



the discovery center

December 2017

Director's Corner

Nut Policy and Gift Giving

In keeping with our peanut/nut free policy, we find it necessary to ask that families please not gift homemade food items, nor candies or other goodies that may contain nuts or have been "manufactured in a factory where nuts are present", to our staff.

Staff have been alerted to this concern and will not be able to accept gifts that may contain nut products. We greatly appreciate your support for and understanding of this policy. Certainly families are not obligated to provide gifts to staff, but I hope that the list below is helpful to those who wish to do so. As always, your kind words and support mean the most!

- *Gift certificates to department stores, local restaurants, or book shop
- *Order lunch for the classroom teachers
- *Theater tickets or movie passes
- *Gifts for the classroom: puzzles, dress ups, books, games, etc.
- *Personal stationary/stamps
- *Books
- *Anything heartfelt!



The Giving Tree

During the holiday season we will once again be having a "Giving Tree" in the lobby. We will be collecting new items to be donated to The Peace Neighborhood Center. They will then distribute the items to many needing families in our area. As some of you may be aware, The Discovery Center program rented the "old" Peace Neighborhood Center building to house our program from 1974-1984. We feel a special "kinship" with this organization. If you are interested in helping this holiday season, please place your donations under the tree in the lobby. Please refer to the list in the lobby for items that The Peace Neighborhood is in need of this year. We will be collecting items from Tuesday, December 5th through Tuesday, December 19th. Thank you for your help and support of this worthwhile project!

Coming Discovery Center Events

December 5th	Our Spanish Teacher, Karla's last day...she is moving to Texas. We will miss her! Look for information soon about her replacement.
December 5th—December 19th	Giving Tree for Peace Neighborhood Center in the Lobby
Monday, December 11th	Music Concert with Laz and guest
Thursday, December 14th	Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor
December 25-January 7th	Discovery Center closed for Holiday Break—see you Monday, January 8th, 2018!

FINDING THE RIGHT GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD

The holiday season is just upon us and that means selecting the perfect gift for the special children in your life. I'd like to share with you an article from the *Well Centered Child* (November 1996) entitled "Choosing Gifts for All Seasons—and for All the Right Reasons."

When it comes to choosing gifts for your child, you are the real expert. Advertisers may know how to sell products, but they can't know your child the way you do. Because you know your child and what she/he can do, you are a good judge of what gifts he or she will like. *And they needn't be expensive.*

Here are some things to consider:

Interests

First, think about what your child enjoys. All kinds of gifts, including useful ones like clothes and school supplies, become special if you remember your child's preferences. If yours is the kind of kid who always has a pocketful of assorted treasures, choose clothes that feature pockets. In the same way, even school supplies can become thoughtful gifts when you buy them in your child's favorite color. Try to recall some small, everyday items your child likes but doesn't own. These can be a surprising hit. One parent whose daughter often used up the family's tape in her art projects gave her her own supply—an unusual, but satisfying present. Another mother who knew how much her eight year old loved stuffed olives, carefully wrapped a small jar of them as a special treat. Knowing what your child enjoys is also a help in buying or making toys. Remember that what pleased you as a child won't necessarily interest your son or daughter. A father who remembered the fun of assembling models discovered that his son was more excited about receiving a basketball. Notice what your child plays with at home and ask about what he or she plays with at school. Once you have your child's interests in mind, it's easier to decide which gifts to choose.

Abilities

As a parent, you know not only what your child likes, but also what he or she can do. Because children do play differently at each age, try to choose toys that "fit". Be sure to consider the age guidelines listed on the packaging. Your child will get more play value out of a toy listed as being in his or her age range. Some suggestions are listed on this page (see below); however, the best way to find out what kind of toy is right is by watching your child at play. For any age, the best toys are ones that don't automatically do everything for a child. Battery powered toys may look very exciting, but there usually aren't many ways to play with them, too soon the novelty wears off and the toys lie untouched or even broken. A simple truck, powered by hand, or a soft, washable doll invite children to use their minds and imagination.

Safety

Safe toys don't have rough, sharp edges or points that could jab an eye. Avoid toys made of flimsy materials that might shatter if dropped. Look for well-made toys that will last. If your child puts things in their mouth, which most young children do, beware of small parts that could be pulled off and choked on

You have special knowledge as a parent. What you know about your child's interests, abilities and safety needs can help you choose gifts that he or she will enjoy for many months to come.

Happy Holidays!

Debbie

Here Are Some Suggestions:

Infants

- *Shatterproof mirror
- *Cloth ball
- *Rattles, squeeze toys

Toddlers

- *Large cardboard carton for a play house
- *Plastic bottles, cups, & a funnel for bath toys
- *Push toys and, a bit later, pull toys
- *A small photo album with family pictures

Preschoolers/kindergarteners

- *A dress up collection of jackets, hats, and shoes
- *Washable doll and baby blanket
- *Crayons and large sheets of paper and especially TAPE :)
- *Blocks

Grade Schoolers

- *Flashlight
- *Alarm clock
- *Board games
- *Subscription to a children's magazine

For All Ages

- *Books
- *Music recordings
- *Clothes
- *Self care items

