



# NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

AlphaChild Ca Ltd.



## Word From The Office

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and lots of fun on Hallowe'en scaring their friends with their spooky costumes. Thank you to everyone who came to our September Corn Roast. It was great to see all our new friends having fun. Donations were close to \$200.00 from the corn roast which was donated to the Run for the Cure. Thank you to team that came out to support this wonderful cause. Once again Alpha's Caring Hearts won the School Team award for raising the most money in the School category.

Lately, I have noticed that a lot of families are having to ring the door bell and sometimes have to wait for a staff member to come and let them in. This can be frustrating for you as a parent, as most of you are either on your way to work or home and are in a bit of a hurry. Key fobs can be picked up from the office. There is a \$10.00 deposit on each key fob ordered but this deposit will be fully returned to you when you return the key fob at the end of your stay with us. Your own key fob will eliminate your wait time both in the morning and /or in the evening. We do ask if you have forgotten your key fob or choose not to

purchase one **PLEASE** only ring the door bell **once** and then give an educator some time to come and open the door for you as all of us are busy with the children, as this is our main priority or an educator may be alone in the classroom with the children and cannot come to the door to let you in. Jennifer or myself would be more than happy to set a fob up for you, just let us know that you would like a fob.

Now that the weather is turning really cold we ask that you please send in the following articles of clothing each and every day in order to help your child stay warm while participating in our outdoor activities; a warm winter coat, snow pants, a warm winter hat, two pairs of mittens (one for morning playground and one for afternoon playground) a neck warmer (no scarves as they present a safety issue as they could get caught on the climbing equipment) and winter boots. Please no gloves or mittens without thumbs as they are not conducive to playing in the snow. Also, ensure that your child also has a complete change of clothing in their cubble in



case they get wet from playing in the snow or have a bathroom accident or a spillage of some sort. Please label each piece of clothing with your child's name in order to ensure that each piece of clothing is easily identified and returned to your child.

So often parents ask what items the centre looks for in the way of donations and with the upcoming season a lot of you will be doing some house cleaning and will be recycling some of your children's toys and activities as they have out grown them. The following is a list of items to save: toys, puzzles, games, books; yogurt containers, paper towel rolls, bits of ribbon, yarn or string, boxes, paper of any kind, costumes, clothing for prop boxes, any cultural items, plastic bags, cardboard boxes, buttons, sponges, any type of recyclable materials. If you are uncertain if we can use it, please ask or just bring it in and we will dispose of it if we cannot make use of it. All donations really help in controlling our budget costs.

Until next time, my door is always open  
**Mary, RECE, BA**  
[marys@alphachildcare.ca](mailto:marys@alphachildcare.ca)  
 905-458-4884

## Dates to Remember

November:  
**Sun Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Set your clocks one hour behind

**Mon Nov 11<sup>th</sup>** - Remembrance Day

**Fri Nov 15<sup>th</sup>** - PA Day for Public and Catholic School Boards - Trip TBA

**Wed Nov 19<sup>th</sup>** - Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due

December:  
**Nov 12<sup>th</sup> - Dec 23<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Food Drive

**Thurs Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Christmas Concert 4pm - 6pm  
 Infants 4:00 (In the classroom)  
 Jr Todd 4:00 (In the classroom)  
 Int.Todd 4:00 (In the classroom)  
 Sr Todd 4:20 (in the classroom)  
 Jr Pre 4:20 (in the Atrium)  
 Sr Pre 5:00 (In the Atrium)  
 Pre/Kind 5:20 (in the Atrium)  
 Sch Age 5:40 (in the Atrium)

**Thurs Dec 20<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Luncheon at 11:15am

**Sat Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** - 1<sup>st</sup> day of Winter

**Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Camp (2 weeks)

**Tues Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Eve (closed 3pm)

**Wed Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day (Alpha closed)

**Thurs Dec 26<sup>th</sup>** - Boxing Day (Alpha closed)

**Fri Dec 27<sup>th</sup>** - Floating Holiday (Alpha closed)

**Tues Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** - New Year's Eve (Alpha closed 3pm)

**Wed January 1<sup>st</sup>** - New Year's Day (Alpha closed)



## Infants

Welcome to Winter!! The Infants will be able to explore the playground in the winter months. As we have ten children in the room, we ask you to please LABEL all clothing as it helps the Educators return the clothing to the correct cubby. The Infants will go outside on as many days as we possibly can so we can take advantage of the fresh air and all the learning opportunities outside. The children will learn about the snow and cold. How to move and mold the snow with shovels and pails just like they do with the sand. They will walk on the uneven snow as it will help them to increase their balance. The Educators will pull them around on sleds and help them climb up the hill to use the slide. We hope that you venture outside with your child at home so the winter experiences will help the

Infants to love the outdoors for years to come.

Christmas is a time of the year when we want to show the ones we love that we care by giving them a gift. These gifts do not have to be expensive. Children can learn to show they care by making something for another person like a drawing or painting. These masterpieces can be put into an inexpensive frame and kept by the loved one for years to come. How great is it to look back and see this art work when the child is grown. Children can go to the store with you and help to purchase gifts. They can then go home and make their own homemade wrapping paper



and cards by using crayons, stamps and stickers. Another way to show you care is to have your children bake simple recipes and give them to loved ones with a little card explaining that the children baked them especially for them.

We hope that this winter season is filled with time with loved ones. Have a great holiday season!  
*The Infants, Kim, RECE, Kelly, Assistant, Areanna, RECE and Trinh, RECE*



## Junior Toddlers

Hello Toddler families! We have many children in the class that sometimes have the same article of clothing as other children so we ask that you please LABEL all clothing items.

The Jr. Toddlers have been busy during the cloakroom routine practicing their self-help skills. We have been encouraging the children to begin removing some of their outdoor clothing (hats and shoes). We encourage the children to first remove the straps of their shoes and then pull off their shoe, sometimes assisting them by doing hand-over-hand. We also encourage for you to do the same at home before or after



childcare. Encouraging your child to put their shoes on by having them remove the straps of their shoes first then, with some assistance, have them push their foot into the shoe. Families may do the same with removing shoes by having them remove the straps first and then, with assistance, doing hand-over-hand to pull their shoe off. We hope this will help with getting them dressed for the winter months!

In case you need a little push to get you into the festive mood, here are some fun family events happening that will take you to December 25<sup>th</sup> :

**Winter Lights**  
Downtown Brampton Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00  
Celebrate the holiday season with

Brampton's winter light festival. The lighting of the Christmas tree in Ken Whillans Square.

**Santa Claus Parade**  
Downtown Brampton November 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00

**Santa Claus Parade**  
Toronto November 17<sup>th</sup> 12:30

**Winter Fest at Canada's Wonderland**  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>-November 30<sup>th</sup> (\$21 + HST)

Transformed into an enchanted winter wonderland completed with uniquely themed areas, dozens of Christmas trees, millions of spectacular lights, ice skating, live entertainment, savoury treats and crafts.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Intermediate Toddlers

Hello Alpha parents! Before we begin we would like to welcome all our new families to the Intermediate Toddler room.

The Intermediate Toddlers are very busy and engaged in learning how to be social. Social skills don't develop naturally; they need to be learned. Each child is unique, and therefore the Toddlers will continue to learn about sharing and taking turns with each other.

The fall is coming to an end and the winter season will be starting soon. It is also that time of the year which we are waiting for so eagerly. Not for the snow, but yes for the Christmas season. A time which we spend with our family and friends, as well as a time for lots of treats and gifts. We are going to share some snack/appetizers ideas for Christmas treats. Hopefully it will help you in preparing Christmas Day.

### Holiday Cheese Ball Wreath

Total: 1 hr 15 min (includes chilling time) Active: 15 min Yield: 16 to 20 servings

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 cups shredded firm cheese, such as Cheddar, pepper Jack or Colby
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup pickled piquante peppers, such as Peppadews, finely chopped



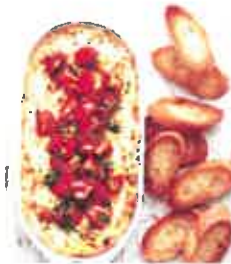
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley leaves, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh chives
- Crackers, sliced bread or crudités, for serving

#### Directions

##### Special equipment:

A small (6-cup) Bundt pan

1. Line the inside of a 6-cup Bundt pan with plastic wrap. Process the cream cheese, shredded cheese, Worcestershire sauce, 1/2 teaspoon salt and few grinds of pepper in a food processor until smooth. Empty the mixture into a medium bowl, and fold in all but 2 tablespoons of the chopped peppers.
2. Spoon the cheese mixture into the prepared Bundt pan; pack it in, spread into an even layer and cover (or simply form the cheese mixture into a ball and wrap tightly with plastic wrap). Refrigerate until chilled, at least 1 hour up to 2 days.
3. Uncover and invert the cheese mold (or unwrap and transfer the ball) onto a serving platter. Sprinkle with the chives and parsley to completely coat the wreath, and garnish with the reserved 2 tablespoons peppers. Serve with crackers, sliced bread or crudités.



#### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Combine the goat cheese, cream cheese, parmesan and 2 tablespoons olive oil in a food processor and season with pepper; puree until smooth. Brush a 1-quart baking dish with olive oil, then spread the cheese mixture in the dish, mounding it slightly higher around the edge than in the middle. Bake until golden and heated through, about 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, combine the tomatoes, chives, vinegar, garlic, the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl. Spoon the tomato mixture on top of the dip. Serve with baguette slices.

We hope it will help you to decide the appetizers for the holiday season. HAVE FUN!

Until next time,  
*Ipsita.RECE, Chau, RECE, Sabiha, RECE and our Toddler Friends*





## Senior Toddlers

During the month of September, the Toddlers did a fantastic job of adjusting to the new classroom, and in October the children have been collecting natural materials and bringing them inside the classroom to add to creative, dramatic and sensory play. In doing this, the children have been gathering materials, labeling them and sorting them.

Now that the weather has become colder, new opportunities arise to play in a new environment that offers things that are different from our rocks, tomatoes, leaves and corn husks. We are looking forward to these next few months as there will be several opportunities to explore ice and snow.

A few activities that we will be incorporating into our program and that the families are also welcomed to do at home include;

- **Breaking Ice.** The night before, freeze some toy dinosaurs in water (or other toys that will not break) and bring it out the next day. Have your child find a way to get the toy out though using a toy hammer to break them free or by melting it.
- **Popsicle Painting.** Make ice popsicles with water, a few drops of food colouring and a popsicle stick the night before. The next day have some construction paper and a tray/place mat ready and then your child can use the popsicle to colour on the paper.
- **Melting Colours In Ice.** Freeze a bowl of water the night before and take it out the next day. Then have your child add salt onto the ice



and use either a brush or eye droppers with diluted food colouring, to see how far the salt has melted into the ice.

- **Sprinkle Balloons.** Fill up a water balloon with water and then add sprinkles inside the balloon as well. Leave it in the freezer (or outside if it's cold enough) over night and cut it open the next day once it is completely frozen with your child.

Hopefully these activities will help diversify play at home and make the winter a little more fun than it already is!

Warm regards,  
Felicia RECE, Jennifer Assistant, and Arshpreet REC And the Senior Toddlers

## Junior Toddlers cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Lunch with Santa**  
Kortright Centre For Conservation  
November 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>,  
14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

**Magical Christmas Forest—Kortwright Centre**  
November 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00-9:00 Cost \$24 to \$29 + HST

Enjoy crafts, activities, and treats for the entire family. Go on a horse drawn wagon ride and meet Santa in a cabin.

**Cavalcade of Lights**  
Nathan Phillips Square Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

**6:00**  
Fireworks, lighting of Toronto's Christmas tree, live musical performances, skating and more.

**New Year's Eve**  
Downtown Brampton Dec 31<sup>st</sup>  
6:00pm-12:30am  
Ring in the New Year In downtown



Brampton with family-friendly activities, food, entertainment and fireworks.

Until next time,  
Lorraine, RECE, P.J, RECE, Niketta, RECE & the Jr.Toddlers

We're on the web;  
[www.alphachildcare.ca](http://www.alphachildcare.ca)

## Junior Preschoolers

The Junior Preschool room would like to take a moment to welcome Fejro and his family. He graduated into our room from the Senior Toddler room. Next, we would like to welcome Zadlki and his family back to our room and the Alpha family.

The Junior Preschool educators have been very busy over the past few months helping the children transition into the Junior Preschool room and assisting them with learning the classroom routines. The educators have been focusing on helping the children with their self-help skills when they are getting dressed to go outside. They have been encouraging the children to put on their outdoor shoes and putting on their coat using the "Flip, flop over the top method." This is where the children will put their coat on the floor, stand by the hood and place their hands in the sleeves of their coat and raise their arms over their head so the coat will fall down their arm, and to put on their hat.

The children have been exploring the changes in nature as they have been busy painting with twigs, gluing leaves, pinecones and twigs on various materials to make a nature fall collage and they have been looking at these items closely with magnifying glasses.

Over the next few months the Junior Preschool children will be busy practicing songs for our Christmas concert and making a special gift for the parents.

Now, that the weather is changing, and the winter season is beginning families may find that there is not much to do with the children outside. However, nature and being outdoors in the winter time is an essential part of their development and learning experiences for the children. So, here are some fun inexpensive activities parents can do outside with the children in the snow.



- Make snow angels in the snow
- Make a snowman as a family outside on their lawn or in their backyard.
- Make a snow critter in the snow instead of a snowman.
- Build a snow fort or snow maze
- Track animal prints in the snow and look them up on the Internet
- Play snow bowling.
- Go tobogganing. Just have fun as a family tobogganing at the park
- Have a sled pulling race. See who can pull the sled the fastest.
- Create a treasure hunt. Have the children go outside to see if they can find the biggest or fattest icicle, rock or stick in the snowbank. Parents can bring a measuring tape to keep track.

- Make ice art. This is where you can freeze water with food colouring in ice cube trays, muffin tins etc. outside or in the freezer. Then take the colourful blocks outside and with the snow and ice outside create your own ice art.
- Catalog conifers. This is where you



see how many different evergreens or trees you can identify in your neighbourhood.

- Take Binoculars outside and see if you can find any birds or animals.
- Go play at the local Park in snow.
- Go for a family winter hike/walk and see how many nature items they can collect on their hike/walk and place their findings in a basket, bucket or bag.
- Hoop it Up. Have a contest to see who can Hula hoop the longest.
- Blow bubbles in the snow and watch them freeze.
- Play Tic Tac Snow with twigs and pinecones.
- Frosty Toss. Have a snowball throwing contest. Make a bright circle in the snow with coloured water and then toss snowballs into the circle.
- Play Snow Golf.
- Pin the smile on the snowman. Blind fold the children and have them try to put the face on the snowman.
- Make funny faces with snow on tree trunks
- Play freeze tag.

---<https://www.outdoors.org> &  
<https://www.parent.com>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with us at anytime.

Until next month,  
**The Junior Preschool children, Sirmanjot, RECE, Danielle, RECE and Lynda, RECE**



## Senior Preschoolers

Wow It's hard to believe that November is already here, time is going by way too fast. All of the children have settled into the classroom routines and are loving the time they spend here.

They have been very busy with lots of fun activities. They have started the Jolly Phonics program as well as Handwriting Without Tears. The children have been willingly participating in all programs and seem to be enjoying colouring the worksheets.



We continue to encourage the children to be as independent as possible and further develop their self-help skills. This is done throughout the day by dressing and undressing themselves at cubby areas, putting their shoes on their own feet, and tidying up after themselves. We encourage parents to allow their children to accomplish these tasks at

home as well in order to be consistent and to build their self-esteem.

Can you believe that Christmas is right around the corner? We thought we would give you some ideas for some fun holiday crafting projects you could do as a family:

### Dish Brush Wreath Painting:

#### Materials:

- Green and red paint
- Round dish brush
- Red bow

#### How To:

1. Dip the brush into the green paint and create a circle shape that symbolizes a wreath
2. Dip your fingers into the red paint and print them onto the wreath shape to represent berries
3. Place the red bow on the bottom of the wreath and you are finished



### Paper Plate Ornament:

#### Materials Needed:

- Paper plates
- Tissue paper circles
- Glue
- Paint brush
- Black paper
- Ribbon
- Scissors

#### How To:

1. Lay the tissue circles out on the table
2. Cover the plate entirely with glue
3. Place the circles onto the glue/plate covering the entire surface
4. Cut out a black square from the paper and glue it to the top of the plate
5. Take a piece of ribbon make a loop and attach it to the black paper to hang the ornament up

Until next time,  
**Shvana RECE, Theresa Assistant, And the Senior Preschoolers**

## Preschool/Kindergarten

The school year seems to be flying by, it is hard to believe that it is almost Christmas already. Our classroom has been a very busy place over the past few months. We are currently working on special projects for the upcoming season including our concert. Hopefully everyone will be able to be here to see the children perform.

The children having been making good progress with the Jolly Phonics and Handwriting Without Tears

programs. Some of the children are beginning to print independently and almost everyone is starting to master tracing letters. Be sure to remind your child to sign in each morning as this is good practice for printing and recognizing their names.

During the holiday season many families have

traditions that are unique to their families or cultures. From decorating the house with garland or every green boughs, to decorating the tree together as a family. Some

families plan a special movie night where they curl up and watch their favourite Christmas specials together. You could plan a family skating or



*(Continued on page 8)*



## Sheila's Kitchen

Sheet pan cooking is the new way to avoid messy clean ups and spend time doing what you love to do. Here are some quick and easy sheet pan dinner that can be assembled ahead of time and baked right before serving. Easy peasy!

### BAKED APPLE PORK CHOPS AND GREEN BEANS

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 (8-ounce) pork chops, bone-in, 3/4-inch to 1-inch thick
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 16 ounces green beans, trimmed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

#### FOR THE APPLES

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly oil a baking sheet or coat with nonstick spray.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium high heat.
3. Rub both sides of the pork chops with sage; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Add to the skillet



and sear both sides until golden brown, about 2-3 minutes.

4. Place pork chops and green beans in a single layer onto the prepared baking sheet. Drizzle green beans with olive oil and sprinkle with garlic; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
5. Place into oven and roast until the pork is completely cooked through, reaching an internal temperature of 140 degrees F, about 12-15 minutes.
6. Return skillet to medium high heat and melt butter. Add apples, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Cook, stirring occasionally, until apples just begin to soften, about 3-4 minutes. Stir in maple syrup, stirring occasionally, until the sauce thickens, about 5 minutes.
7. Serve pork chops immediately, topped with apple mixture, garnished with parsley, if desired.

### ONE PAN BALSAMIC CHICKEN AND VEGGIES

YIELD: 4 SERVINGS

TOTAL TIME: 45 MINUTES

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES

COOK TIME: 30-35 MINUTES

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (about 1 1/2 pounds)
- 4 to 5 cups chopped vegetables (we love to do sliced red potatoes, carrots, broccoli and/or tomatoes)
- 1/4 cup balsamic glaze (DeLallo makes a yummy one)
- 1/4 cup olive oil, more if needed
- Fresh basil, optional
- Kosher Salt & Pepper

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 400° F. Line a sheet pan with foil.

2. Place the chicken in a zip top bag and drizzle on 3 Tablespoons of the balsamic glaze. Let sit for at least 10 minutes. Place vegetables in a zip top bag with the olive oil, 1 Tablespoon of balsamic glaze, salt and pepper.
3. Alternatively, arrange the chicken and vegetables onto the pan in an even layer and drizzle olive oil and the balsamic glaze over the top. Add fresh basil if desired. Sprinkle salt and pepper over the top.
4. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until the chicken is no longer pink and the vegetables are fork tender. The chicken may get done faster than the vegetables, so check at 30 and remove the chicken before the vegetables if needed.
5. Enjoy while hot! Add extra balsamic glaze, salt and pepper if desired.



Happy cooking,  
Sheila, Chef

### Educational Preschoolers

We are super excited to continue the educational preschool program and extend it to all members of the community. We are welcoming Rayyan to the program. We are practicing our letters and numbers, working on turn taking, working on our emotions and other social skills for the transition to school. During the program we have school age P.A. days. That means the EP program is not running. November 15<sup>th</sup>, December 23 – January 3, January 20, February 7, March 16-20, April 13, April 24, June 8. You can refer to your package for all important dates.



## Preschool/Kindergarten cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

toboggan party to help stay active during the holidays. Whatever you do, know that it is important to establish family traditions as these will form special memories for your child.



Here are some of our special memories of Christmas:

**Zlon:** opening presents Christmas morning and I got a sub patroller.

**Neevan:** opening my gifts and receiving a Hot Wheels launcher.

**Saleena:** dressing up in a special dress with a pretty necklace and wearing nail polish.

**Joshua:** opening presents

**Halden:** Santa comes to my birthday party.

**Zayn:** my mommy puts pretty nail polish on her nails.

**Aurella:** Santa comes to the whole world.

**Gabriel H.:** having candy canes.

**Hamza:** Santa comes from the North Pole.

**Sophia:** Grandma comes to visit.

**Manas:** going to see Santa.

**Klera:** Aunt Kai Kai bought me a Paw

Patrol colouring book.

**Ashaya:** I got a princess.

**Gabriel R.:** I open my gifts.

**Ryan:** I went to the store when it was snowing and bought a train.

**Avish:** opening gifts.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and please enjoy your time with your family. You are clearly making memories together.

*Jacqueline, RECE, Seema, RECE and the Preschool/Kindergarten class.*

## School Age

With the holidays quickly approaching it is a super busy time of year. It's always nice when we can find time to spend with our loved ones, that is what the holidays are about after all. If you are looking for something to do, here are some ideas:

Craft shows

Make a snowman

Winterfest at Canada's Wonderland

Drink hot cocoa in your pjs

Santa Claus parade

Tree lighting ceremony

Bake cookies



### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup Crisco Golden All Vegetable Shortening (125ml)
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed (125ml)

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar (50ml)
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract (15ml)
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups Robin Hood All Purpose Flour (300ml)
- 1/2 tsp each; baking soda and salt (2ml)
- 1 pkg Chipits Reese Peanut Butter Chips, divided (300g)
  - 1 cup Chipits Skor Toffee Bits (250ml)
  - 3/4 cup unsalted peanuts (175ml)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F (180° C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, beat shortening with sugars and vanilla until creamy. Beat in egg. Add flour, baking soda and salt, mixing until

incorporated. Stir in 1 cup (250 mL) peanut butter chips, all toffee bits and all peanuts.

3. Drop mixture by rounded tablespoons (15 mL) onto prepared baking sheets, about 2" (5 cm) apart.

4. Bake each sheet in preheated oven 10 - 12 minutes or until deep golden brown and just set. Cool on sheet, 3 minutes. Remove to wire racks and cool completely. Melt remaining peanut butter chips in microwave on High (100%) about 45 seconds. Drizzle over cooled cookies.

Bake time: 12 minutes per sheet  
Makes: 44 cookies  
Freezing: excellent

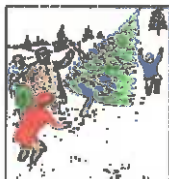
Until next time,  
*Chantelle, RECE and the School Age Gang*



## A Moment With The Manager

Do you have a Christmas tradition? What do you do at Christmas that your children will remember when they are 30? If you do not do anything, perhaps reading the following list will inspire you to begin your own family Christmas tradition.

1. Read a favourite Christmas story on Christmas Eve. Some great selections are "T'was the Night Before Christmas", "The Polar Express", "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer"
2. Spend a Sunday afternoon making Christmas decorations for the tree or have your child give them as gifts to teachers, grandparents and friends.
3. Seek out a Christmas tree farm and cut down your own Christmas Tree. Go for a horse drawn sleigh ride and enjoy some hot chocolate afterwards.
4. On Christmas Eve drive around the neighbourhood looking at all the lights and decorations.
5. String cranberries and popcorn for the tree.
6. Make a room in the house a Santa Room. Put up a tree that has all the home made decorations on it that were made earlier in the month.
7. Christmas Eve have a cookie decorating contest and leave them for Santa.
8. Take your child to the local shopping mall to see all the decorations. (Choose a day early in the week to avoid the crowds)
9. Bring pillows, blankets or sleeping bags into the living room and watch a favourite Christmas movie. Have a sleep over under the Christmas Tree.
10. Invite a group of your child's friends and their parents and go Caroling around the neighbourhood or to a local Long Term Care facility.
11. Have your child purchase a toy that they have asked Santa for and have them donate it to a local charity, explaining that they will be helping some less fortunate child have a nice Christmas to.
12. Buy some white sparkles from the dollar store and on Christmas Eve give the sparkles to your child telling them that it is magic reindeer dust and have them sprinkle it on the lawn to attract



Santa's reindeers to stop at their house.

13. Together with your child make a favourite family meal to be eaten on Christmas Eve.
14. Take a picture of your child when they first wake up Christmas morning before they open their presents.
15. Decorate a new unused construction worker sock and leave this at the end of your child's bed for Santa to fill
16. Have your child choose ten old toys that are still usable and look fairly new and put them in a Santa Sack. On Christmas Eve put the bags under the Christmas Tree for Santa to take back to the North Pole to be fixed. (These items you will donate to charitable organization) In place Santa will leave your child new toys in the Santa Sack that was left under the tree.
17. After your child has gone to bed string crepe paper across their bedroom door so that in the morning they will have to break through the crepe paper to get the Christmas tree.
18. Grow Candy Canes. Plant small peppermint in a flower pot. After the children have gone to sleep remove the min and replace it with a small candy cane. The next day the children will think the peppermint grew into a candy cane. Encourage the children to water it each day and replace it with a bigger candy cane every night. The children will be so excited to watch their candy cane growing.
18. Santa's Footprints. Cut out a foot patterns. Place it on the floor starting with the fireplace and shake icing sugar or flour around the edges of the foot print. Continue to do this leading up to the Christmas tree. This will indicate to the children that Santa has been.
19. Prepare a hot chocolate bar. In an area that is reachable to the children. Place a container of marshmallows, mints, candy canes etc., and let the children add what they would like to their cup of hot chocolate.
20. For Christmas breakfast prepare snowman pancakes by placing a small pancake on top of a larger pancake add a piece of bacon for the snowman's scarf and marshmallows for snow balls at the bottom for snow balls. Chocolate chips can be for the facial features and the buttons.
21. Photograph your child while they are

sleeping on Christmas Eve and begin a photo album by placing a picture each Christmas.

22. Wrap up Christmas stories and have the children choose one to be read as their bedtime story for the weeks prior to Christmas
23. Have a picnic under the Christmas tree after it has been decorated.
24. Reindeer Food. In order for the reindeer to find your house on Christmas Eve, make reindeer food by mixing oatmeal and sparkles and sprinkle it on the front lawn so the sparkles shine and show where you live and the reindeer will eat the oatmeal while Santa delivers presents to your house.
25. Christmas Eve Surprise Box. In a box place a new set of pajamas, a pair of slippers, ingredients to make hot chocolate, a new Christmas story, and some popcorn. Wrap the box and put a tag on it that reads Christmas Eve Surprise Box. (to be opened after sunset).
26. Have an Ugly Christmas sweater day. Begin by allowing the children to decorate a sweater and then allow them to wear it for the rest of the day.
27. Buy a new Christmas ornament for your child each year. This will give them a great collection to start their own home with.
28. Make a scavenger hunt and have the children look for some of their presents with a flash light. This will work quite well with the Christmas Eve surprise box.
29. Get a large cardboard box (refrigerator size) and make it into a house. Give your child Christmas lights and decorations to decorate their cardboard house with.
30. Save your child's Christmas wish list in a glass ornament. They will have fun looking at all the things that they asked for in years to come.

No matter what tradition you start with your child the ones that involve spending time with them will be the ones they remember the best.

Have a great holiday season. Until next time, my door is always open

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