



Parents In Partnership

Scottsville Primary School

November 2013

Happy Holidays

Holidays are such an exciting time for all the kids but not always an exciting time for parents! Six weeks can seem like a very long time in which to keep children entertained. You might be thinking of all the money that this is going to cost you. Movies, playstation and TV may jump to mind. However, research has shown that while watching TV, a child's brain is LESS active than during SLEEP! Here are a few simple, cost-effective ideas for keeping your child entertained and stimulated during the holidays.

- *The holidays should be a fun time with lots of time spent outdoors enjoying good weather. DO get out there and encourage your kids to do the same. If you are outside your children will naturally want to be outside too, even if you do not directly tell them to do so. If you are working please tell those who are at home to let your children play outside. Being outside allows for climbing trees, building things in the sand, using imagination and creating things from natural objects.*
- *Start a holiday diary. If you get an A4 or A5 book at the beginning of the holidays, encourage your child to write a few sentences and draw a picture from each week of the holidays or after an exciting trip/visit/game that was played. This is great for all ages and will keep your child's writing skills in practice!*
- *Make up an art kit. Old newspapers/magazines, scissors, glue, crayons, food colouring and ear buds(to act as paint and brushes) can all be used to create wonderful things. Let your child's imagination do the work.*
- *A bag of dry sugar beans/split peas costs very little and you can keep them tidy in an old margarine tub. You and your child can 'draw' pictures by sticking down the beans/split peas and colouring in using the beans/peas too. You can make patterns that they should copy or you can have a competition to see who can flick the most beans into the goals (could be an ice cream container turned on its side).*
- *Make paper weights/door stoppers from rocks and paint these. Plan it first so that it comes out the way you/your child would like it to. They can make great Christmas presents!*
- *Hang a ball in a stocking/sock from the tree/verandah and the child should have to hit it. You can use a broom handle to make it more difficult and you can also paint thick stripes of colours onto the handle/stick so that the handle may have 6/7 bands of colour on it then the child has to hit the ball with each colour in a sequence. You can also make a target so that your child has to try and hit the ball so it reaches the target accurately.*
- *READ, READ, READ. A good book can keep a child entertained for hours!*

Merry Christmas and may you all have a very happy holiday.

Compiled by L.Corcoran and R. Forward.