

The Kids Are Home for the Holidays!

Practical Strategies for Keeping the Peace



Since Auditory Learners Often Need To:

*hear themselves talk
discuss things with others
make a "thinking noise"*

- Put them in charge of reading a story or scripture to the whole family
- Give them books to read to their younger brothers or sisters
- Let them emcee the family celebration

Since Visual Learners Often Need To:

*get a picture in their mind
draw or doodle to help them remember
have a visually appealing environment*

- Put them in charge of, or at least let them help with holiday decorations
- Challenge them to make unique and creative gift tags for everyone's present
- Let them choose a different holiday movie to watch on nights during school vacation

Since Kinesthetic Learners Often Need To:

*move around
take short breaks
engage in some kind of action*

- Keep them moving! How about running "errands" like checking out the holiday lights?
- At the store, give them a clipboard and a checklist of items to be found and have them write down the location and price of each item. Maybe have a "mystery item" that you list only by description and price; if they find it, they win a small prize or an extra privilege.
- Have at least one meal a day that's a "moveable feast" (eat each course in a different location.)



Remember that each family member is a unique person, and sometimes the best gift of all is the gift of understanding!

Since Analytic Learners Often Need:

*organization
lots of time to work through a project
appreciation for their ideas and advice*

- Put them in charge of recording everyone's wish list for family gifts. They can design a form that can be filled out or record lists on paper.
- Let them be in charge of organizing gifts for the family celebration. When it is time to open the gifts, put them in charge of distribution.
- Let them find ads and coupons in the newspaper for items that appear on each family member's wish list.

Since Global Learners Often Need:

*frequent praise and reassurance of worth
an opportunity to work with someone else
a chance to use creativity and imagination*

- Challenge them to help the house look and feel like the real spirit of the holidays. What kind of decorations will we need?
- Let them come up with some ideas for gift giving for an adopt-a-child or adopt-a-family project. Given the parameters (age, size, needs, etc.), what gifts make the most sense?
- Let them decide how they would like to present the traditional Christmas or Hannukah story before the family celebrates by opening gifts—maybe a dramatic reading, or even a short play.

Since Strong-Willed Children Often Need:

*Inspiration
Compelling reasons
Independence
Freedom to choose options*

- Challenge them to come up with a new annual family tradition. Give parameters for cost, etc.
- Let them propose a holiday family outing during school vacation. Give them a budget and guidelines, and challenge them to find the very best place to go. (Give them extra credit if they can find coupons or discounts!)
- Encourage them to participate with the family in an adopt-a-child program. Perhaps you can offer to match whatever money they can provide for a gift and let them to "shop till they drop."

