to the task.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…honey!

Bees are not always pleasant, but their work certainly gleans sweet rewards! As you and your children share honey on biscuits, explain the value of work and its benefits. Select one household chore and ask, "If this were not done, how would it impact our lives?" Then give your children several simple household chores and remind them that service with a smile makes life extra sweet.

On the eighth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…magnets!

Friends, like magnets, are attracted to one another. As your children explore the properties of magnets, have them share stories about their friends. What is it they love about that person? Invite your children to emulate their friends' positive traits. Follow up by having your children do something nice for one of their buddies.

On the ninth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a glue stick!

When people are loyal to something, they stick to it like glue. Explain how people can be fiercely loyal to different things—family, friends, country, principles, beliefs, etc. Have your children find pictures of things they are loyal to. Then glue them to a larger piece of paper and hang it up.

On the tenth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a deck of cards!

If you have ever tried to build a house of cards, you know it takes perseverance. As you and your children engage in this feat, discuss what perseverance means. Are there any areas in your children's lives where they need to persevere? Develop a plan to address that difficulty and overcome the challenge.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a balloon!

Bragging, like a balloon, inflates a person's thoughts of himself. While it's okay to be proud of yourself and your accomplishments, bragging about it is impolite. Give everyone a balloon as a reminder that it is okay to be proud of their accomplishments without boasting about it to others.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my parents gave to me…a frosted cupcake!

Respecting others and being respected is like icing on a cake—it makes relationships sweeter! As you eat frosted cupcakes, discuss the meaning of respect and how it is displayed through kind words and actions. Make a list of things that demonstrate respect toward others, then have your children practice doing these things on a regular basis.



-Denise Yearian is the former editor of two parenting magazines and the mother of three children and six grandchildren.



During the pandemic, it is more important than ever to support local business! Here are some local favorites ready to serve your family.

THE CENTER FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL CHALLENGES

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges Youth Program re-opened with in-person in September, making safety a top priority. The Center held virtual summer camp and continues to modify programming with virtual options. The Center provides opportunities for youth with physical challenges to participate in adaptive sport and recreation and establishing independence. For more information on how to get involved with Youth Boccia Ball, Wheely Fun Run Club, Awesome Athletes, In-Person Fall Break Camp, and Virtual Camp, contact Kelly Evans, CTRS/L, Youth Services Program Coordinator, 918.794.4526 or kevans@tulsacenter.org.

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www.tulsacenter.org
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Music Theory and Composition available online.

Visit thebart.org/registration to sign up today!

TIPPI TOES ® DANCE COMPANY

Tippi Toes Dance Company cheerfully provides fun, positive and energetic dance classes to children all over the Tulsa area! Public classes are held at various community centers. Private Dance Classes can also be created just for your child + a few friends at your house for no extra charge!

Visit www.TippiToesDance.com/Tulsa for more information and to set up your FREE trial class today! Happy Dancing!

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918.361.4134

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Feel to contact with any questions, 918.582.4527 or visit our website www.tulsaglassblowing.org.

WALDO'S CHICKEN AND BEER

Waldo's Chicken & Beer is Tulsa's newest chicken joint. Here are some great December deals to help make dinner time a little easier around the Holidays!

– On Tuesdays, get one FREE kids meal with each adult entree you purchase + Enjoy $3 wine and $5 draft beer.

– Takeout Thursdays – Get a Family Bucket O'Chicken includes {8 pieces of Fried or Rotisserie chicken, 3 jumbo sides, 6 cheddar biscuits} + 6 FREE chicken tenders for only $32.99!

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4923 E. 71st St., 71st & Yale

waldoschicken.com

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BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN WALDRON

the lamppost

SHOULD STUDENTS CONTINUE STATE TESTING DURING A PANDEMIC?

Last year, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos granted waivers to states seeking to suspend state testing required under the Every Student Succeeds Act. With the pandemic spreading across the country, it was clear that bringing students together for mass testing would be a disaster. This is a big deal, because our modern educational system depends on testing data to measure student progress, to evaluate the effectiveness of our schools, and to direct federal dollars to schools designated in need of improvement. Testing is one of the central benchmarks by which we know how we are doing. But is it wise to go back to testing before the pandemic has run its course? Health considerations aside, will we get reliable data from testing students who experienced academic disruption last spring and who are still experiencing so much disruption this fall? Will the data we gather be junk data, forever marked with an asterisk when compared to other years?

One thing's for certain, Secretary DeVos has indicated that she is not willing to entertain waiver requests this year. She knows that the data directs the flow of billions of dollars designed to help schools improve. On another level, the politics of ESSA place the burden of school reform on schools to improve testing and other inputs. As an avowed reformer, DeVos may wish to use the evidence of failing schools to advance her agenda in support of vouchers and other privatization elements. Opponents may argue that the system for evaluating schools is flawed and correlates heavily with poverty and other risk factors. None of Oklahoma City's non-charter public schools received an A rating in 2018; no school in more affluent Edmond received an F. Testing has its uses – think about how the ACT and SAT guide the college admissions process – but is the current incarnation of state-based testing effective? The evidence is sketchy on whether the tens of millions of federal dollars spent annually on Oklahoma schools on the needs improvement list actually helps schools improve.

There's an old joke: a man walking down a street one night encounters another man on his hands and knees under a lamppost. 'What are you doing?' the first man asks. 'Looking for my watch. I lost it across the street.' The first man asks 'so why are you looking here?' The second man replies 'the light is better.' I see two possible explanations for the determination to keep testing: one is that testing serves a reform agenda that wishes to highlight what is wrong with our schools – so that we can shift more public dollars into the hands of private consultants or private schools via vouchers. The second possibility is bureaucratic inertia. We want the data because it is relatively easy to obtain, even if it may not be the best measure. We're looking where the light is better.

But this crisis gives us an opportunity to rethink how we measure learning. Maybe we need a more qualitative approach to measuring what goes on in the minds of our children. We could include surveys from students, parents, faculty and staff as part of our measure, for example, balancing mechanistic measures with humanistic ones. This kind of locally-sourced input could give schools practical insights into how to improve learning for the students and the communities they serve.

Now that the election is over, we have an opportunity to rethink things. Maybe we need a system that serves kids first and bureaucrats second. As a teacher turned legislator, I say it's time to look beyond the lamppost in search of better answers.



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BY LAURA RAPHAEL, MA, MLIS, CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

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THE EXTRAORDINARY LITERACY BENEFITS OF DRAWING

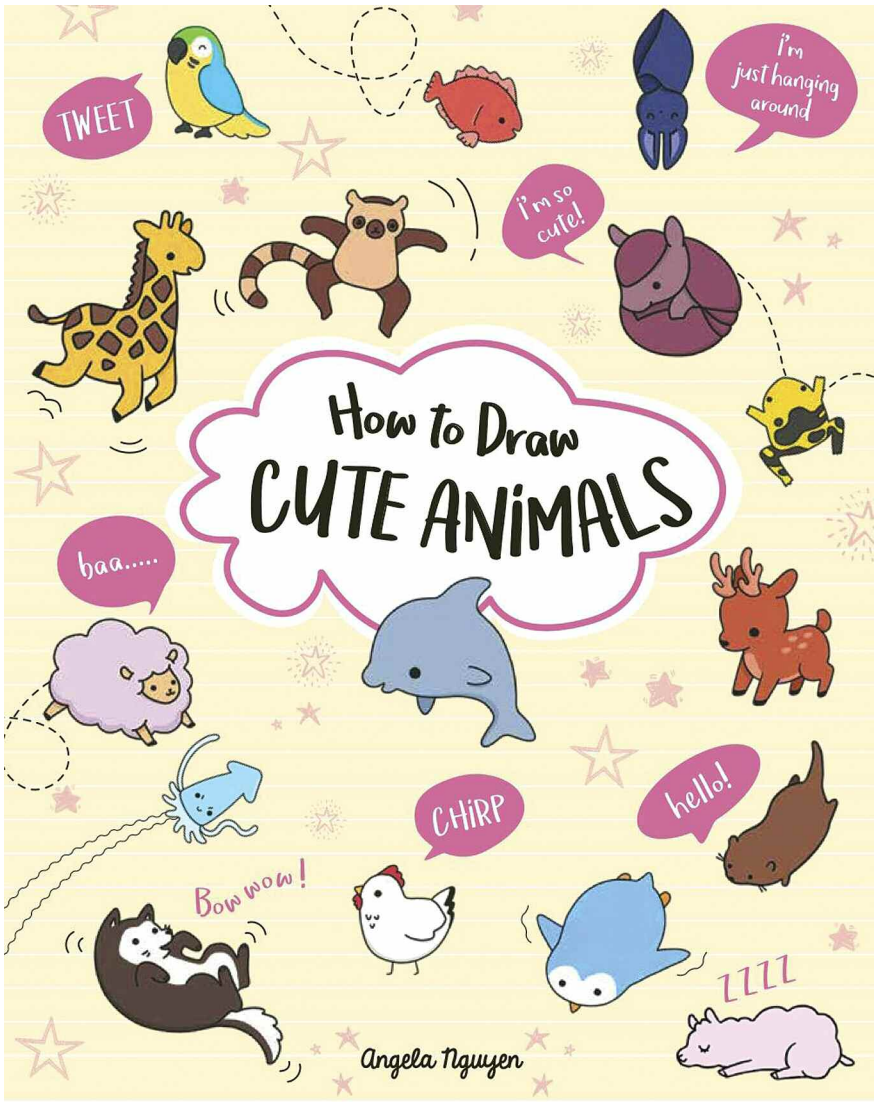
There is something magical that happens when you give a child some crayons and a blank piece of paper. They become readers.

Well, not right away.

But children's first explorations in creating lines and squiggles that become drawings of boats and kitty cats are also a good approximation of what happens when they start learning how to read.

Both drawing pictures and reading words involve interpreting objects (in one case, pictures; in the other, text) as representations of a greater reality. This (a drawing of a tiger, the word "tiger") represents this (an actual tiger).

And of course, just learning to write letters is a kind of drawing – and creating stories. As the great cartoonist and storyteller Lynda Barry writes to her adult readers in the introduction to her latest book, "Making Comics": "There was a time when drawing and writing were not separated for you. In fact, our ability to write could only come from our willingness and inclination to draw. In the beginning of our writing and reading lives, we DREW the letters of our name. The motions each requires hadn't become automatic yet. There was a lot of variability of shape, order, and orientation. The letters were characters, and when certain characters got together in a certain order, they spelled your name."



The natural joy and interest most small children have in drawing is easy to encourage – through fingerpaints, crayons, chalk, markers.

It's when children get older (Lynda Barry says around the age of 8 or 9, "when drawing noses or hands become an issue") that they begin to abandon drawing – and often, their literacy suffers.

The library to the rescue!

Tucked in the extraordinary Dewey number of 740s are literally hundreds and thousands of books on drawing: sports figures, dinosaurs, Disney princesses, superheroes and supervillains, fashion, cats and kittens, clouds – whatever you can imagine!

While YouTube videos can also offer excellent drawing lessons (and I will never dissuade you from a good YouTube video), these books slow the process down a little bit and help children see all of the possibilities.

Here are a few of my favorite drawing instruction books for kids:

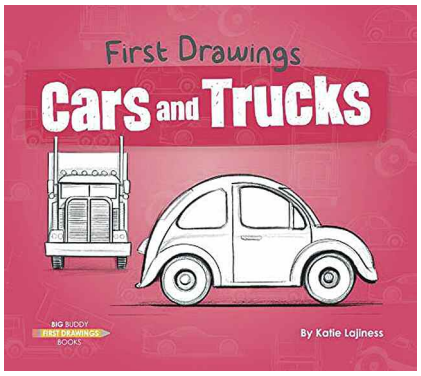
How To Draw Cute Animals by Angela Nguyen

Catalog description:

"Enter planet CUTE! This follow-up to How to Draw Cute Stuff teaches kids how to draw a menagerie of adorable creatures, from cats, dogs, hedgehogs, and hamsters to dolphins, bunnies, swans, and unicorns. An introduction explains the popular kawaii style of art, step-by-step how-to sequences make the process simple enough for beginners, and interactive pages get budding artists practicing right away."

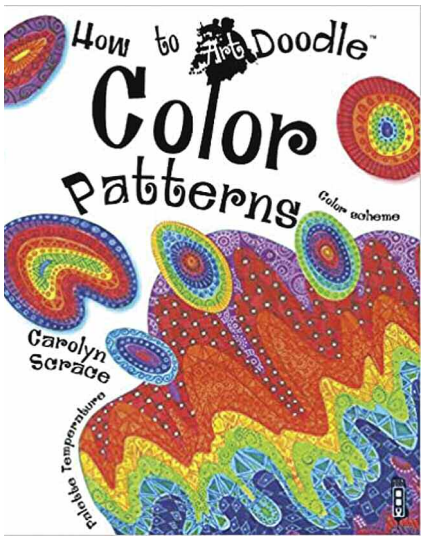
First Drawings: Cars and Trucks by Katie Lajiness

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Easy instructions for making simple drawings and then coloring in of vehicles like monster trucks, race cars, and dump trucks.

How to Draw Awesome Wild Animals

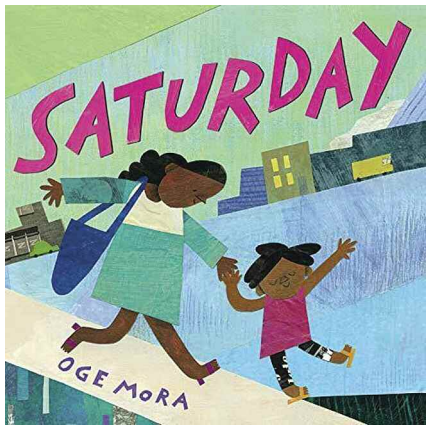


How To Doodle series by Carolyn Franklin – Color Patterns, Optical Illusions, Portraits and Animals

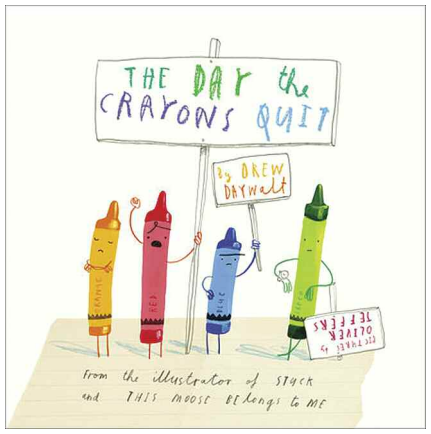
Exploring different aspects of "doodling," this series will help unleash your child's imagination while giving step-by-step instructions for making some really extraordinary artwork.

Finally, don't forget perhaps the greatest drawing instruction books in the library – picture books! Getting lost in the illustrations by these amazing artists is a great way to fortify your child's visual imagination and perhaps even inspire them to pick up a marker or a crayon and draw on their own.

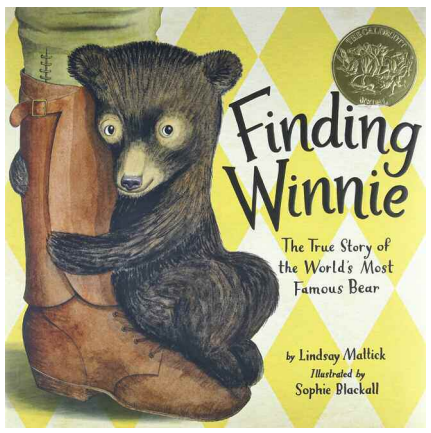
Here are just some of my personal favorite illustrators and their best books:



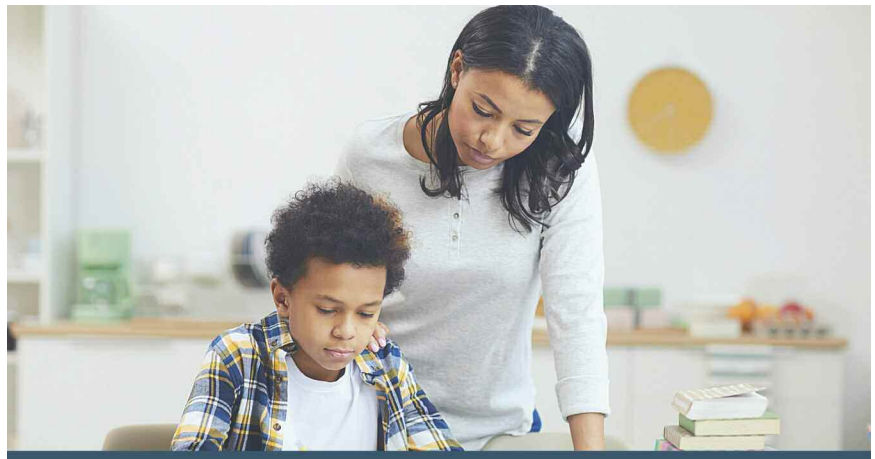
Oge Mora



Oliver Jeffers



Sophie Blackall



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BY TARA RITTLER

away-from-home for the holidays: kid-friendly fun in OKC!

The pandemic has added another layer of stress to holiday planning. You might find yourself weighing the risks of travel against the guilt of declining invitations from loved ones. Favorite traditions may be canceled, and your kids may not get the chance to tell Santa face-to-face exactly what they want for Christmas.

But parents have the power to create new traditions and fun memories for their families, even when everything feels like chaos. One idea is to take a road trip to the Oklahoma City area and explore some of the holiday fun to be found there!

Here are some top picks, discovered with the help of our friends at MetroFamily Magazine. If you do plan a trip to OKC, visit their website, metrofamilymagazine.com, for even more events and activities.



CHICKASHA'S FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IS A FAVORITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION IN THE OKC AREA. PHOTO CREDIT: DEAN IMAGES.

SEE THE LIGHTS

Christmas in the Park (Yukon, OK): Billed as Oklahoma's largest drive-thru light display, Christmas in the Park promises three miles of brilliant light displays through interconnected city parks – with more than 5 million lights altogether! If you're up for a brisk walk, you can get out of your car and meander through the lights, enjoying festive selfie stations. Admission is free; however, for a small fee, you can hop aboard the Santa Express Train for an extra-special experience. Hours run from 6-11 p.m. nightly through New Year's Eve. Learn more at yukonok.gov.

Festival of Light (Chickasha, OK): According to their website, this 27-year-old tradition "started out as a small group of local citizens with a dream to spark community spirit." Their dream sparked not just community spirit but put Chickasha's Festival of Light on the map as one of the best light displays in the nation. Admission is free to walk or drive through this display, although donations are accepted. Visitors may also enjoy additional activities: an ice rink, Ferris wheel, carriage rides and more – at additional cost. Festival of Light kicked off November 21 and closes December 31. chickashafestivaloflight.org

Automobile Alley (Oklahoma City): Located in downtown OKC, Automobile Alley is a fun area to explore at any time of year. But in December, it really shines! This historic district will be covered in over 180,000 lights. Plus, on December 5 and 12, visitors can enjoy special activities and promotions at the annual Lights on Broadway events. downtownindecember.com.

SEE A SHOW

Oklahoma City Ballet's "The Nutcracker: Short & Sweet": Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker" is an annual holiday favorite that has unfortunately been canceled for 2020. Although Tulsa Ballet is producing a holiday show titled "The Lost Nutcracker," featuring

continued next page



OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY OPENED A NEW, 53,916-SQUARE FOOT BUILDING IN SEPTEMBER 2020. ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE; ADVANCED, TIMED TICKETS REQUIRED. PHOTO BY SCOTT MCDONALD.

three choreographed works in a socially distanced setting, head to OKC if you can't let the holidays pass without the magical tale of Clara's journey to the Land of Sweets. Oklahoma City Ballet is offering a one-act, intermission-free version of the ballet at the Civic Center Music Hall from December 12-20. This shortened time frame is designed to decrease the potential spread of COVID-19. okcballet.org

Lyric's "A Christmas Carol" at Harn: The Harn Homestead presents a unique chance for families to learn about the early days of Oklahoma history. This holiday season, Lyric Theatre will utilize the Victorian homestead as a backdrop for their outdoor production of Charles' Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Tickets are limited in order to maintain social distancing; multiple performances are available throughout December. Learn more and purchase tickets at lyrictheatreokc.com.

SEE SOMETHING NEW

Liichokoshkomo': The National Cowboy Museum was a favorite when my family visited Oklahoma City a couple years ago. In addition to an impressive collection of western art and artifacts, Prosperity Junction gives visitors the opportunity to walk through a recreated western town. In spring 2020, the Cowboy Museum added an interactive outdoor space where guests can learn about history and culture through hands-on activities. Get a close look at a Kiowa tipi, visit Love's Trading Post and more! Plus, the museum will be hosting several holiday-themed events and drop-in activities throughout December. nationalcowboymuseum.org.

Oklahoma Contemporary: Although Oklahoma Contemporary has been around for 30-plus years, the organization recently moved into a gorgeous, appropriately modern building in downtown Oklahoma City. Admission is always free, and beyond just looking at the art, visitors can enjoy hands-on creative activities in the Learning Gallery. Advance tickets required. oklahomacontemporary.org

OKC EATS + TREATS

One of the best things about traveling is exploring the local food scene! Here are some popular dining destinations in the Oklahoma City area:

Holey Rollers: Hand crafted doughnuts located in the artsy Paseo District. Perfect for a quick and easy breakfast. Closed Monday and Tuesday. holeyrollersdonuts.com and thepaseo.org

Hatch Early Mood Food: This colorful restaurant serves everything from specialty pancakes (like the Piña Caramelo, served with caramelized pineapples, Myers dark rum sauce and salted caramel!) to the Burro St. Nick, a Christmas-themed breakfast burrito. Open for breakfast and lunch. While Hatch does serve a variety of coffee drinks, the surrounding neighborhood, Automobile Alley, is home to several other top-notch coffee shops. Learn more at hatchearlymoodfood.com and automobilealley.org.

Empire Slice House: Even if you have picky eaters, pizza is always sure to please! Empire Slice House is located in the Plaza District. Highlights from their menu include the Joezilla (BBQ marinara, feta, roasted chicken, red bell, red union and BBQ Sriracha drizzle) and the RBG Supreme (basil & almond pesto, mozzarella, spinach, bell peppers, red onion, Roma tomatoes and Kalamata olives.) Of course, you can always build your own! empireslicehouse.com

Pie Junkie: Pie is a perfect holiday treat, but Pie Junkie, located in the vibrant Plaza District, serves homemade, deep-dish pies all year long. Flavors rotate daily. If you do go to Pie Junkie, check out the Plaza Walls Gallery down the street. This is an ideal photo opportunity featuring multiple murals by local artists. piejunkie.com and plazadistrict.org

Roxy's Ice Cream Social: It doesn't matter how cold it is outside, it's always ice cream season! Originally a food truck, there are now several Roxy's locations in the OKC area. In addition to rotating ice cream flavors, you can order specialty sundaes, floats, cookie sandwiches (the "Mean Green," with pistachio ice cream sandwiched between chocolate chip cookies, would be a festive option!) and more. roxysicecream.com

GIFT IDEAS

Bad Granny's Bazaar: For your quirky friends and family members, Bad Granny's Bazaar is a huge vintage store located in the Plaza District. facebook.com/badgrannysbazaar

Full Circle Book Store: According to its website, Full Circle is Oklahoma's largest independent bookstore, carrying more than 60,000 new titles. You'll find something in every genre. And, if your kids are shopping with you, they'll love the special children's area! If you lose track of time while browsing, they also have an in-store café. fullcirclebooks.com

Literati Press: The employees at Literati Press can help you find the perfect book for your literary friends. Explore the surrounding Paseo District for local art options as well. literatipressok.com

OKC Outlets: Purchase name-brand items at discounted prices by shopping at the OKC Outlets. Current retailers include Disney Outlet, Old Navy Outlet, GAP Factory Store and more. okcoutlets.com

PLENTY Mercantile: PLENTY Mercantile, in the Automobile Alley District, is a one-stop shop for anyone on your list. What's more, they focus on sustainable merchandise, so you can feel extra-good about your purchase. Their holiday gift collection includes books for kids, coffee mugs, candles, dishes, and many other items. plentymercantile.com

Thrive Mama Collective: If you have a pregnant friend on your list, visit Thrive Mama Collective in the Plaza District for unique, high quality baby items. thrivemamacollective.com



Miller Swim School | Sarah Miller

Q. Giving Activities vs Toys: Why swimming lessons (and other kids' activities) make great Christmas gifts (even during COVID!)



A. Over the past several years, there has been a movement to gift experiences over toys. Many parents, myself included, are requesting that family members purchase gift certificates, equipment, or lessons for sports and other activities. Though many activities have been suspended due to health and safety concerns, there are still a few that are safe in this season: activities that are outdoors such as horseback riding or soccer, those offered in 1-1 lessons such as tennis or golf, and those in a UV-filtered swimming pool, such as swim team or swim lessons. Of these activities, swimming is the only one that can save your child's life. So, as you are shopping local this year, think outside the box or the boutique, and give a tennis racket or musical instrument with some lessons, or wrap up a swimsuit along with a set of classes. Gift your family member an activity they will use long after the toys have lost their shelf life.

6415 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa • 525 W. 91st St. S., Jenks 918.254.1988
millerswimschool.com

On the Cusp Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics | Dr. Ryan Roberts, DDS

Q: What are some dental tips for my preteen?



A: Be proactive! Plan mealtimes and snack times and make sure your child is drinking water. Children should be brushing twice a day, once in the morning and once at night for two minutes. It can be helpful to get your child a timer or even play a two-minute song while they brush their teeth. Start flossing your child's teeth as soon as they begin touching each other, and it is okay to do it for them until they can do it themselves. To make it fun, grab some different colored floss sticks! Interceptive orthodontics can start as young as seven years old, so consider visiting with an orthodontist around that age if your dentist thinks it's needed. Diet is super important for your child's teeth. Try cutting back on sugary food and drinks, and don't forget water is their best friend! Give your child plenty of positive reinforcement, good habits take time to develop, but the reward of healthy teeth lasts a lifetime.

South: 8222 E. 103rd St.
Midtown: 4444 S. Harvard Ave.
918.921.8822 • OntheCuspdds.com

HTR Pediatric Therapy | Christy Davison, COTA/L

Q: My child has sensory issues. How do I get them to wear a mask all day at school?



A: This question is on a lot of parents' minds. The first thing I recommend is to buy the right size. Make sure it's for pediatric wearers. Second, it's important to include your child in the selection of their masks. Take into consideration current sensory needs. For example, don't buy a scratchy paper mask if you know your child has issues with clothing tags.

I strongly advocate using a visual social story. Many children have issues with transitions, so a visual story that you read with them lessens their anxiety and creates space to discuss their feelings or fears. Social stories should also present the expectations you and the school will have about keeping the mask on and asking for help if it causes discomfort. Find printable social stories at www.theOTtoolbox.com.

Discuss why, how and when they need to wear a mask. Talk about how the mask feels when they put it on and which mask feels the best. Lastly, let them wear the mask for small increments of time; set a timer if needed. At home, they can get used to wearing the mask, and you can find out what bothers them about it. If you have any questions, we are here for you at HTRPediatrics!

HTR Pediatric Therapy • 6715 E. 41st St., Tulsa • 918.806.0106 • htrpediatrics.com

Dyslexia Center of Tulsa | Dr. Penny Stack, Founder & Owner

Q: I've noticed that my son sometimes writes letters backwards even though he knows them. Could this be dyslexia?



A: Letter reversals are commonly thought of as a sign of dyslexia. However, not everyone who has dyslexia will have difficulties with reversing letters or numbers, and vice versa. Dyslexia is a language processing disorder. Letter reversals are typically due to spatial awareness (knowing how to put parts together to create an image) or ocular motor dysfunction (eye muscles working together to steady an object for visual interpretation). Both of these are separate from and not associated with the language processing centers of the brain. Left untreated, frequent letter or number reversals can make reading, writing, spelling, and math challenging and frustrating. An evaluation with an occupational therapist can help identify why he is writing letters backwards and with developing a treatment plan.

Dr. Penny Stack, OTD, OTR/L, CLT,
8988 S. Sheridan Rd #D1, Tulsa OK 74133
918.313.5518
www.dyslexiatulsa.com

Drops of Hope Consulting,LLC | April D. Tate

Q: What is the difference between a 504 Plan and an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?



A: A 504 Plan is often offered to a student who doesn't need special education services, but who could benefit from accommodations. An IEP is a more detailed plan that includes special education services as well as measurable goals for the student. Both 504 Plans and IEPs allow a student to receive accommodations as well as different services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or access to the special education team for support with instruction, class work and testing. In order to determine whether a student qualifies for an IEP, the school psychologist performs an extensive evaluation.

Drops of Hope Consulting, LLC
April D. Tate
918.633.3521
dropsofhopeconsulting@gmail.com

Premier Pediatrics of Bixby | Dr. Morgan, MD, FAAP

Q: How do I keep my baby and toddler warm in the car this winter?

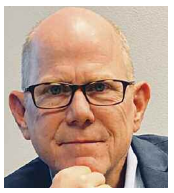


A: Dress your child in thin layers to ensure that the straps can tighten appropriately. You can use a light blanket over the child's legs or put a jacket on backwards after the straps are already buckled. Don't forget a hat or mittens as children often need one layer more than adults to remain warm. If you have a long car ride, make sure that you remove extra layers from your child as the vehicle comes to a warm temperature. Keep a close eye on the younger children as they must stay rear facing at least until 2 years of age and are recommended to continue rear facing after 2 years of age if height and weight allow. Stay warm AND safe this winter!

Premier Pediatrics of Bixby
7814 E. 121st St. Bixby
918.943.5777
premier-pediatrics.com



World Travel Service | Alex Eaton, President



Q: With international travel still questionable, is there someone at World Travel who can help our family see the USA?

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www.WorldTravelToday.com

WORLDTRAVEL

Eastern Oklahoma Ear, Nose and Throat | David Hall, MD



Q: Doctor, my 4 year old has trouble eating meat, and can only eat chicken if it is cut into small pieces. The pediatrician says it is because of her large tonsils. Is that true?

A: Yes, your pediatrician is right. Large tonsils can cause significant problems eating certain solid foods, even to the point of causing delays in growth and weight gain. Typically these children will also have some other signs of tonsil and adenoid enlargement, including snoring, restless sleep, and mouth breathing. When we evaluate children with enlarged tonsils we include questions about all of these factors to determine if they meet established criteria for tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. Studies have shown that the difficulty eating almost always resolves with surgery when these criteria are met.

Otolaryngologist David Hall, MD
Eastern Oklahoma Ear, Nose and Throat
Two Tulsa Locations: 5020 E 68th St
and 9343 S Mingo Rd
918.492.3636
www.eoent.com

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PHOTO BY VALERIE WEI-HASS.

[FREE, W] = FREE WEEKLY [W] = WEEKLY

• ALERT •
***Please note: This information is correct to the best of our knowledge. However, please always check with the event organizer ahead of time to confirm details, as information could change due to COVID-19 or other factors.**

December 1 Tuesday

KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS [FREE]
Learn the beautiful language of the Kiowa people. This class is taught by the Kiowa Tribe's Language Department via Zoom. Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events 24 hours ahead for Zoom link. For ages 10 to adult. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Also occurs December 8 and 15.

NOS APOYAMOS! [FREE]
This is a support group for Spanish-speaking parents of children with developmental disabilities, sponsored by The Arc of Oklahoma. For more information, contact Hannah Chaboya at TARC, at 918-582-8272. ddadvocacy.net

December 2 Wednesday

CAREGIVER/CHILD YOGA
With music and movement, you and your child are bound to have fun during this short yoga practice together. Learn breathing practices and poses you can do as a family at home. This event is included with regular admission and there is no pre-registration required. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. discoverylab.org

December 3 Thursday

BUILD A READER PHONE-IN STORYTIME [FREE, ONGOING]
Call 918-549-READ (7323) and follow the menu for a story, song or rhyme you can enjoy at home with your little ones! tulsalibrary.org

FAMILY STORY TIME
Join Philbrook for Family Story Time! Families and kids of all ages are invited to drop in for story time. Listen to stories, then enjoy the galleries and gardens! Advance, timed tickets required. Program repeats throughout the month. See details at philbrook.org. Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 10 a.m.

FLIP THE GALLERY CRAFT WITH LIVING ARTS [FREE]
Follow @livingartsoftulsa on Facebook for a fun craft tutorial!

December 4 Friday

WILL'S COUNTRY CHRISTMAS [FREE]
Bring the whole family to enjoy pictures with Santa, hay rides, crafts, live music, vendors, food trucks and more at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch! Plus, Santa will be visiting! Admission is free, but some activities may cost extra. Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, 9501 E. 380 Rd., Oologah, 5-9 p.m. Also occurs December 5, 5-9 p.m. willrogers.com

TEEN HANGOUT [FREE]
Visit with each other virtually on Zoom as participants play games and master trivia questions. Contact heather.lozano@tulsalibrary.org for the Zoom link. For ages 12-18. 5-6 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY: DRAWING RALLY
Join Living Arts of Tulsa for a Drawing Rally featuring local artists! Follow @livingartsoftulsa on Facebook for more details.

December 5 Saturday

MERMAID DAY
Mermaid Days are back at the Oklahoma Aquarium! Take an enchanted trip to the aquarium with mermaid-themed goodies, scavenger hunts, and decorations. From 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m., you can even meet a mermaid all while surrounded by the aquarium's beautiful aquatic life. Included in general admission. Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. okaquarium.org

SCOUT DAY
Scouts of all kinds can enjoy discounted admission and educational activities to earn their Junior Marine Biologist patch! Learn more at okaquarium.org. Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

CHANDLER PARK CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT
Follow Santa's clues throughout the park. There will be 10 riddles! When you solve a riddle, snap a pic. When you've solved all 10 riddles, post your pics on Chandler Park's page to be entered in a drawing for some pretty cool stuff. Pick up your clues at the Chandler Park Community Center. Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St., 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. parks.tulsacounty.org

December 6 Sunday

FAMILY SWIM AT MILLER SWIM SCHOOL [W]
Reserve your spot at Miller Swim School's Family Swim time! $2 per person if currently enrolled in swim lessons; $5 per person if not currently enrolled. Miller Swim School, 6415 S. Mingo Rd., 4-6 p.m. millerswimschool.com/programs/open-swim/

December 7 Monday

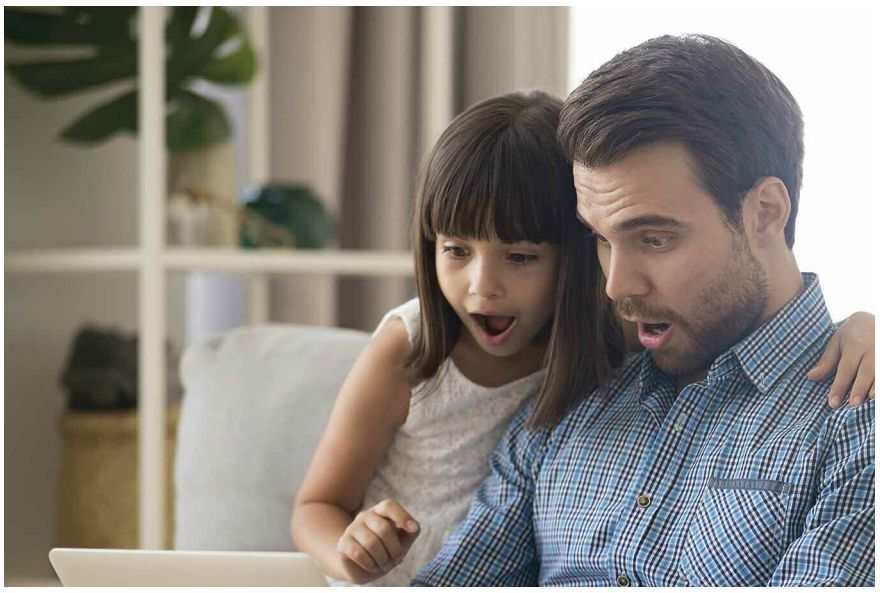
3D FLEXAGONS: TEEN TO-GO CRAFT KIT [FREE]
Create or color in a design, then make a 3D flexagon and watch the kaleidoscope effect as it turns. Stop by the Brookside Library (1207 E. 45th Pl.) to pick up a kit while supplies last. For ages 10-18. tulsalibrary.org

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BILINGUAL FOR BABIES & TODDLERS [FREE]
Enjoy stories, songs and activities in English and Spanish. Join us here: www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary. // Cuentos, canciones y actividades en inglés y español. 10:30-10:50 a.m.

December 8 Tuesday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: PRESCHOOL [FREE]
The best in children's literature, songs, games, finger plays, rhymes and other reading-related activities are shared with your preschooler. Join here: www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary. 10:30-11 a.m. Also occurs December 1 and 15.

BETWEEN THE PAGES [FREE]
Join in as participants talk about their favorite stories and play some games. Don't forget to bring your own snacks! Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events with your email address to receive the Zoom link. For ages 10-12. 6-7 p.m.



TUNE IN TO VIRTUAL STORYTIME WITH TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY! LEARN MORE AT TULSAKIDS.COM/STORYTIMES-IN-TULSA.

December 9 Wednesday

DANCE & SING ALONG
Join Executive Director Ray Vandiver and the Discovery Lab band as they sing classic children's songs. Dance with scarves, play along with instruments, and be ready to get your groove on! This event is included with regular admission and there is no pre-registration required. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. discoverylab.org

FAMILY DAY AT AHHA
Join ahha Tulsa for an afternoon of hands-on learning for families with children of all ages! Parents/caregivers and their children and teens will enjoy interactive activities in THE GALLERY and THE EXPERIENCE, explore new ideas in THE STUDIO, and dive deeper into art-making processes in the Creative Labs. Activities are drop-in; however, admission is limited. Ahha, 101 E. Archer, 12-4 p.m. ahhatulsa.org

December 10 Thursday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY [FREE]
Tune in for this real-time birth-5 storytime! Enjoy simple songs and books for little ones and more interactive stories and activities for older children. Join us here: www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary. Can't make it live? We'll save the videos on our Facebook and Tulsa City-County Library YouTube page for your children to enjoy later! Also occurs December 2, 3, 9, 16 and 17. 10:30-11 a.m.

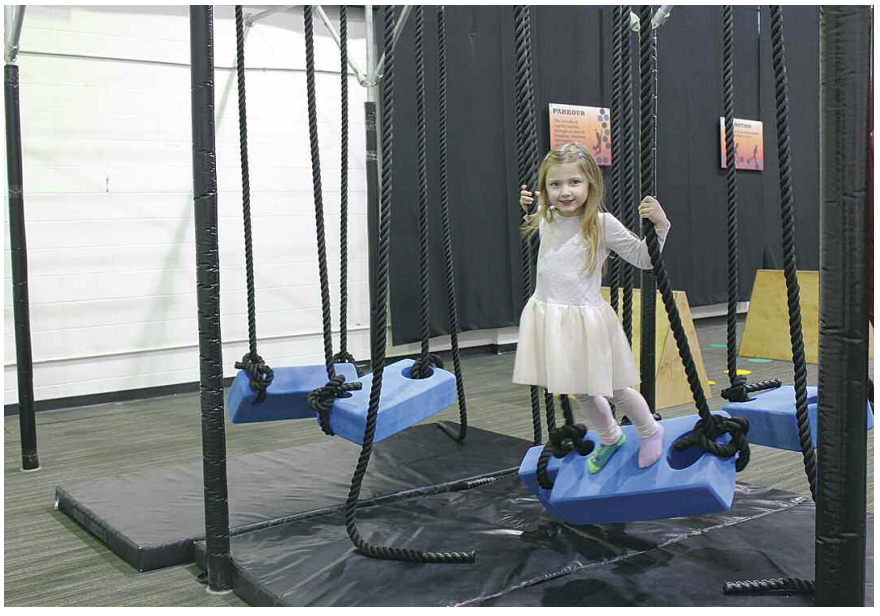
KIDS CONNECTION [FREE]
Kids Connection is a monthly social group designed for children, grades K - 5, with high-functioning autism, sponsored by The Arc of Oklahoma. For more information, contact Sherilyn Walton or Steve Pitts at 918-582-8272. 4:30-5:30 p.m. ddadvocacy.net

December 11 Friday

ONGOING ACTIVITY: VISIT GILCREASE MUSEUM
Kids of all ages will love exploring the grounds around Gilcrease Museum. Gilcrease Gardens and neighboring Stuart Park are open – with free admission – from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. If you'd like to visit the museum, reserve your tickets online in advance. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd. gilcrease.org

December 12 Saturday

MARY MCNETT: FOAM CREATURE WORKSHOP [FREE]



GET MOVING AT DISCOVERY LAB! EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, FROM 10:30-11 A.M., DISCOVERY LAB OFFERS SPECIAL PROGRAMMING FOR KIDS, INCLUDING CAREGIVER/CHILD YOGA, SCIENCE DEMOS AND MORE! PHOTO COURTESY OF DISCOVERY LAB

Follow @livingartsoftulsa on Facebook for more information about this fun workshop with local artist Mary McNett!

SATURDAY STORYTIME [FREE, W]
Head to Lavender's Bleu Literacy Market for a weekly, socially distanced story time! Afterwards, brows their collection of children's through YA books, literacy games, book-inspired gifts and more! Hand sanitizer will be available; adults and children over the age of nine will need to wear a mask. Lavender's Bleu Literacy Market, 8210 S. Harvard Ave., 11 a.m. lbliteracymarket.com

FAMILY SWIM AT MILLER SWIM SCHOOL JENKS [W]
Reserve your spot at Miller Swim School's Family Swim time! $2 per person if currently enrolled in swim lessons; $5 per person if not currently enrolled. 1:15-3:15 p.m. Miller Swim School Jenks, 525 W. 91st St. S., millerswimschool.com

December 13 Sunday

SUNDAY ZUMBA WITH ARIANE [FREE, W]
Enjoy a total workout, combining all elements of fitness – cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility, boosted energy and a serious dose of awesome each time you leave class. Guthrie Green, 111 E. Reconciliation I'lWay, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Go to www.arianebetancourt.zumba.com for more details.

December 14 Monday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BABIES & TODDLERS [FREE]
Ready, set, READ! This beginning storytime focuses on helping your baby or toddler develop important literacy skills while emphasizing the fun of reading. Join here: www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary. 10:30-10:50 a.m.

December 15 Tuesday

SIT & SKETCH: DRAW ALONG [FREE]
Try your hand at different illustration styles and techniques with a virtual draw-along. Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events to join the draw-along. Step-by-step templates of our monthly episodes are also available here: www.facebook.com/tccl-prattlibrary. For ages 5-18. 4-4:30 p.m.

TEEN BOOK CHAT [FREE]
Join in for some lively discussion and other activities on Zoom as participants chat about Sequoyah Book Award nominee "Superman: Dawnbreaker" by Matt de la Peña. Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events with your email address to receive the Zoom link. "Superman: Dawnbreaker" by Matt de la Peña is available through the library at www.tulsalibrary.org as a print book, downloadable e-book, downloadable audiobook and audio CD. 6-7 p.m.

December 16 Wednesday

SCIENCE DEMO
Join Discovery Lab for an exciting science demonstration! Included with museum admission. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. discoverylab.org

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
The Oklahoma Aquarium is proud to partner with the American Red Cross for a blood drive on Wednesday, December 16. To learn more about how your blood donation can help, visit redcrossblood.org. Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. okaquarium.org

DISMANTLING RACISM: HONORING ALL HOLIDAYS [FREE]
TulsaKids Editor Betty Casey and OSU-Tulsa Professor Quraysh Ali Lansana will be joined by local religious leaders to talk about representation during the holiday season. This event will be broadcast on Facebook Live from OSU-Tulsa's Facebook page and shared to the TulsaKids Magazine page. Please add questions or share your thoughts in the comments throughout the discussion! 12 p.m. facebook.com/tulsakidsmagazine

December 17 Thursday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY [FREE]
Tune in for this real-time birth-5 storytime! Enjoy simple songs and books for little ones and more interactive stories and activities for older children. Join here: www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary. Can't make it live? TCCL will save the videos on their Facebook and Tulsa City-County Library YouTube page for your children to enjoy later! 10:30-11 a.m. Also occurs December 2, 3, 9, 10 and 16.

FLIP THE GALLERY CRAFT WITH LIVING ARTS [FREE]
Follow @livingartsoftulsa on Facebook for a fun craft tutorial!

December 18 Friday

OUT-LIT: YA BOOK CLUB [FREE]
Chat about "I'll Be the One" by Lyla Lee. Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events to receive a Zoom link. For ages 12-18. In this book, Skye Shin has heard it all. Fat girls shouldn't dance. Wear bright colors. Shouldn't call attention to themselves. But Skye dreams of joining the glittering world of K-pop, and to do that, she's about to break all the rules that society, the media and even her own mother, have set for girls like her. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

December 19 Saturday

TULSA FARMERS' MARKET [FREE]
Shop for fresh produce and locally produced goods all season long at the Tulsa Farmers' Market's Winter Market! Also occurs December 5. 1 S. Lewis Ave., 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. tulsafarmersmarket.org

MERMAID DAY
Mermaid Days are back at the Oklahoma Aquarium! Take an enchanted trip to the aquarium with mermaid-themed goodies, scavenger hunts, and decorations. From 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m., you can even meet a mermaid all while sur-

rounded by the aquarium's beautiful aquatic life. Included in general admission. Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. okaquarium.org

December 20 Sunday

FAMILY SWIM AT MILLER SWIM SCHOOL [W]
Reserve your spot at Miller Swim School's Family Swim time! $2 per person if currently enrolled in swim lessons; $5 per person if not currently enrolled. Miller Swim School, 6415 S. Mingo Rd., 4-6 p.m. millerswimschool.com

December 21 Monday

ONGOING ACTIVITY: VISIT TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN
Tulsa Botanic Garden's Garden of Lights is a popular weekend holiday destination. But outside of Garden of Lights, the garden is a beautiful place for kids to get some fresh air and explore the outdoors! Timed, advance tickets required. Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. tulsabotanic.org

December 22 Tuesday

FIND MORE EVENTS AT TULSAKIDS.COM/CALENDAR!

December 23 Wednesday

FAMILY STORY TIME
Join Philbrook for Family Story Time! Families and kids of all ages are invited to drop in for story time. Listen to stories, then enjoy the galleries and gardens! Advance, timed tickets required. Program repeats throughout the month. See details at philbrook.org. Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., 10 a.m.

MOVE IT!
Move to music, play a game, and read a book! All activities center around a theme and are designed for young children's physical, mental, emotional, and social development. This event is included with regular admission and there is no

THE MAGICAL STORYTIME CORNER AT LAVENDER'S BLEU LITERACY MARKET. ENJOY A WEEKLY STORYTIME EVERY SATURDAY AT 11 A.M.!

pre-registration required. Discovery Lab, 560 N. Maybelle Ave., 10:30-11 a.m. discoverylab.org

MISTAKES TO MASTERPIECES: FAMILY PAINT-ALONG [FREE]
Meet via Zoom to paint seasonal and themed acrylic paintings. Register at www.tulsalibrary.org/events to receive your paint-along kit! For ages 5 to adult. 5-6 p.m.

TEEN CONNECTION [FREE]
Teen Connection is a social group for middle and high school students with high-functioning autism, sponsored by The Arc of Oklahoma. For more information, contact Sherilyn Walton or Steve Pitts at 918-582-8272. ddadvocacy.net

December 24 Thursday

ONGOING ACTIVITY: VISIT THE TULSA ZOO!
Spend Christmas Eve at the Zoo! Experience the new Helmerich Playground: Behaving Like Animals, and meet some new animal friends! Reserve tickets in advance at tulsazoo.org.

December 25 Friday

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT TULSAKIDS!

December 26 Saturday

EXPLORE THE FLORA [FREE]
Get outside and explore the beautiful, diverse flora to be found at Oxley Nature Center. No registration required. Oxley Nature Center, 6700 Mohawk Blvd., 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. oxleynaturecenter.org

December 27 Sunday

ONGOING ACTIVITY: VISIT AHHA TULSA



If you're looking for a fun Winter Break activity, visit ahha Tulsa's immersive exhibit, THE EXPERIENCE: IMAGINE. While you're there, check out THE STUDIO, where you can get creative using ahha's special "holiday" materials, such as sugar cubes, LED lights, tissue paper, felt, etc. Admission is limited; online ticket reservation recommended. Learn more at ahhatulsa.org/the-experience-imagine.

December 28 Monday

FAMILY SWIM AT MILLER SWIM SCHOOL
Reserve your spot at Miller Swim School's Family Swim time! $2 per person if currently enrolled in swim lessons; $5 per person if not currently enrolled. Find additional Winter Break Family Swim Dates at millerswimschool.com. Miller Swim School, 6415 S. Mingo Rd., 1-3 p.m.

December 29 Tuesday

FIND MORE EVENTS AT TULSAKIDS.COM/CALENDAR!

December 30 Wednesday

WHAT TO READ NEXT [FREE]
Join TCCL at www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary. Write a comment telling the library what you last read and liked, a favorite author or three words describing what you'd like to read, and if you prefer an e-book or e-audio. A TCCL staff member respond with two personalized suggestions! 2-3 p.m.

December 31 Thursday

GOOD-BYE, 2020! AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



BY NATALIE HANSON

the gifts of patience

We homeschoolers rode a wave of weird excitement earlier this year as everyone suddenly lost a grip on the status quo and frantically looked around for other options. All of a sudden, homeschool didn't seem so out there. With normalcy out the window, alternative school choices have had their 15 minutes of fame. With this excitement came opportunities to share all of the wonderful things about teaching your kids at home. Freedom, Family, Time, Yay!

In the same way you don't tell newlyweds about the real tribulations of married life, it wasn't the time to tell all our zealous newcomers about the hard reality of it all. But y'all, make no mistake about it, homeschooling is hard. Just like anything worth anything, it is a struggle and a climb. That does not take away from what a wonderful choice it is when it's right for your family! The gifts of the experience are many, but it is hard, and it requires loads of patience to see it through.

Patience. It's a hallmark of the homeschool experience. Really, there is almost no instant gratification involved. From those first steps toward the discipline of independent work, to climbing the mountain of reading and math skills, there are many days that appear fruitless before you see the blossom of your time and work appear in your child. This year, for all of us, adults and children alike, has required more patience than anyone anticipated.

True patience isn't the same as waiting. Waiting can mean you know when the end is coming, but you're just not there yet. Patience runs a little deeper. It requires you to function in a place of unknowing. To work solely within the present and to trust. Almost every major religion and philosophy for living gives great value to the virtue of patience, and to consider its practice a noble trait.

> "True patience isn't the same as waiting. Waiting can mean you know when the end is coming, but you're just not there yet. Patience runs a little deeper."

I don't know about you, but I always need more patience. More patience to sit and explain something to a child. More patience when they try something for themselves and make a mess. More patience with my husband when he can't understand the 30 things I'm trying to tell him with a single facial expression.

I'm coming up on another round of adventures in postpartum living pretty soon, and when I think back to my first baby, I know I am supposed to rest, but I also long to feel normal. No one really gives you a clear answer on when and how that is going to happen. So you get up, put tiny jeans on your newborn, and try and move it all along. And then often, you crash. I have found the best remedy for this is — you guessed it — patience. That means sinking into the feeling that things aren't yet where you want them to be, but having faith that with time, things will heal.

I think that is where many of us are left this year, especially when it comes to our kids and their education. We have pivoted and pivoted again. We have juggled and balanced and held it together the best we can. All without really knowing what will grow and how long it will take. Yet, even though we can't see it now, growth there will be, and the fruit of your hard work and devotion to your children's success will eventually come to bear. We all just need a little patience. And to 2021, here's hoping.

Make the holidays bright with the help of TulsaKids' Holiday Family Fun Guide!



Holidays at Home: Seasonal Crafts and Recipes



Santa Sightings: Where to Find St. Nick



Top Christmas Light Displays



Local Gift Ideas

Find all this (and much more!) at tulsakids.com/holiday

CELEBRATE WINTER WITH GILCREASE

Throughout the month of December, enjoy free, family-friendly activities all about winter including a virtual holiday card workshop taught by former Tulsa Artist Fellow Emily Chase on Wednesday, December 16 at noon.

Find more information at gilcrease.org/winter.

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Naughty? Nice? Regardless, make sure they're college bound.

Contribute to your child or grandchild's future by giving an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan this holiday season. From now to the end of the year, get a $25 bonus when you open an account with $25 or more and set up recurring giving for three or more months. An OCSP account can be used to pay for tuition, room and board, books, computers and more at colleges, universities and technology centers. Plus, contributions can qualify for a 2020 Oklahoma state income tax deduction. Limitations apply.* Give them a gift that's a present and a future!

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RANDY MCDANIEL
Oklahoma State Treasurer
Chair, Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan

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*To learn more about the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan, its investment objectives, tax benefits, risks and costs, please see the Disclosure Booklet at ok4saving.org. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. If the funds aren't used for qualified higher education expenses, a 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply. Consult your legal or tax professional for tax advice. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan. 1354980



BY NANCY A. MOORE

meet Lindsay Hutchison – **zoo day every day**

As a child, Lindsay Hutchison and her brother spent countless hours at the Tulsa Zoo; they explored the beautiful grounds, observed the animals and developed a deep interest in learning about them. She credits her dad's personal involvement as a board member for influencing her interest in the zoo at a young age. Therefore, it seemed a natural fit when, in 2005, she took a position there as the development coordinator where she played an integral role in the zoo's growth.

Hutchison was recently named President and CEO of Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. Assuming this role in the midst of a global pandemic has not deterred her dedication and desire to successfully lead the zoo. Her sights are set on the future with a vested interest – both professionally and personally – in providing an outstanding experience for each guest who visits the zoo, including her husband and two young children. Hutchison and her team welcome guests with open arms and a clear message – the zoo continues to offer a safe experience in a family friendly environment.



LINDSAY AND HER FAMILY.

TK: Tell us a little about your background:

Hutchison: I was born and raised in Tulsa and went to Jenks schools. Both my parents were actively involved in the community and served on multiple boards throughout town as well as gave much of their time to volunteer. They emphasized to both my brother and I the need to committing to helping those less fortunate than us and to give back when possible. I think that is why a career at a non-profit always appealed to me.

TK: When did you join the Tulsa Zoo?

Hutchison: I joined the Tulsa Zoo in 2005 as a development coordinator, and from there, led fundraising, guest relations and external engagement. My passion for a zoo career began right here in Tulsa. My father [Lex Anderson] was a long-time zoo supporter and board member, which meant I got to spend my free time at the zoo with my brother. It was this experience that shaped my career goals and helped me understand the ways zoos can help people want to do more for animals worldwide.

I met my husband while attending Jenks. We reconnected after college and now have two young children that adore the zoo. Watching the way they react to our animals in their new habitats continues to motivate me to continue to build a bigger and better zoo.

TK: When you were young, what did you dream about becoming?

Hutchison: I have always had a deep love for animals. Besides wanting to work at a zoo or aquarium, I also dreamed about opening an animal rescue center. I would often bring stray and injured animals home to ensure they were taken care of. I am still passionate about responsible pet ownership today, and I am proud of the rehabilitation efforts our zoo participates in year after year.

TK: Why does the Tulsa Zoo hold a special place in your heart?

Hutchison: I was 4 years old when I had the opportunity to meet an elephant named Gunda, which started my lifelong obsession with her and for zoos. Gunda had a wonderful personality and the elephant manager did an excellent job educating me about elephants' social intelligence. Gunda's ability to display compassion and her agility for her size stuck with me.

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For those of you who aren't familiar with Gunda's story, she came to our zoo in 1954. The boat carrying her to the United States broke down in Bermuda. That chance event allowed so many children to see an elephant for the first time. She was just as beloved here. The Tulsa community immediately embraced Gunda and even helped raise money to support her care and feeding. Gunda touched the lives of millions of Tulsa Zoo guests until her passing in 2018 at the age of 67.

TK: What is your favorite animal at the zoo?

Hutchison: My favorite animal is whichever animal I'm spen ding time with! I love all of our animals and enjoy different things about each of them. Obviously, because of Gunda, our Asian elephants hold a special place for me. Part of the joy of that experience was that personal connection, the fact someone took the time to tell me more and inspire me to want to do something for Gunda and her herd. Any time I'm on zoo grounds listening to keepers talk about one of our ambassador species, I'm reinvigorated, and that spark returns. These are the experiences I'm looking to create for our guests.

TK: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Hutchison: When my friends talk about having a rough day at the office and needing to get away, I can't relate. When I need a break, I head out of my office and on grounds. This is where I recharge and draw inspiration.

TK: What insider tips can you share with our readers?

Hutchison: I always encourage our guests to check the daily schedule. Feedings and enrichment offer fun opportunities to learn more about natural behaviors and the various ways our zookeepers see to our animals' wellbeing.

I do enjoy mornings at the zoo. The animals are usually active in their exhibits trying to discover what enrichment the keepers have put out for the day.

TK: Now that you've been in the President/CEO role for a few months, what ideas are you working on/excited about introducing?

Hutchison: I am excited to have the chance to build on our former president, Terrie Correll's, legacy. Terrie led Tulsa Zoo's transition from an underfunded facility to completion of the first phase of the master plan to completely rebuild the 90-plus-year-old zoo. In only eight years, the zoo was able to complete Phase 1 of the master plan by delivering $26 million in fully funded and completed improvements. Because of her efforts, the zoo has raised more than half of the funds needed to complete the second phase of our master plan. I am in awe of her accomplishments and proud to lead the zoo into the next phase. We have opened the first project of Phase 2, the Helmerich Behaving Like Animals playground. I look forward to continuing the fundraising efforts for our African Wilds: Carnivores exhibit and working to break ground on this exhibit and our new elephant expansion by the end of 2021. I am so thankful to our zoo donors for believing in the zoo mission and helping us continue to build a bigger, better zoo.

TK: How has Covid changed the growth trajectory of the zoo?

Hutchison: The Tulsa Zoo began 2020 on track to complete fundraising for our next major exhibit complex, African Wilds; our new playground was ready to open, and we were preparing for a busy Spring Break, which is a time we typically see 10 percent of our annual attendance.

No destination was untouched by the pandemic. In our case, the care we provide our animals never changes, open or closed. While some businesses were able to close their doors to reduce costs, we continued to spend about $34,000 a day to care for our facilities and animals. I'm grateful to everyone who contributed to our emergency operating fund, and for our staff who shouldered much of the cost through furloughs and taking on additional responsibilities.

After a 10-week closure, we reopened to reservation-only tickets and limited zoo attendance. Thankfully, our zoo fans have been supportive of the changes.

TK: What are some ways people can get involved or volunteer?

Hutchison: There are a number of ways you can support our zoo, from visiting, to contributing to our fundraising efforts. While our on-grounds volunteer program is on pause, I encourage people to check our website to learn about other ways to support our animal conservation and education mission.

Information about supporting the zoo is available at tulsazoo.org/support-us and our capital campaign information is buildingbeyond.org.

TK: What would you like people to know about the Tulsa Zoo?

Hutchison: I would like for your readers to know the zoo is operated by a nonprofit organization, Tulsa Zoo Management Inc. Tulsa Zoo is owned by the City of Tulsa and operates through a public-private partnership. TZMI is responsible for day-to-day operations, including animal care, staffing and fundraising, which is why our fundraising events and public funding opportunities like Vision and Improve Our Tulsa are essential to our zoo's growth.

And I want the kids to know our lions, Kalu and Shatari, are sharing an exhibit now so come see them together.

TK: What is your hope for zoo visitors to take away from the visit?

Hutchison: My hope is everyone who spends time at our zoo is inspired to support our ambassador animals' wild counterparts. There are so many simple ways to support animal conservation like switching to sustainable palm oil and seafood products.

TK: I know you are busy planning for 2021 – even better than ever!
What fundraising event is most important to the zoo and what does it help with?

Hutchison: We have big changes planned for our three major fundraisers, which help us build new exhibits and support zoo operations. ZooRun is moving to March 27. Our hope is moving the race to the end of the school year will make it easier for more schools to participate. WALTZ on the Wild Side, our 21-plus fundraiser, moves to Sept. 17, which should offer a break in temperatures compared with our usual June date. HallowZOOeen this year moved to a daytime event with nine available weekend dates in October. We're deciding whether to continue this new tradition, and guest feedback will be an important factor in our decision. All fundraisers are vital to our continued growth whether they support our general operations or a new capital project.

TK: Will there be any events during the holidays?

Hutchison: I am so excited to share that reindeer are returning to the zoo this year. Zoo guests can meet real reindeer on the first two Saturdays in December thanks to a generous sponsor. We're finalizing the plans, so be sure to check our website or social media for the latest.

TK: What else would you like to mention?

Hutchison: Come to the zoo! The upside of a generally mild winter is you can find plenty of days to enjoy unplugged, relaxed family fun. And, P.S., we have a new giraffe, rhino and elephant.

Visit www.tulsazoo.org for more information, to schedule a visit, or purchase tickets.



BY NATALIE MIKLES

baking cookies together **makes holiday magic**

A lot of things about the holidays look different this year.

Visits to Santa, watching The Nutcracker, Christmas parties with friends, parades – we won't take any of it for granted once the veil of Covid has been lifted.

But the opportunities to make the holidays magical for kids – even in 2020 – are endless. We can still drive around looking at Christmas lights, watch favorite Christmas movies in our pajamas, dry orange slices to make homemade ornaments for the tree. And we can bake. We can make fudge, cakes, cookies and candies. We can make them for neighbors, leaving them on their porches with sweet notes. We can send a box of sweets to grandparents or teachers. And we can bake just for the pleasure and fun of doing something together with our families.

Cookies are probably the easiest thing to make with kids. We've included several recipes, some kids can make almost entirely on their own and others that will require help from parents.

Classic gingerbread cookies are a holiday must-have. This recipe makes a soft gingerbread cookie, which some people prefer over crisp.

GINGERBREAD COOKIES

Makes 2 dozen

- 5 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 eggs



1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line cookie sheets with parchment. Sift together the flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg, cloves and salt. Set aside.

2. In a saucepan, melt the shortening. Remove pan from heat. Beat in sugar and molasses until creamy. Beat in the eggs.

3. In a large mixing bowl, beat together the molasses mixture and about half of the flour mixture. Beat in the remaining flour. Divide dough in half, then cover each section with plastic wrap. Chill in the refrigerator for about an hour or until easy to handle.

4. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface to about ¼-inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters. Arrange on a cookie sheet. Sprinkle with additional sugar if desired. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from pan to wire rack. Frost when cool, if desired.

This is one of those recipes perfect for kids. Macaroons are an easy drop cookie that look pretty on a Christmas cookie tray.

MACAROONS

Makes 2 dozen

- 2 2/3 cups sweetened, flaked coconut
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 egg whites, beaten
- 1 teaspoon almond extract



1. Heat oven to 325 degrees. Line cookie sheet with parchment.

2. In a medium mixing bowl, combine coconut, sugar, flour and salt. Stir in egg whites and almond extract. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown.

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This is a really different cookie. It's park peppermint bark, part cookie – the best of both worlds.

WHITE CHOCOLATE AND PEPPERMINT COOKIE BRITTLE

Makes 2 dozen pieces

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 10 ounces good white chocolate, chopped and divided
- 3/4 cup coarsely crushed peppermints or candy canes, divided

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment. Whisk the flour, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl. In a large bowl, whisk the melted butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla until smooth. Stir in flour mixture until just blended. Stir in 1 cup chopped white chocolate and ½ cup crushed peppermint candy.

2. Transfer dough to prepared sheet. Press dough into 8-by-14-inch rectangle, about 1/8-inch thick. Bake for about 30 minutes or until top is firm and dark golden. Cool on sheet 10 minutes. Transfer to rack, and cool completely.

3. Melt remaining chocolate by cooking at 20-second intervals in the microwave, stirring each time until melted and smooth. Using a small spoon, drizzle about half of the melted chocolate in thin lines over the cooled cookie. Sprinkle with remaining crushed peppermint. Drizzle remaining melted chocolate over the top. Let stand until white chocolate sets, about 1 hour. Break cookie into pieces, around 2- to 3-inches each.

Rugelach is fun to make, and this version, with chocolate and raspberry is really delicious. We've made it easy, starting with refrigerated pie dough.

CHOCOLATE-RASPBERRY RUGELACH

- 1 Pillsbury refrigerated pie crust, softened as directed on box
- 3 tablespoons raspberry preserves
- 1/4 cup finely chopped toasted pecans
- 2 tablespoons miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 teaspoons powdered sugar



1. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line large cookie sheet with cooking parchment paper.

2. On work surface, unroll crust; spread preserves to within 1/4-inch from edge. Sprinkle with pecans and chocolate chips. With sharp knife or pizza cutter, cut crust into 16 triangles. Roll up each triangle starting at short end to opposite point; place point-side-down, 1 inch apart on cookie sheets. Brush with beaten egg.

3. Bake 12 to 14 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Cool 5 minutes; sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.

Note: Store cookies in an airtight container in single layers between parchment or waxed paper in refrigerator up to 2 days. Cookies can be frozen up to 2 months. To thaw, let stand uncovered at room temperature 1 to 2 hours.

You can't beat a two-ingredient holiday treat. These are perfect for kids to make, though you'll need to help with melting the chocolate.

PEANUT BUTTER CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES



Makes 2 dozen

- 1 roll (16.5 oz) refrigerated peanut butter cookies
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Shape cookie dough into 1 1/4-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheets.

2. Bake 8 to 9 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool on cookie sheets 5 minutes. With buttered hands, shape each cookie into ball; refrigerate 10 to 15 minutes or until completely cooled. Meanwhile, line cookie sheet with waxed paper; set aside.

3. In medium bowl, microwave chocolate chips uncovered on high 1 minute, stirring until smooth. Keep cooking at 10-15 second intervals, stirring between each, until chocolate is melted.

4. Dip cooled cookie balls, one at a time, into melted chocolate; place on cookie sheet. If necessary, reheat chocolate. Refrigerate truffles about 10 minutes or until coating is set.





BY BETTY CASEY

homemade christmas ornaments to give and keep

I've made Christmas ornaments for years. I often give handmade ornaments as gifts to friends and family. And, when I put up the tree and hang the decorations, those kid-made, slightly off-kilter ornaments are my favorites. Here are a few that you might try. Use your own twist an things – substituting materials or figuring out different ways to create similar ornaments.



I'll start with the super-easy. With a little help, even toddlers can do this one.

Clear Plastic Painted Ornaments

You'll need:

- Clear plastic ornaments
- Acrylic paint in your favorite colors, preferably with "squirt-able" tops (or transfer paint to small squirt bottles)
- Gold, red or green paint pen, optional

Let kids pick their colors and squirt a small amount of each into the ornament. Put the top back on the ornament and roll around to create a fun look. Glittery paint is a good choice, or just opt for the classic red and green.

Write the child's name and date on the outside for a keepsake, or if you're giving it as a gift, write a message such as Happy Holidays! along with the date.



Wine Cork Ornaments

If you've been wondering what to do with the bowl of wine corks you've been saving to make something, try using a few to make cute ornaments.

You'll need:

- Wine corks
- Acrylic paint
- Small eye screw
- Pens or Sharpies
- Decorative items such as chenille craft sticks (pipe cleaners), small sticks, google eyes, ribbon, felt, tiny pompons, etc.



To make Rudolph, no need to paint the cork — just glue on eyes and red pompon nose. Use brown pipe cleaners for antlers. Draw a smiling mouth if you want. Screw the eye screw into the top of his head and you're done.

If you want to make a cork reindeer with a whole body, I've included an image of that one. I used heavy jewelry wire for legs and antlers.

To make a snowman or an angel, paint the cork white with acrylic paint and use your imagination to dress them up!

Candy Cane & Wreath Bead Ornaments

You will need:

- Chenille craft pipe cleaners
- Red and white beads for candy canes
- Small red beads and star-shaped green beads for Christmas wreaths



Note: make sure the beads have large enough openings for the pipe cleaners.

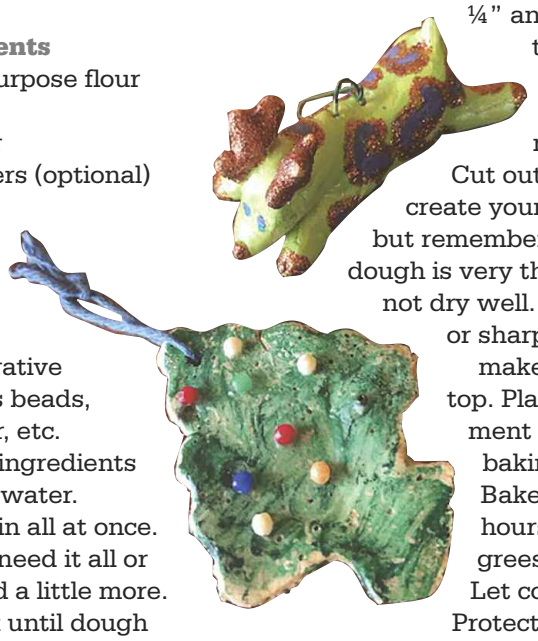
Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around a bead or make a knot to keep the others from coming off. For the candy cane, alternate red and white beads, leaving enough pipe cleaner at the end to create a knot to keep the beads in place. Bend into a candy cane shape.

For the wreaths, secure one end to keep beads in place. Thread several green beads and then add one red bead. Leave enough pipe cleaner to twist ends together. When the wreath is full, bend into a circle and twist ends together. Add a bow at the top.

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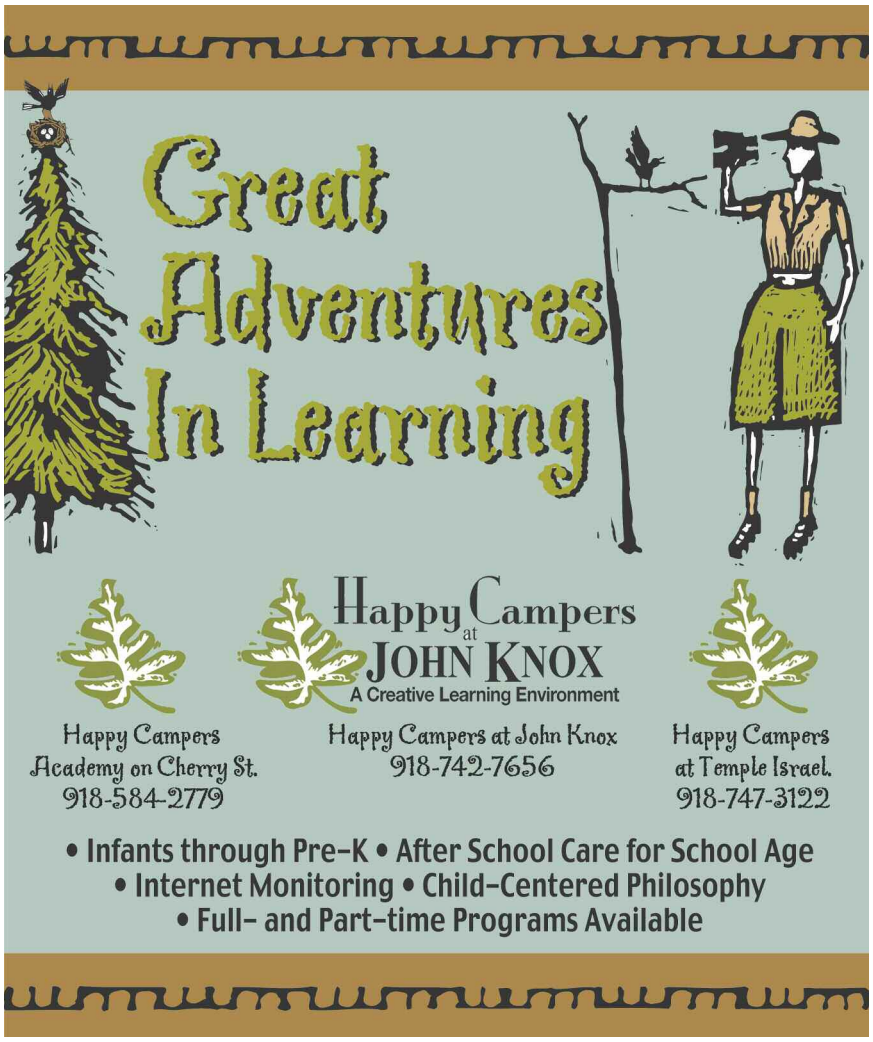
Clay Ornaments

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water
- cookie cutters (optional)
- baking pan
- parchment paper
- Acrylic paint
- Other decorative items such as beads, jewels, glitter, etc.



Mix dry ingredients in bowl. Add water. Don't pour it in all at once. You may not need it all or you may need a little more. Mix with fork until dough comes together. Fold and knead the dough on a flat surface until it is thoroughly mixed. If it cracks and feels too dry, add more water. If you're using cookie cutters for shapes, roll out dough between ¼" and ½" thick (if there are a lot of cracks, knead in more water). Cut out shapes. Or create your own shapes, but remember that if dough is very thick it may not dry well. Use a straw or sharp utensil to make a hole at the top. Place on parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Bake two to three hours at 200 degrees F until firm. Let cool and paint. Protect with a coat of varnish.







BY ELENA EPSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF NAPPA AWARDS

we love it

It can be confusing and overwhelming to find just the right toy for children on your list. The NAPPA (National Parenting Product Awards) awards honor the best family products in the industry. Here are the NAPPA toys for December 2020, along with some great suggestions from Kiddlestix in Tulsa.



Robo Wunderkind Explorer Prime Kit

Robotics kits that empower children as young as 5 to learn to code through the joy of play. Young inventors can build their own robots and gadgets, customize them with LEGO™, and program them through the intuitive apps. $249, ages 5-14, http://robowunderkind.com/

Songs Across the Pond

This transatlantic alliance, pairing of the acclaimed American kids musician and standout UK family music maker, results in a thoroughly triumphant partnership – a hooky, sunny 60s-flavored rock 'n' roll collection that the whole family will enjoy. $13.99, http://www.bradyrymer.com/songsacrossthepond

Jeepers Peepers ® The "Ask and Answer" Question Game Party Pack

Am I a monkey? A hamburger? An astronaut? A car? That's the question on everyone's mind – or glasses. A hilarious family game with 208 cards, 12 pairs of glasses, spinner, bingo chips and game ideas. $59.85, ages 6+, https://www.superduperinc.com/products/view.aspx?pid=JP10&s=jeepers-peepers-party-pack



Pinkfong Baby Shark Dancing DJ

Boogie to the beat with Dance Detection Technology. When you move and groove, the Baby Shark will dance with you! Plays 7 fun songs and popular remixes, plus three interactive games. $39.99, ages 2+, https://babyshark.wowwee.com



Under-The-Sea Mermaid Palace

Splash into an undersea adventure with exciting play spaces built in, including a royal throne, slides, clamshell bed, seashell vanity, working gate and swing. $49.99, ages 3 – 8, https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/

Sharon, Lois and Bram's Skinnamarink

Based on the classic folk song made famous by a beloved trio of children's entertainers, this picture book is best sung aloud! A timeless anthem of love and inclusion. $17.99, ages 3-7, https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/565716/sharon-lois-and-brams-skinnamarink-by-sharon-hampson-lois-lilienstein-and-bram-morrison-with-randi-hampson-illustrated-by-qin-leng/

Band Together

Duck is a solo act, but in this delightful book he learns all about the joys of friendship. $14.99, ages 4-8, https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/band-together



Insulated Sportee Bottle

Made for active toddlers, offers chilled drinking with a big kid look, featuring an insulated base to keep drinks cool and easy-grip sides. $13.99, https://www.tommeetippee.com/en-us/product/insulated-sportee?sku=549108

Ripclear Kid's Shield

Makers of the advanced protective film for outdoor sports eyewear have launched a new children's face shield designed to provide extra protection from the

continued next page

COVID-19 virus. Available in pink bunny and panda and lined with 3/4 foam around the forehead to reduce pressure points, and held in place with a soft elastic headband. Has received medical device certification from the FDA. $19.99/5 pack, ages 4-9, https://ripclear.com/childrens-face-shield

The Monkey Mind Meditation Deck

Help children become more present, confident, and capable of handling difficult emotions. This vibrant deck offers 30 simple practices to explore the transformative power of mindfulness in a playful way. $17.95, ages 4+, https://www.shambhala.com/the-monkey-mind-meditation-deck.html

All the Ladies

A new collection of songs focused on gender equality, female empowerment & breaking glass ceilings. Written by Joanie Leeds and produced, recorded and performed entirely by women. $10, ages 5-8, http://www.joanieleeds.com

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson

From Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Author Award winner Renée Watson comes the first book in a young middle grade series about Ryan Hart, a girl who is pure spirit, kindness and sunshine. $16.99, ages 7-10, https://www.amazon.com/Ways-Make-Sunshine-Ren%C3%A9e-Watson/dp/154760056X/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Ways+to+Make+Sunshine&qid=1583943151&s=books&sr=1-1

Hello Amigo / Hello Friend

A fun, bouncy bilingual song from 123 Andrés' Grammy Award-winning album, now brought to life in a whole new way that's perfect for story time sharing. $8.99, ages 1- 6, http://www.123andres.com/product/hola-amigo-book/

Imagine That! The Sesame Street Music of Joe Raposo & Jeff Moss

Broadway/TV actress Rena Strober is joined by friends Jason Alexander, French Stewart and the DOTZ blind children's choir to celebrate the classic music from Sesame Street. $9.99 (Digital Album) $14.99 (CD), A portion of all sales goes to Guide Dogs of America & Gavin's Groupies, http://www.renastrober.bandcamp.com

Just Add Fruits & Veggies

This cool STEAM kit will deliver hours of exploration, creativity, learning and enjoyment. With more than 20 science and art activities – all involving what's already in your kitchen. $22.95, ages 8+, https://www.griddlygames.com/product/just-add-fruits-veggies/

Roybi Robot

A sleek, adorable robot with lots of things to share. Designed to provide personalized education based on your child's individual learning pace and interests with over 500 lessons, including language learning, basic STEM, stories, games and songs. $199.95, ages 3+, https://roybirobot.com

Go Go Bird

An intelligent flying bird that's a perfect mix of traditional R/C and today's trending drone toys. You can challenge your friends to a race, perform aerial tricks, or see who can land in the most unique places using its intuitive remote control. $49.99, ages 8+, https://www.amazon.com/Zing-Go-Bird-Starting-Outdoors/dp/B08DL4HPB6

Burger Academy

Introduces families to the basic concepts of coding while providing a great game to play. Featuring a picnic aesthetic, visual instructions and chunky foam burger-themed components serve both visual and hands-on learners. $15.00, ages 8+, https://shop.ultrapro.com/products/burgeracademy?_pos=1&_sid=e0f147556&_ss=r

Local Hot-seller Suggestions from Kiddlestix

All of the products below are available at Kiddlestix, 3815 S. Harvard, www.kiddlestixtoys.com



InnyBin

A 2020 Toy of the Year Finalist, InnyBin is a unique shape-exploration experience with six chunky, textured blocks that kids push through elastic bands around a cube. Sparks curiosity and exploration. Infants & toddlers, Fat Brain Toys



Air Fort by Kaplan Early Learning Company

All you need is a box fan and you have a fort! Easy up and down.

No pillows, no sheets, no mess! Ages 3+, Kaplan Early Learning Company

Tonies

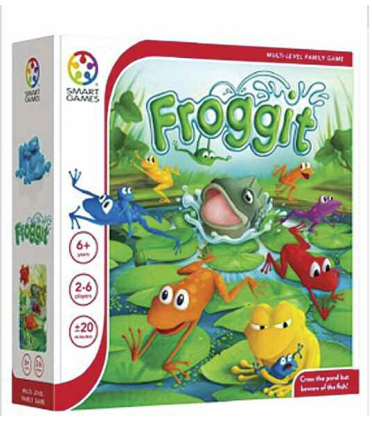
The toniebox is a speaker that plays music and stories depending on which Tonie character you place on top. Each box comes with a "creative tonie" that you can add up to 90 minutes of content. Ages 3





Robots in Motion by Learning Resources

These robots really twist, turn, and move! Kids can design and build the STEM robots of their dreams with Gears! Gears! Gears! Robots in Motion. Ages 5-9,



Froggit

Guide your frogs across the pond and block other players from doing the same. The first player to get their entire frog family to the other side wins the game. Flexible thinking, clever planning and the chance to thwart your opponents make this a fun and exciting game! Ages 6+, Smart Toys and Games

Brilliant Light Displays in the Tulsa Area



Winter Wonderland at Gathering Place

Light up your holiday season with a visit to one of the Tulsa area's most spectacular light displays!

RHEMA LIGHTS
When: November 25-January 1
Where: Rhema Bible Church, 1025 W. Kenosha St., Broken Arrow
Rhema's Christmas Lights Extravaganza began in 1982 with about 60,000 lights. Today, more than two million lights adorn the campus from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Day. The glittering lights will shine every day from 5:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is free. www.rhema-lights.org

CASTLE CHRISTMAS
When: Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve
Where: The Castle of Muskogee, 3400 W. Fern Mountain Rd., Muskogee
Drive through Castleton Village, filled with over 2,000 holiday displays and thousands of colorful lights, creating an unforgettable experience. Open every night, Thanksgiving through New Year's, 5:30-10 p.m. Drive-through is free; donations accepted.
Other activities, including visits with Father Christmas a cafe, train rides through the village, and more, are available certain days for an additional fee. Learn more at www.ok-castle.com.

GARDEN OF LIGHTS AT HONOR HEIGHTS PARK
When: November 26-January 1 (Gates open daily at 5:30 p.m.)
Where: 1400 Honor Heights Dr., Muskogee
Celebrate the holidays and experience animated displays with more than 1,000,000 LED shimmering lights at Muskogee's Annual Garden of Lights, an attraction for the whole family to enjoy. The 130-acre Honor Heights Park is decorated for the holiday season with azalea bushes and other vegetation illuminated with color, imitating their natural state during the blooming of spring. This 35-40 minute drive-thru attraction features lighted displays of deer, squirrels, and birds scattered amongst a wide variety of trees wrapped in lights. Animated displays are synchronized to recorded holiday music available on your radio as you drive through the park.

Gates open daily at 5:30pm
Admission (Tues-Sun): $5/car; $10/bus or passenger vans
Monday nights - Free (no admission or donations collected)

Follow us on FB, Muskogee Parks and Recreation - Garden of Lights 2020 Event Page
facebook.com/muskogeeparksandtrails

WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS
When: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, November 27-December 20, 5-9 p.m.
Where: Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve, 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Rd., Bartlesville
A wonderful holiday tradition returns as a drive thru experience this year with the spectacular Wonderland of Lights! The grounds and buildings of Woolaroc will be covered with over 750,000 lights as the historic ranch transforms itself into a magical winter wonderland. The lights will be turned on Friday, November 27th and will be on every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 5-9



Search for your favorite woodland creatures at Honor Heights Park's Garden of Lights in Muskogee. Gates open daily at 5:30 p.m. through January 1.
Photo by Michael Hedge

p.m., through December 20th.
Admission to Wonderland of Lights is: $2 per person
Children 2 and under and Members of Woolaroc are
FREE www.woolaroc.org

GARDEN OF LIGHTS
When: Thursdays-Sundays, Nov. 27 – Jan. 3. Also open Dec. 21-23 (closed Dec. 24 & 25)
Where: Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.
Reconnect with family and friends in the garden illuminated with colorful lights. Make s'mores over fire pits, enjoy holiday music and take in the spirit of the season in our magical garden escape. Warm drinks, cash bar and s'more kits are available every night for purchase.
Train rides are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and Dec. 21-23, 5-9 p.m. on the peninsula.(Note path to peninsula is not accessible)
TICKETS: $15 for ages 13+, $5 for ages 3-12. Children 2 and under are free.
Garden member discounted tickets are $10 for ages 13+; $5 for ages 3-12. Tickets are limited and advance purchase is required.
Get more information at www.tulsabotanic.org.

LIGHTS ON! AT GUTHRIE GREEN
When: December 4, 2020
Where: Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
`Tis the season to be jolly and what better way to celebrate the holiday season than with the
8th annual "Glow on the Green!"
Starting Friday, December 4, enjoy thousands of holiday lights illuminating The Green, accompanied with a weekend full of live music, local vendors, and plenty of holiday cheer!

WINTER WONDERLAND PRESENTED BY AMERICAN AIRLINES
When: December 18-January 3
Where: Gathering Place, 2600 S. Riverside Dr.
Despite the challenges of COVID, Gathering Place will once again transform into a Winter Wonderland, but this year's event will have socially spaced zones and surprises to celebrate this holiday season. Wander through the Park and experience thousands of twinkling lights illuminating Chapman Adventure Playground, special performances and carolers, as well as some exciting new plans tucked in our sleigh. Winter Wonderland presented by American Airlines will create holiday traditions and memories for the whole family! gatheringplace.org

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Tulsa Area Christmas Tree Farms and Lots

Make the holidays extra-special (and fragrant!) this year by purchasing a living Christmas tree! Choose a pre-cut tree or, for an unforgettable family memory, cut your own!

OWASSO CHRISTMAS TREE AND BLACKBERRY FARM
WHERE: 11039 N 129TH EAST AVE. IN OWASSO
WHEN: OPEN NOVEMBER 21-DECEMBER 22. OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 1-7 P.M.; SATURDAY-SUNDAY, 9 A.M.-7 P.M. CLOSED NOVEMBER 26.
The Owasso Tree and Berry Farm is a great place to find your special holiday tree. Whether you choose to cut your own Virginia Pine, Carolina Sapphire or Leyland Cypress, or purchase a pre-cut tree, it is sure to be a tradition to cherish. In 2020, they will have a walk-up check-out window for those who do not wish to go inside the Gift Shop. There will also be complementary hot apple cider located in a special Cider Shack. Find out more at www.owassotreefarm.com.

PLEASANT VALLEY FARMS
WHERE: 22350 W. 71ST S., SAND SPRINGS
WHEN: OPENING DAY IS NOVEMBER 21. OPEN WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY, 9 A.M.-6 P.M. CLOSED MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS.
Bring the old time feel of Christmas back into your family's traditional celebration with the help of Pleasant Valley Farm. Wander through the rows of expertly trimmed Virginia Pine Christmas trees until you find the centerpiece of your holiday decor or browse our selection of imported, precut Fir trees. Use one of their saws to fell your tree or request the help of one of the Pleasant Valley woodsmen. Find more at www.pleasantvalleyfarmsok.com, and follow @pleasantvalleyfarmsok on Facebook and Instagram for updates.

CASCIA HALL'S MIDTOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LOT
WHERE: CASCIA HALL, 2520 S. YORKTOWN AVE.
WHEN: NOVEMBER 28-29, 11 A.M.-7 P.M.; DECEMBER 4, 4-7 P.M.; DECEMBER 5-6, 11 A.M.-7 P.M.
Cascia Hall's Christmas Tree Lot will feature over 200 Fraser fir trees as well as noble fir wreaths. The trees will be available in 6-7 feet, 7-8 feet and 10-feet sizes. The wreathes will be 26 and 30 inches in diameter. In addition to the trees, the tree lot will also feature a special Santa's village with fun activities for kids, including: Elf on the Shelf Scavenger Hunt, a Kids' Christmas Train, Cascia Corn Hole, Arts & Crafts, photo ops and more. casciahall.com/walk

Holiday Markets



TULSA GLASSBLOWING SCHOOL'S HOLIDAY SALE
When: December 1-5, 2020
Where: Tulsa Glassblowing School, 7440 E. 7th St.
The holidays will be here before you know it! Mark your calendar for TGS' first ever HOLIDAY SALE, December 1 thru December 5, featuring one-of-a-kind holiday-themed and unique gift items. The event will be by appointment beginning at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 1. Call to reserve your spot! 918.582.4527

WILD AT ART
When: December 1-13, 2020
Where: Virtual
Support local wildlife, artists and the Tulsa Audubon Society by shopping at the Wild At Art Virtual Market. **Tulsa Glassblowing Studio's Holiday Market is the perfect opportunity to purchase a unique, handmade gift. By appointment only.**

Plus, you will find some one-of-a-kind gifts! wildatarttulsa.com or tulsaaudubon.org

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS TOY & HOLIDAY MARKET
When: Presale is December 3, 12-9 p.m.; Sale is December 4-5, 10-13 and 17-20. Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Where: Woodland Hills Mall, 7021 S. Memorial Dr. (Former Sears, 2nd floor)
"Better than Black Friday"! Shop at Just Between Friends for 50-90% off thousands of gently used kid's items, including toys, clothing, shoes and more! tulsa.jbfsale.com

MEADOW GOLD MARKET DAY
When: December 5
Where: Meadow Gold District – Outside of Decopolis, The Sky Gallery and Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios
Local artists will be selling their work and doing demonstrations in this monthly outdoor market. Afterwards, make sure to browse the neighboring shops for one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts from local businesses! Follow @decopolis and @buckatomson66 for additional details.

BIXBY HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
When: Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Bixby Community Center, 211 N. Cabaniss Ave., Bixby
Keep it local and finish up your holiday gift shopping! COVID protocols must be followed. No admission fee. parks.tulsacounty.org

GLOW ON THE GREEN HOLIDAY MARKET
When: December 4-6, 2020



Where: Guthrie Green, 111 E. M.B. Brady St.
`Tis the season to be jolly and what better way to celebrate the holiday season than with the 8th annual "Glow on the Green!" Starting Friday, December 4, enjoy thousands of holiday lights illuminating The Green, accompanied with a weekend full of live music, local vendors, and plenty of holiday cheer!

SHOP LOCAL: HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Sponsored Section

Need holiday shopping inspiration? Here are some top picks for children's items and "experience" gifts!

KIDDLESTIX
Address: 3815 S. Harvard Ave.
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 12-5 p.m.
Support your local toy store this holiday season! Kiddlestix Toy Store is a family-owned business that carries unique toys you won't find anywhere else. Shop online and pick up in store, or take advantage of their curbside pick up. Kiddlestix will wrap everything for FREE! kiddlestixtoys.com



LAVENDER'S BLEU LITERACY MARKET
Address: 8210 S. Harvard Ave.
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lavender's Bleu Literacy Market carries an impressive selection of children's literature, literacy games and more! Plus, their shop is downright magical – enter the wardrobe to discover their middle grade and YA selection; enjoy cozy reading nooks and imaginative displays. Plus, socially distanced Storytime for all ages is every Saturday at 11 a.m.! lbliteracymarket.com

AHHA TULSA
Have you made it to THE EXPERIENCE: IMAGINE? This fantastical world is made up of art like nothing else. Six Tulsa-based artists have built an entire floor for you to explore at ahha Tulsa. Learn more and plan a safe visit for the whole family at www.ahhatulsa.org/the-experience-imagine.



OKLAHOMA 529 SAVINGS PLAN
Contribute to your child or grandchild's future by giving an Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan this holiday season. From now through Dec. 31, get a $25 bonus when you open an account with $25 or more and set up recurring giving for three or more months.
*Visit ok4saving.org/offer for terms and conditions. Promotion ends 12/31/2020. Sponsored by the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Member FINRA, distributor and underwriter. 1354980



Festive Festivals

ARVEST WINTERFEST
When: November 21-January 3
Where: BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave.
The 13th Annual Arvest Winterfest returns to downtown Tulsa for 38 days in 2020! New this year, ice skating will take place inside the BOK Center, and tickets need to be reserved online in advance. Guests who don't wish to skate can enter for free. In addition to ice skating, visitors can enjoy riding the Winterfest Express on Saturdays (12-3 p.m.), visiting with Santa on Sundays in December before Christmas Eve (12-4 p.m.) and holiday food and drinks. tulsawinterfest.com

PHILBROOK FESTIVAL
When: Select nights, November 27-December 26, 2020
Where: Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.
Philbrook's annual Festival has been reimagined for 2020 as a fully outdoor experience. But don't worry about missing out on the gorgeous indoor décor – they've added additional lights, music and other fun! Plus, kids can still visit with Santa – from a distance – and take home unique art projects. Advance tickets required. philbrook.org

BA ICE RINK
When: November 19-January 4
Where: Rose District, Broken Arrow
Enjoy ice skating in Broken Arrow's Rose District! Make sure you leave time for some district shopping afterwards! baicerink.com

CHRISTMAS PARADES

Claremore Christmas Parade
When: December 5, 2020, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Downtown Claremore
Website: visitclaremore.org

Coweta Christmas Parade – Santa's Helpers
When: December 5, 2020, 6 p.m.
Where: Downtown Coweta, Broadway District
Website: Facebook.com/cowetarotary

A Thankful Hometown Hero Christmas Parade
When: December 5, 2020, 6-9 p.m.
Where: Sapulpa, OK. Begins at Main Street and Taft and ends at the Sapulpa High School parking lot
Website: sapulpachamber.com

Tulsa Christmas Parade – A Christmas Joyride
When: December 12, 12 p.m.
Where: Downtown Tulsa
Website: tulsachristmasparade.org

Catoosa Christmas Parade
When: December 12, 2020, 2 p.m.
Where: Catoosa, OK
Website: catoosachamber.org

The annual Tulsa Christmas Parade will return on December 12. Follow @christmasparadeoftulsa on Facebook for updates about the parade's 2020 format.



Here Comes Santa Claus!



Please note: This information is correct to the best of our knowledge. However, please always check with the event organizer ahead of time to confirm details, as information could change due to COVID-19 or other factors.

COVID can't stop St. Nick! If he can figure out a way to visit houses with no chimneys, you know he can come up with safe and creative ways to listen to your child's wish list even during a pandemic. Here's a list of places you can find Santa in the Tulsa area throughout December.

Plus, learn how your child can receive a letter from Santa in our Holiday Family Fun Guide, available at tulsakids.com/holiday.

SANTA AT UTICA SQUARE
WHEN: NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 24
WHERE: UTICA SQUARE, 21ST AND UTICA
For 2020, Utica Square's Santa will be offering photos from his sleigh, in order to accommodate social distancing. www.uticasquare.com

SANTA AT WOODLAND HILLS MALL
WHEN: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 24
WHERE: WOODLAND HILLS MALL, CENTER COURT, 7021 S. MEMORIAL DR.
Woodland Hills Mall will be offering a safe and socially distanced Santa this holiday season. Reservations are required in advance, and Santa and his helpers will be wearing masks throughout the duration of each visit. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 1-7 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. simonsanta.com

SANTA AT GOLFSUITES
WHEN: NOVEMBER 28, 29, DECEMBER 4 & 12, 2-6 P.M.; DECEMBER 19, 10 A.M.
WHERE: GOLFSUITES TULSA, 600 RIVERWALK TERRACE, JENKS
Have your littles been naughty or nice this year?
Well, either way it's going to be a safe and holly jolly Christmas at GolfSuites, Tulsa!
Stop by to get your pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus: Nov 28, 29, Dec 4 & 12 from 2-6 p.m.
Or, join in the fun with a reserved package for GolfSuites' December 19th: Pancakes & Story with Santa at 10:00 a.m.
Packages include decorating a scrumptious stack of pancakes while enjoying a story or two from St. Nick himself with safe photos to follow.
For questions or to book call 918-528-7717 opt 2 or email party@golfsuites.com.
Visit GolfSuites on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/GolfSuitesTulsa.

REINDEER MEET & GREET
WHEN: DECEMBER 5, 9 A.M.-1 P.M;. DECEMBER 12, 9 A.M.-2 P.M.
WHERE: TULSA ZOO, 6421 E. 36TH ST. N.
This year Tulsa Zoo and T-Mobile are making it rein with holiday cheer. The Reindeer Meet & Greet is free with admission. Free activities include dropping off letters to Santa Claus, saying hello to a socially distanced Santa and storytime. Additionally, you can feed the reindeer for $3 (animal participation dependent), take a photo at the holiday photo booth for $5, and purchase holiday-themed snacks and drinks. There will also be a model train on display and animal chats if the weather cooperates!
tulsazoo.org/reindeer-meet-greet

SANTA AT WHEELS AND THRILLS
WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 9 A.M.-11 A.M.
WHERE: WHEELS AND THRILLS, 10637 N. GARNETT, OWASSO
Come and visit with Santa (virtually) and meet the Grinch on Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. for Tiny Tots six years and under only. Skating, play zone, & bounce house all included. As an added bonus, participants will be decorating cookies and making Christmas ornaments to take home. The cost is $12 per child. No charge for accompanying adults. 918.272.7537. wheelsandthrills.com

PICTURES WITH SANTA AT THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
WHEN: SATURDAY, DEC. 5 AND 12, 11 A.M.-2 P.M.
WHERE: WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 1720 W. WILL ROGERS BLVD., CLAREMORE
Come to the Will Rogers Memorial to get your Christmas Card pictures made. There is a beautiful setting and this year, admission is FREE to take pictures. Bring your own camera. www.willrogers.com

SUNDAYS WITH SANTA
WHEN: SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13 AND 20, 2-4 P.M.
WHERE: BOK CENTER, 200 S. DENVER AVE.
Santa is coming to Arvest Winterfest every Sunday in December from 2-4 leading up to Christmas Eve. tulsawinterfest.com

BIXBY VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS
WHEN: FRIDAY, DEC. 11, 4-5 P.M.
WHERE: BIXBY COMMUNITY CENTER, 211 N. CABANISS AVE.
Grab a holiday goodie bag and visit with Santa! Ages: 0-12. Free. COVID protocols must be followed. parks.tulsacounty.org

DIVER SANTA
WHEN: DECEMBER 12-13, 19-20, 1-3 P.M.
WHERE: OKLAHOMA AQUARIUM, 300 AQUARIUM DRIVE, JENKS
Santa Claus is coming to town, and he's bringing his scuba gear! Santa will be scuba-diving at the Oklahoma Aquarium this December. The North Pole native will swim with his fish friends in our Polynesian Reef exhibit. Visitors can see Santa on December 12-13 and 19-20 from 1-3 p.m. Included in general admission. okaquarium.org

SOCO "LETTERS TO SANTA"
WHEN: DECEMBER 12-19
WHERE: SOUTH COUNTY RECREATION CENTER, 13800 S. PEORIA AVE., BIXBY
Drop off your letter to Santa all week at SoCo and receive a special gift!
COVID protocols must be followed. parks.tulsacounty.org

LAFORTUNE PARK VISIT FROM SANTA
WHEN: SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.
WHERE: LAFORTUNE PARK, 5202 S. HUDSON AVE.
Kids ages 0-12 are invited to LaFortune Park for to-go cookies and milk and to see Santa! COVID protocols must be followed. parks.tulsacounty.org

O'BRIEN PARK "LETTERS TO SANTA"
WHEN: SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.
WHERE: O'BRIEN PARK, 6149 N. LEWIS AVE.
Bring your wish list to send to the North Pole and grab a holiday goodie bag!
Ages: 0-12. Free. COVID protocols must be followed. parks.tulsacounty.org

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
WHEN: DECEMBER 12, 9-10:30 A.M. OR 11 A.M.-12:30 P.M.
WHERE: COX BUSINESS CONVENTION CENTER, 100 CIVIC CENTER
As part of Arvest Winterfest, enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the Cox Business Center! Space is limited, so reserve your space before it's too late. Learn more at tulsawinterfest.com.

COOKIES & COCOA WITH SANTA
WHEN: DECEMBER 19, 12-3 P.M.
WHERE: BROKEN ARROW ROSE DISTRICT, 418 S. MAIN ST., BROKEN ARROW
Bring the entire family to the Rose District Plaza for a FREE cookie and hot cocoa with Santa. Other activities include a take home craft ornament, photo with Santa and music. facebook.com/BAparksandrec

SANTA AT EMERSON ORTHODONTICS
WHEN: DECEMBER 22, 9 A.M.-4 P.M.
WHERE: EMERSON ORTHODONTICS, 800 W. MISSION ST., BROKEN ARROW
Visit Santa at Emerson Orthodontics! Everyone is invited to this free event. Plus, enjoy free hot chocolate and get 50% off on coffee drinks at Wired coffee shop. emersonbraces.com

Seasonal Showtimes

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER
WHEN: DECEMBER 4-6, 11-13
WHERE: VIRTUAL OR LIMITED N-PERSON SEATING
The Herdmans never even go to church. So how did they end up with the lead roles in the Christmas play??? Don't miss this Clark Youth Theatre tradition, 33 years strong, presented both by livestream and with very limited in person seating!
Rating: ALL AGES (A)
Performances: December 4-6, 11-13
Tickets available online at: www.clarkyouththeatre.com

DAVID PHELPS: IT MUST BE CHRISTMAS
WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 7:30 P.M.
WHERE: BROKEN ARROW PAC, 701 S. MAIN ST., BROKEN ARROW
Vocalist David Phelps will perform a selection of holiday music at the Broken Arrow PAC. Tickets are available by phone (918.259.5778) or in person at 701 S. Main St., Broken Arrow. brokenarrowpac.com

"THE LOST NUTCRACKER" BY TULSA BALLET
WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 7:00 PM; FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 7:00 PM; SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 2:00 PM; SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 7:00 PM; SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 2:00 PM
WHERE: COX BUSINESS CENTER – GRAND BALLROOM, 100 CIVIC CENTER
Tulsa Ballet may have had to cancel their annual production of "The Nutcracker," but they've come up with a new way to bring you the best of ballet this holiday season. "The Lost Nutcracker" features three holiday-themed pieces by Tulsa Ballet Resident Choreographer Ma Cong, Dark Circle Artistic Director Joshua Peugh, and famed Italian choreographer Luciano Cannito. The performance's location at Cox Business Center will allow for greater social distancing. Seating will be limited, and a virtual live stream option is available. Learn more and purchase tickets at tulsaballet.org.



TULSA BALLET'S "THE LOST NUTCRACKER."
Photo by Bethany Kirby.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"
PRESENTED BY AMERICAN THEATRE COMPANY
WHEN: DECEMBER 18-19, 22-23, 7-9:30 P.M.
WHERE: ADMIRAL TWIN DRIVE-IN, 7355 E. EASTON ST.
Watch American Theatre Company's production of "A Christmas Carol" at the Admiral Twin Drive-in! This is a high-quality video production. Tickets are $15 for adults, $12 for students, seniors and children under 12. Purchase tickets soon because they are selling fast! americantheatrecompany.org

I'M A TULSA KID

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHEEBA ATIQI



Delaney Ferguson: Community Volunteer

The year 2020 definitely has been a challenging year to live in, yet it has brought out creative ideas and projects to help adapt. Delaney Ferguson, a 15-year-old Jenks High School sophomore, came up with a fundraising project to help not only the less fortunate, but also to help fill a void due to a pandemic canceling holidays that children look forward to all year. Delaney raised funds to help pass out pumpkins and pumpkin-carving kits to the community for some Halloween cheer.

TK: How did you come up with the idea for the pumpkin carving kits and who were they donated to?
Delaney: The idea came while working on another project. The Jenks Chapter of National Charity League had done a food drive for Labor Day, and I had volunteered to help pack bags for the families. The representative from the Jenks Community Food Bank wanted to do something special for the families they supported for Halloween and asked for ideas. It just clicked for me that it would be amazing to give the families the stuff needed to carve pumpkins. But the carving tools were something the food bank would have a hard time providing. I decided it was up to me to make sure the families had everything they would need to enjoy this holiday tradition. Especially in a year when Halloween activities might have been restricted for some families due to COVID.

TK: Where and how did you fundraise the funds?
Delaney: It was quite overwhelming when I sat down and figured how much money it would take to provide these pumpkin-carving kits. The carving tools themselves were $450, not to mention the pumpkins and other items needed. In total I figured I would need $700 for basic kits and $1200 for complete experience kits.
The National Charity League is a mother/daughter volunteering organization, and the Jenks chapter has a grant program the girls can apply for. A pumpkin-carving kit seemed like the perfect thing to do for the grant project. This gave us the seed money to start the project. We also circulated a flyer through social media asking for donations from members of the Jenks National Charity League and community.
The Reasor's in Jenks let us do a food drive over fall break, and that was a big help. The community really came out and supported our efforts, and we were able to provide everything for the complete experience kits.

TK: What was in each kit?
Delaney: Each kit had everything needed for carving (5 tools, 5 templates, 2 LED candles with batteries) and everything needed for roasting pumpkin seeds (recipe, olive oil, Worcestershire sauce, seasoning salts, and sugar). And, of course, the pumpkin!

TK: What did you learn from this experience?
Delaney: I am definitely happy to have had the experience! I had to leave my comfort zone to take on a project this big. There was no one to bail me out if I failed. What I remember the most is standing in front of Reasor's and having five seconds to ask each person to donate. We all got rejected a lot, but quickly learned to just keep going. I did not realize how much you can accomplish just by reaching out to your friends and community. And some people in the community stopped to tell us their story, why they were giving, which made it special.

TK: What advice do you have for others who would like to give back to the community?
Delaney: I would say that if you have an idea then you should go for it. You would be surprised at all you can accomplish. I would also recommend pulling in your friends. There will be a lot of work to do, so it helps to find people you can rely on to help get through it.

TK: Where are your favorite places in Tulsa to volunteer?
Delaney: Before COVID, I liked to visit the residents of Montereau retirement home. It is fun to sit down with them and hear all their stories. I also found myself spending a lot of time volunteering at the Jenks Community Food Bank. I like going with my friends and spending time talking while we help organize the food in the back. COVID has made it hard to volunteer where we get to interact with people, but we still find ways.

TK: What other hobbies do you have?
Delaney: I like to run long distance. I am a sophomore on the Jenks Cross-Country team. I love to read! I do have to be careful when I am reading a good book, though, I have been known to forget to do my homework.

TK: What do you want to be when you grow up?
Delaney: I have not set my heart on one career yet. I do want to do something that helps people. I am thinking of going into something medical, like a nurse practitioner.

TK: Who inspires you?
Delaney: Lots of people are inspirational if you take the time to learn about them. There is this very nice woman I met while volunteering at Montereau. She is 101 years old, but she had a way of making everyone feel comfortable and happy. I want to be able to light up a room the way she does.

TK: What is a fun fact about you?
Delaney: I was rookie of the year on my cross-country team my freshman year.



“We’ve had to reinvent ourselves in how we connect and educate our kiddos.”

We’ve all had to make sacrifices this year. Some great, some small. But none should go unnoticed. Thank you for what you’ve done and continue to do to help fight this pandemic. We invite you to share your stories of struggle and success.

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Merry Christmas from your friends at The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis.

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis
6161 South Yale Avenue | Tulsa, Oklahoma
918-502-6000 | saintfrancis.com/childrenshospital

Homemade Hot Chocolate

YOU WILL NEED:

- 2 c. whole milk
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 4 oz. chopped bittersweet chocolate (just under 1 c. measured)
- whipped cream (optional)
- marshmallows (optional)
- peppermint sticks (optional)



1. Combine milk and sugar in a small saucepan and place on the stovetop over medium heat.

2. While the milk is heating, place the chopped chocolate in the microwave and heat for 30 seconds. Take the chocolate out and stir it. Continue to heat and stir the chocolate in 30-second intervals until just melted.

3. When the milk is bubbling on the sides of the saucepan, remove from the heat and add the melted chocolate, whisking to combine. Top with whipped cream or marshmallows (if using), and enjoy!

DAIRY-FREE? Replace the whole milk with soy milk and the bittersweet chocolate with dairy-free dark chocolate and enjoy!



ADD A HOLIDAY TWIST TO YOUR CUP OF HOT COCOA

Just add 3 crushed sticks of peppermint to step 1.

Add one whole peppermint stick to each cup for the perfect holiday hot chocolate.

P.J.'S CHRISTMAS WORD FIND

A	K	S	A	A	G	E	T	A	A	R	R	B	K
W	S	J	U	H	R	S	J	A	S	J	S	R	R
E	A	Y	W	S	E	A	L	H	J	R	L	J	A
W	M	A	J	A	E	O	L	L	W	E	E	R	J
A	A	R	A	H	L	J	O	S	B	E	L	L	S
S	R	J	C	A	R	O	L	N	L	W	J	S	W
H	A	W	E	E	L	L	E	O	S	O	T	A	W
H	E	A	N	G	E	L	S	W	A	A	X	S	R
A	W	E	M	R	A	E	B	F	S	T	A	R	E
N	G	H	J	R	J	A	U	L	X	H	Y	N	A
D	S	J	Y	O	J	S	O	A	A	I	L	R	T
S	H	E	F	K	H	H	D	K	H	R	L	A	H
A	A	T	W	D	R	X	R	E	L	R	O	E	N
R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	S	G	C	H	A	Y

ANGELS
WASH HANDS
BELLS
CAROL
HOLLY
JESUS
JOY
REINDEER
SNOWFLAKE
STAR
WREATH
WEAR A MASK

