

D E C E M B E R  
N E W S L E T T E R

# INVITATIONS FOR LEARNING

FROM DAN HODGINS

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## *“Tis the Season to be less Egocentric than the Child”*

Holiday Shopping for Children.  
BEWARE OF:

- gifts that say they “teach”
- gifts that only have “one” use
- gifts that cannot be taken apart and put back together
- gifts that tell the child what to do
- gifts that cannot be moved
- gifts that can only be used indoors
- gifts that require some form of technology, batteries or plug ins

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I was at a shopping mall the other day and observed something that bothers me a lot each year. A line of children, many who were crying, were waiting to sit on Santa’s lap. Why is it that adults often forget the message, “Never Talk To STRANGERS” at this time of year. Isn’t a man in a bright red suit, with a white beard who says, “Ho Ho Ho” pretty strange? I have the answer to this dilemma. Adults should stand in line, sit on Santa’s lap and have their picture taken by their child.

This is the time of year when the holiday frenzy takes place. As soon as children are old enough to “want” the things that they see in catalogs, on television and on the internet, then adults are going to be tempted to want to provide them with those

things. It is easy to be convinced that buying this toy or that toy will provide children with hours of playtime peace. The reality is that few, if any, will deliver on that promise.

Many adults purchase toys that the media says their children must have or they thought they should have received as a child but didn’t. This is the time that adults have to be less egocentric than their child/children.

Even well made toys have a relatively short life expectancy for young children.

Young children do not have the ability to select what they want and need in this media frenzy world. Adults are going to have to look at what is appropriate and captures the imagination of a child.

# *Gifts that expand the imagination for young children*

- **Brief case** filled with stamps, envelopes, writing pads, pens, pencils, etc. to pretend office play
- **Plungers** of different sizes and shapes for using on all kinds of surfaces
- **Flashlights** of different sizes and beams for nighttime adventures and shadow making
- **Measuring tapes/rulers** for discovering lengths and sizes of everything in sight
- **Suitcase filled with dress up clothes** add capes, boots, tutus, pirate patches, slippers, slippers, boots, umbrella, etc.
- **Blocks** scrapes of wood (sanded and smoothed) from lumber yards of different sizes and shapes for construction and building
- **Sheets, Blankets and Curtains** for tent making adventures, include clothespins clips, etc.
- **Masking Tape** include rolls of masking tape of different colors and widths for taping whatever they think needs to be hung, guarded or prevented
- **Book Bundles** classic books that can be bundled into travel books, just before bed books, outside books, books that are gross and fun

HAPPY HOLIDAYS