



Christmas Gifts



Ideas from Teachers

Christmas Gifts



Gift Sharing in the Classroom

Having the children pick names and give each other gifts is never very satisfactory. Some children will covet the gifts that other children have, and some gifts will not be well chosen. Here is a gift sharing that works well and gives a good message, too!

Have each child bring a wrapped book, a gift for everyone in the class. (Have a few extra wrapped for the few who don't or can't bring one.) Ask the parents to print, "To Ms. _____'s class, Christmas (year), from _____." Sit in a circle and pass the parcels around, and have the children trade the wrapped parcels. You can do this to Christmas music - pass to the right, stop, pass to the left. When everyone has a different parcel, let each child unwrap the book in turn. The books are a gift for the classroom. The children will be just as pleased and excited, and your classroom now has many new books! They will be reading their names in the front with interest all year, and may even visit when they are older to see if their books are still there."

Or.....

"Last year I wrote a letter to my class parents talking about the season of giving (we had Christmas and Ramadan almost together) and that rather than them giving me personal gifts or trading gifts between the students, I would prefer that the class receive the gifts. Most kids brought in things nicely wrapped to put under the tree. We then had an opening party. We got new puzzles, books, playing cards, a paper maker, white board markers, etc. It was very nice and the children were just as excited as they would be if there were personal gifts. I brought a few extra parcels, so every child had a gift to open. The children actually received all the gifts, doing it this way!"

Another Gift Exchange

"Instead of having students exchange one present with each other, I ask them bring small things to put in stockings for all. I bought them all stockings from the Dollar Store. Each child brings enough small wrapped presents for each person in the class. I told parents they were welcome to furnish whatever SMALL thing they wanted to share. Cars from the dollar store, book marks, packages of candy, fun character straws, pencils, small toys, etc. The children have so much fun opening all the tiny presents! Everyone gets the same, too, so no one will be disappointed."

"My class has 10 boys and 10 girls and the boys are bringing 10 wrapped gifts, one for each boy, and the girls are bringing 10 girls' gifts, all the same. On party day we take turns passing our gifts out....great fun to all be the same and not worry about comparison and we stretch out the unwrapping so it takes some time and we enjoy each little gift."

"Last year my class made stockings, then at our Christmas party each student brought in 17 (the number of students in the class) things to share with the class and we stuffed each others' stockings. Suitable things are 17 pencils, 17 erasers, 17 rulers, 17 rings, 17 balls, 17 books, 17 notepads, etc. It turned out really cute and fun."



"I buy a gift for the class (usually a puzzle or game), then I wrap the gift many, many times using different paper each time. I have 22 students this year so I will wrap the gift 28 times or so. The idea is to have each child take off one layer of wrapping paper and then pass it to a classmate. You want to have enough layers so each child gets a turn. WOW....you should hear the excitement opening this one!"

"Instead of a gift exchange the children bring in a gift for the classroom. I send home a list of things for the classroom, each child brings in a wrapped gift and I put a number on the gift and a matching number in a basket. When we have our party, each child draws a number from the basket and one by one the presents are opened. That way each child gets the thrill of opening a gift. I always wrap a few extra gifts in case someone doesn't bring in a gift. I've done this for years and I think only once or twice did I need to use the extra gifts. We make a big deal how the classroom is sad because no one ever gives it a gift, so we will. Since the classroom does not have arms we need to help out. The children love the idea. I also encourage parents not to send in a gift for me. I do however give each child in my class a book so they go home with something."

"For the past 3 years we have also done away with our class gift exchange. We have 8 sections of Grade One. Each room pairs up with another and the children bring in non-perishable foods, small toys, toiletries, mittens, socks, gloves, etc. We make gift boxes for needy families in our community. Our school social worker distributes them. We send a list home with the kids. Last year we were able to help 15 families. It makes the kids feel great. We (teachers) give each child a small gift at our parties. We have also taken donations for the humane society."



Christmas Left/Right Game

Each child receives a gift. As you say the story, the gifts are passed to the next child in the direction stated. What present will be yours at the end of the story?

Christmas was almost here, and Mother **RIGHT** was finishing the Christmas baking. Father **RIGHT**, Sue **RIGHT**, and Billy **RIGHT** returned from their last-minute Christmas errands.

"There's not much **LEFT** to be done," said Father **RIGHT** as he came into the kitchen.

"Did you leave the basket of food at church?" asked Mother **RIGHT**.

"I **LEFT** it **RIGHT** where you told me to," said Father **RIGHT**.

"I'm glad my shopping is done," said Billy **RIGHT**. "I don't have any money **LEFT**."

The hall telephone rang, and Susan **RIGHT LEFT** to answer it. She rushed back and told the family, "Aunt Tillie **RIGHT LEFT** a package for us **RIGHT** on Grandma **RIGHT**'s porch. I'll go over there **RIGHT** now and get it." She **LEFT** in a rush.

Father **RIGHT LEFT** the kitchen and brought in the Christmas tree. By the time Susan **RIGHT** returned, Mother **RIGHT**, Father **RIGHT**, and Billy **RIGHT** had begun trimming the tree. The entire **RIGHT** family sang carols as they finished the decorating. Then they **LEFT** all the presents arranged under the tree and went to bed, hoping they had selected the **RIGHT** gifts for their family.

Now I hope you have the **RIGHT** present for yourself, because that's all that's **LEFT** of our story..... except to wish you a Merry Christmas....Isn't that **RIGHT**?

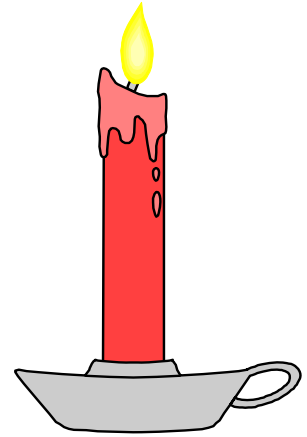
The gift in front of you at the end of the story is yours.

Gifts from the Teacher to the Students

"This is what I did last year with gifts to kids from me. I took their pictures with the digital camera and made a full sheet of photo/name stickers for each child on the computer. They were really cute. So many kids have names that they can never find in the store, so they loved this! I added a Christmas pencil and eraser and put them in a Christmas print sandwich bag. I also put in a bookmark that I printed off the Jan Brett site and had laminated."

"I hold back enough of the free books from the book orders to give a book to each child at Christmas. My children don't have many books at home, so this is a favourite gift."

"I give my students this gift every year. I go to Home Depot and buy a sheet of white shower board. I have them cut it into 12" x 15" pieces. Then I bind the edges with brightly coloured electrical tape. I buy washable markers and include one in each gift. The kids love them!"



Staff Gift Exchange

Our staff exchanges gifts but the gifts all go to the Salvation Army. We pick someone's name out the hat, then we buy a child's toy that would fit that person. One of us bikes to school every day - she 'received' a Barbie bike, one guy likes to work in his shop - he received play tools, the gym teacher always gets sports equipment! Along with the gift is a poem or song that teases, or toasts, the person."

Gifts for the Parents

The most appreciated gifts from children to the parents are personal. Photographs and hand print gifts are great, and so are ornaments that have the name and date on them. Parents keep these for years, and continue to get pleasure from them.

"Parents always love to get photographs. If you have a digital camera, you can take a picture of each child wearing a Santa or elf hat. Print out the pictures in a good ornament size and laminate them. Glue the picture to heavy tag. Then the children can make frames out of craft sticks and glue colourful buttons on them. Glue or tape ribbon the back to hang."

"I make a handprint gift for the parents. If you have a large enough inkpad, press the child's hand to the pad and then you place the child's hand carefully where you want it on the paper and press it. Or, you can paint the hand with paint and then you press the hand to the paper. I print out copies of the poem and put it with the handprint, and I add the child's name, grade and the year. I like to laminate the paper, and then the kids make a frame."

Sometimes you get discouraged
Because I am so small,
And always leave my fingerprints
On furniture and walls.
But everyday I'm growing -
I'll be grown up someday,
And all those tiny handprints
Will surely fade away.
So here's a final handprint,
Just so you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
When I was very small.



"We usually do a snapshot picture gift because not many of our parents order school pictures. We take a picture of each child wearing an elf hat and collar. We have the kids make a Christmas card and the picture gets glued inside. It is signed 'From your little elf, _____' and then 'Christmas' and the year."

"We make ornament frames out of pasta spray-painted gold. Trace a basic holiday shape and cut it out of tag. Make sure there is a space cut out for a child's photo. Then, have each child glue different pieces of pasta around the shape. Spray paint the shape gold when dry. I use a photo of each child at the school Christmas tree. I punch a hole in the tag prior to gluing the pasta so it could be hung, and the child puts his/her name, grade and date on the back so that the parent will always know when it was made. These are inexpensive, easy and fun, and the gold spray paint makes them look very showy."



"Cut the middle out of a paper plate so that you have a circle with a hole in the middle. Have the children paint the plate green, leaving no white. Using green tissue paper have them glue it around over the green paint. This can be done by rolling up little green tissue balls, or putting tiny squares over the end of a pencil. Make little red tissue balls for the berries. When they are dry have them glue on a bow. Take pictures of each child individually. Glue the picture on a red or green piece of construction paper and glue that to the back of the plate. Print the date and grade on the back. Use pretty string at the top to hold the wreath when it's done. You can put them on a bulletin board and then send home as a present for parents."

"Trace each child's hand and cut two mittens out of felt. Use a glue gun to put the two pieces together to make the mitten. The children paint their name, kindergarten and the year on one side and Mom and Dad on the other side. Glue ribbon to the top to hang on the tree."

"We do a handprint ornament. We paint the child's hand green and put the print on white paper. Then we put a star sticker at the top, have the child decorate it with a pencil eraser with red and white paint, cut it out and laminate it. Then we add ribbon so it becomes an ornament to hang on the tree. Sometimes we add the child's picture at the base."

"One of the favourites is a small chalkboard ornament. I cut a 4" x 4" piece of black poster board. The students glue 4 craft sticks - one on each side to make a frame, I make a loop from ribbon and hot glue that at the top so it can hang and then four more craft sticks are put on to frame the back. I take a digital picture of each child wearing a Santa's hat, and print them out about 3" square. This is glued on one side of the little 'chalkboard'. On the other side the children use a thin white paint pen to write: Merry Christmas, Love, (name), the year, and some ABC's and $2+2=4$ on the black board. I hot glue some little pinecones on the corners of the frame, and also glue a little red or green bow in the middle."



"Last year I made a mitten shape ornament and put the children's pictures on it with a poem on the back of the mitten. This is how I made the mitten. I cut out mittens from brown mailing paper with pinking shears. The children cut a smaller mitten shape from red or green paper after tracing around their hand. The smaller shape was glued onto the larger one. The picture was added to the center of the red or green mitten. I punched a hole at the top of the mitten on either side and attached a pipe cleaner as a hanger. Then the children added cotton across the top of the mitten and a little ribbon bow and some silvery beads or tiny holly leaves. The poem went on the back of the mitten. They really came out cute."

Hang this on your
Christmas tree,
To remember how
I used to be.
To remind you of me
Now and then,
And bring fond memories
Back again.
Grade One - 2010



"This year I have saved tons of old CD's. You take a picture of each child, trim, and glue to the shiny side of the CD. On the other side you cut Christmas wrapping paper the size of the CD and glue it on...then attach a ribbon hanger and shimmery holiday stickers to the side with the picture...and you have a Christmas tree ornament."

The favourite gift you and the children can give to their parents is a photo keepsake. Take special pictures of the children - just head and shoulders, with a plain background. Use a modeling dough recipe and form a flat star, bell or plain rectangle and insert a paper clip for the hanger. When it is dry, glue on the child's picture. Glue glitter or ribbon around the edges. The parents will love these tree ornaments and admire them every Christmas after!

"I have made ceramic tile gifts for Mom and Dad. I take a picture of each member of the class in a Santa hat and glue the picture in the middle of the tile. The children decorate with glitter glue, write their name and the date on with indelible marker, and spray with varnish - spray lightly as the printing tends to run otherwise."

"We have made picture frames from popsicle sticks - paint 8 sticks, one side at a time so it doesn't stick to the newspaper, any colour you want. Let the children choose if you are brave, or limit it to red and green. After the sticks are painted, have them glue them together log cabin style: lay 2 sticks down, put small dots of glue about 1/2 inch from the top and bottom of each stick, then lay 2 more sticks down perpendicular to the first two, and over the glue dots. Lay the last 4 sticks down the same way - dots of glue, sticks, dots of glue sticks. Glue a picture of the student to the back. Decorate the front of the frame. One year I used some small wood stars from Wal-Mart, painted gold, on one of the lower corners. Another year I used some small glue-on 'jewels' that my neighbor was getting rid of. Any small decorations would work. Glue a small ribbon loop to the top center for hanging."

"I got small picture frames (2 per pack) at the dollar store. I want to frame my student's original artwork in them for a holiday gift for families. I will have the children draw a picture of their families for the frame - or they could do a self-portrait."



Snowmen Ornaments

"I made this ornament last year. They were so cute! I found very nice blue shiny non-breakable tree balls. I used white acrylic paint and painted the child's fingers up to the tips and entire palm. I placed the fingers and hand around the ball with the fingers apart, so the white fingers were up around the sides of the ball and the palm was the bottom. You can see this if you hold your hand out with the fingers and thumb curved upwards, ready to receive the ball. Each finger is a 'snowman'! I sprinkled the fine white glitter while paint was wet, let kids decorate the 'snowmen' with paint markers when done. They were beautiful, and about the easiest parent Christmas gift I ever made. I bought some sparkly pipe cleaners to use as hooks, and typed up the poem on paper and had the kids decorate it."

"We made the snowman ornaments and sent them home. I use acrylic white paint and the children washed right away and it came off fine. I used glass balls. I found that when I placed their fingers it was much better than when they 'squeezed' the ball. I was more worried about them getting home on the bus. I used large solo plastic cups (red) and then put a half a sheet of tissue paper at the bottom and then wrapped a whole sheet around the cup and tied it with a ribbon. I attached the poem to the ribbon and had the children sign his/her name to the poem."

These aren't just five snowmen
As anyone can see.
I made them with my hand
Which is a part of me.
For many years to come
You'll look back and recall
The Christmas of 2010
When my hand was this small!



"The kids wrote their names and year with gold marker. I bought beautiful gold bows with ties and attached the poem to that. The bow really makes it perfect. I asked the kids to bring in a shoebox (or any box that would fit something ornament-sized). I'm putting the ornaments in Christmas lunch bags, putting them in the boxes, and surrounding them with shredded newspaper."

"I hung them on ornament hangers to dry with each child's name on a label I made on the computer. I embellished mine a little more with a small black hat cut from foam board for each 'finger' snowman, black eyes and mouth with toothpick dipped in black finger paint. This was a wonderful project!"

"Use a lot of paint on their hand, make sure their fingers are really spread apart (especially kids with chubby hands!). I used acrylic paint and gave each hand a squirt of liquid-type soap to 'work in' on the way to the bathroom. It comes off easily if you wash it right away."

More Christmas Gifts

"We made Christmas wreaths. We cut paper towel tubes into strips 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide and pushed them down to make an oval shape. These are glued around the curved part of a paper plate. We cut out the centre of the paper plate. After the edge of the circle is completely filled and the centre is cut out, spray paint the whole thing with green paint. Then use little pom poms, artificial berries, or red paper circles for holly berries, add a bow, and it is really a very lovely wreath."



"We made a trivet. We used acrylic paint pens and had the children draw a picture on the tile. You might want them to plan their picture on a piece of paper first. Spray with a thin coating of acrylic sealer (ask the craft store) and hot glue small felt squares to the bottom corners of the tile."

"We make handprint wreaths. I have the children cut a doughnut shape from tag, 30 cm. to 40 cm. in diameter. They trace their hands on green butcher paper and glue the palm onto the wreath shape and curl the fingers up. Then they use a red ink pad and make thumbprints on white paper and cut them out. They glue these onto the wreath for berries. The poem for the handprint wreath goes: 'With my hands I made this wreath, With my thumb each berry. I am sending you this special wish, For a Christmas that is Merry!'"

A Special Book

"The cover of the book can be wrapping paper with a crisscross of ribbon or a stick-on bow to look like a gift. You can even add a gift tag the says to Mom and Dad from _____.

Include the following text on the inside pages:

Some gifts are large.
Some gifts are small.
Some gifts are round.
Some gifts are tall.
But a gift from the heart is the best gift of all!



Kids can do each page using scraps of wrapping paper and yarn or ribbon. My students write the words themselves. We do one page per day until it's done. The last page should have a large heart with a picture of the child inside. These turn out really cute and are great keepsakes for moms and dads!"

"This is my favourite Christmas craft. Place a fist-sized lump of dough on a foil covered paper plate to hold up a candle. Stick the candle in the middle of the plate. Add whatever decorations you have... pinecones, greenery, ribbons, ornaments, around it partly stuck in the dough too. You can go wild and spray snow on it if you like. Dry for a day if possible - send it home as a 'centrepiece' - a gift for the family. This is an annual event in my class."

"I said I would never do this again.... But once again I had my class make wreaths for their parents. I rounded a coat hanger and they tied hundreds of strips of cut white garbage bags to the hanger. It takes many hours, but we put on Christmas music and they sing while they tie. It's great for their eye-hand co-ordination and they are very proud of their gift to Mom and Dad. When all the strips are tied, I clip some of the stragglng ends and we hot glue clusters of 3 red pom-poms and add a big red ribbon bow. They are beautiful!"

"I made candle holders one year. Use a 12 inch candle and 3 candy canes. Hot glue the canes to the candles with the hook end down. Then glue on some silk flowers. You can use the cold glue type of gun. With their own cards these were a hit."

"We made Christmas cards for our parents. The children made the front by tracing holly leaves and then gluing them onto a green or red card with red holly berries. On the inside I had them write or copy a cute little poem. I have this one I would like to share."

The Nicest Gift

The present you give another
Need not be a costly thing
If you have tucked some love inside
Before you tie the string.

"Give each child a doughnut shape outline for a wreath. Then the child dips the flat hand into the paint, and presses it onto a scrap piece first to get rid of excess paint. Then the hand is pressed onto the wreath several times. This is repeated until the wreath is quite green. Then the child makes red thumbprints for berries. Make the berries in groups."

With my hands I made this wreath
With my thumb each berry
I am sending you this special wish
For a Christmas that is Merry!



"We make shredded wheat wreaths and then put their picture in the middle. You let the children break up a large biscuit of wheat until it is pretty fine. You then pour glue and green food colouring into the container with the wheat. After it is all mixed up you can let them put it on a piece of waxed paper and let them shape it into a wreath. When it is dry you glue it onto a piece of round green(a little bigger than the wreath) construction paper that has their picture on it. You glue a little red ribbon bow on it and it is pretty cute. They make it so it makes it even better. I dislike those gifts that the teachers make and say it is from the kids. Their hands end up green but then we pretend we are Santa's little elves. The green will come off after a few washings."

"Last year a parent donated bunches of baby food jars....so we made pretty candle holders. Each child cut up tiny bits of different coloured tissue paper and glued them onto his/her baby food jar, collage style, with a glue stick. This was something they got to work on in their spare time in the week or so before Christmas, and they really enjoyed it. After the teeny bits of colored tissue were glued onto the jar, overlapping each other, etc.the kids got to 'paint' their jar with Modge Podge (decoupage finishing glue....available in a craft store.) Of course, I looked at these before the child was allowed to paint on the Modge Podge...had some put on more pieces if glass was showing, etc. The Modge Podge gave a pretty, shiny finish to the jars... and made even the 'messy' gluers' jars look attractive! I bought tiny candles (smaller than votives...used in potpourri pots a lot...they are short and sit in a little metal base). The candles fit inside the baby food jars. Then we glued a pretty ribbon around the top, threaded part of the jar and glued on a bow. This was really the nicest Christmas gifts I've ever had my kids make...when the candle is lit, the light shines through the colored tissue pieces, making the candle holder look like stained glass. The parents really loved them, and the kids were proud of their creations."

"Mix split green peas, kidney beans, lima beans, etc. Pour in enough clean glue to coat all the beans. Then pour into small plastic greased containers and stick a candle in the middle of each. Let it set for 2 or 3 days and then lift it out of the container. Add Christmas ribbon and some greenery around the candle."



"Other years I've had them make a set of 2 place mats (using their own unique art ideas on one side)...on the other side they trace outlines with pencil of a plate, cup, silverware, napkin, etc. in the right places....and then use a marker to go over the pencil lines. We paste the poem below on the plate and laminated them.

I can set the table,
So let me, if you can.
You'll find that I'm quite able
To lend a helping hand!



Ornament Gifts

Use clear plastic Christmas balls and dump some acrylic paint and glitter into the inside. Swirl it around and then dump the excess paint out. Let dry upside down. Embellish with a big bow at the top, or curly ribbon tied to the top.

Clay Ornaments

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 cup water

Mix together and knead until smooth. Add food colouring if desired. Three dimensional figures can be made or you can use a rolling pin and cookie cutters to make shapes. Bake at 300 degrees until set and golden (1/2 hr to 1 hr). For a more golden appearance, paint with a beaten egg when it is almost done baking and looks dry. Don't use egg on coloured dough. For coloured dough, paint with shellac or lacquer after baking.

Use a drinking straw to make a hole for hanging, before baking, of course.

Cinnamon Ornaments

Use cinnamon, applesauce and glue to make ornaments.

- 1 1/2 cups ground cinnamon (it can be purchased cheaply in bulk at Costco or Walmart)
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1/4 cup white school glue

Roll it out like cookie dough and use cookie cutters to make shapes. They need to dry thoroughly, usually about 48 hours. You can also use a toothpick to write words or the year on the top. They smell lovely!

Make a calendar.....

"We spend December making a calendar gift for the parents. Each page has a special art project."

January - paint with coloured chalk dipped in white paint.

February - Draw hearts with washable markers and paint with water.

March - thumbprint shamrocks

April - Paint splatter rain pictures (toothbrush w/ paint on screen)

May - spring flowers with finger paint.

June - water resist ocean scene

July - fireworks using scratch off paper

August - beach scene using crayon over sandpaper

September - coloured leaves on trees using small squares of tissue paper and painting them with watery glue.

October - Scary trees made by blowing black paint with a straw

November - poppies cut from red tissue paper

December - paper cut snowflakes



"My class made calendars as gifts for the parents. You need some computer knowledge for this (not much):

I took a couple of pictures of each of the kids with the school's digital camera. I then made a page for each of them in MSWord, with their pictures, the year and 'My Calendar' on it and printed it in colour. I left a white border around the edge which they each decorated with pictures, glitter glue, etc. - all the fun stuff. I printed off a set of calendars for each of them with some school dates, etc. The children can put the dates in themselves, or you can print the completed calendar. I cut red tag about 10" x 20", and glued the picture page at the top and stapled the calendar pages at the bottom."

"I use a blank calendar page and run 12 for each student. We then fill out the calendars month by month. We discuss holidays (capital letters, abbreviations, etc. - all good review), how many days in each month and how the months 'look'. We take white paper to make a cover with construction paper cut out decorations and laminate the covers (front and back). Then put the whole thing together. I actually go through with them month by month putting on the numbers. Then they decorate the back of the previous month so when you turn the page you have a new month calendar

and decorations on the top to go with that month (suggestion - use coloured pencils so you do not have crayon smudge). You have a wonderful keepsake with the child's writing and drawing for that year. I have worked on running mine off this week and getting it put together! This is also a good time to get those end of semester assessments done on a one to one basis. The kids seem so willing to sit and work on these calendars."

"I tried making calendars last year and they came out really great. We started with a photocopy of a calendar for each month with a sentence starter on the top of each one. Ex. 'January is for' We did two or three pages (months) each day for about a week. Each day we brainstormed a list of things that went with each month and then each child completed their sentence starters. We also created an art project for each month which became the page facing the actual calendar page. Ex. - Jan. we made a snow scene, Feb. a Valentine with doilies, March a windy scene with cut-out kites and strings, April a collage type umbrella cut-out with raincoat and boots showing and a fingerpaint puddle, May flowers, June a checkerboard picnic cloth (patterning!) with tiny plastic ants glued on, etc.. Some months were very simple by using a corresponding Ellison cut-out like a turkey. When they were finished I laminated each child's cover and put them together by binding them at the top."

Handprint Calendar

"Every year I have the kids make a calendar for their parents and every year, I get notes from the parents telling me how much they appreciated it. The majority of them have it hanging on their refrigerator for the entire year. I started doing it because my child's grade one teacher did it and I loved having her artwork gracing our family calendar each month.

I begin the project in mid-November and make each child a folder in which to keep their work. Each art period we talk about a month and the different holidays or happenings that occur that month. The grid pages are made on Print Shop so I can pick the font for each month. I photocopy each onto white tag. I encourage the kids to add their families' birthdays or special days on it. As a class, we label the major holidays. We have a binding machine in the library and I bind them when they are finished. They also make a beautiful cover for it."



Cover page:

left and right hand-print with photo of child

*Here are my handprints
For everyone to view.
One a month I made one
Especially for you.*

January

on blue paper using white hand-print around in circle (palm in same spot), add glitter

*Here's a snowflake
Dancing down,
Dancing, dancing
All around.*



February

make heart by pointing fingers down and towards each other.

*Here's a heart
To say 'I love you!'
I hope you'll say
You love me, too!*

March

shamrocks (fingerprint stems and thumb print leaves)

*I have a little shamrock.
It's green as green can be.
Watch me count the leaves One, two, three.*

April

rabbit on blue paper, white handprint - no thumb. Separate 2nd and 3rd finger for ears rest of hand makes rabbit's face.

*I'm an Easter Bunny
Watch me hop
Here are my ears
See how they flop!*

May

caterpillar 4 handprints pointing down, fist for head and finger antennas

*The fuzzy caterpillar
Crawled upon a leaf.
Spun her little chrysalis,
And then fell fast asleep.*

June

butterfly (arm - body, wings - hands two on each side, one up and one down)

*Pretty little butterfly,
What do you do all day?
I fly around the flowerpots,
nothing to do but play.*

July

flag - red hand print for leaf, red stripes on sides.

*The Canadian flag
Is red and white
It is such a
Beautiful sight!*



August

octopus no thumbs 2 hands palms touching (on blue paper)

*In the pool so quiet and deep
Small fish swim and small crabs creep
The octopus with arms so wide
Sways from side to side.*

September

fall tree (arm tree trunk & fingerprints fall leaves)

*Autumn leaves are falling
Red and yellow and brown.
Autumn leaves are falling.
See them tumbling down.*

October

spider 2 hands no thumbs palms overlapping fingers to side (4 on each to make 8 legs)

*The very silly spider
Crawled up on _____ 's head!
It crawled all around
Then made a nice soft bed.*

November

bare tree - arm and hand with outstretched fingers

*No shade, no shine,
No butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers,
No leaves, no birds,
November.*

December

Rudolph - foot - face, hands - antlers

*Here is Rudolph
A funny reindeer!
He takes us up to
The end of the year.*



"We make a calendar for our parents. The students make an art project for each month of the year and they glue it on that month. I just use construction paper and binders for the actual calendar. It's fun to incorporate their child's picture into it wherever you can. I have also made recipe books with my class to give as gifts."

Snowman Soup

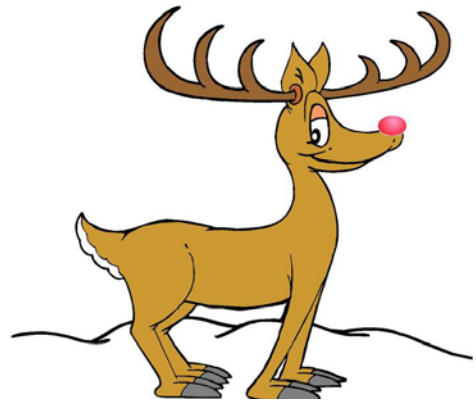
This makes a great gift for parents, volunteers or staff members.

- 1 package hot chocolate mix
- 3 Hershey Kisses
- 1 handful of miniature marshmallows
- 1 candy cane

Put items in a Christmas mug and wrap with cellophane.

"I made up the package for the kids last year and modified that gift tag to include curling up with a good book and it was a big hit!"

Was told you've been very good this year.
Always glad to hear it!
With freezing weather drawing near,
You'll need to warm the spirit.
So here's a little **Snowman Soup**
Complete with stirring stick.
Add hot water, sip it slow.
It's sure to do the trick!



See lots more ideas on this website.....

<http://www.teachingheart.net/snowmansoup.html>

Wrapping Paper

Green handprints with the red thumbprint berries also can be used to decorate wrapping paper.

Print white butcher paper with apples cut across to show the star.

Buy a few simple Christmas stamps and print them on the paper.

Gifts

What shall we give the children?
Christmas is almost here -
Toys and games and playthings
As we do each and every year?

Yes, for the magic of toy land
Is part of the Yuletide lore
To gladden the hearts of childhood
But I shall give something more.

I shall give them more patience
And a more sympathetic ear,
A little more time for laughter
Or tenderly dry a tear.

I shall take time to teach them
The joy of doing some task.
I'll try to find time to answer
More of the questions they ask,

Time to read books together
And take long walks in the sun
Time for a bedtime story
After the day is done.

I shall give these things to my children
Weaving a closer tie,
Knitting our lives together
With gifts that money can't buy.

