

The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Newsletter
Lancaster County

THE NEBLINE is published monthly by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68528-1507. Contact the extension office, (402) 441-7180 for more information.



Gary C. Bergman, Extension Educator—Unit Leader

NOTICE: All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless noted otherwise. Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County.

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Extension Calendar

All programs and events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless otherwise noted.

- November 16**
Fairboard Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- November 23 and 24**
Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 27**
Pet Pals 4-H Club Meeting 7 p.m.
- December 5**
4-H Council Meeting
- December 8**
Extension Board Meeting 8 a.m.
- December 10**
4-H Ambassador Meeting 2 p.m.
4-H Teen Council Meeting 3-5 p.m.

Buying Age Appropriate Toys

With the Christmas shopping season right around the corner, many parents and adults begin shopping for toys for children. Young children vary in their abilities at different age groups and need toys that are appropriate for their developmental stage. There are many toys to choose from, but most can be grouped into specific developmental categories: physical or muscle; sensory (sight, sound, hearing, touch); social; and intellectual or creative development.

Infants need toys with bright colors and texture. The toys should be washable,

unbreakable, and large enough so they won't be swallowed. Babies enjoy toys to look at, feel, chew on, and drop. Ideal toys are rattles, squeak toys, crib mobiles, and stuffed animals or dolls.

Toddlers need "hands on" toys that require little coordination. Ideal toys for this age group are creative: dress-up clothes; play dough; crayons; push-pull toys; balls and simple story books.

Preschoolers enter a stage of development where they are more social and enjoy more realistic toys. Ideal toys are construction sets, puppets, toy

vehicles, books, records, musical instruments and puzzles.

Early school age children begin collections and hobbies. They spend a lot of time with friends and like complicated, crafty and creative activities. They enjoy "active" games and spend a lot of time playing ball games, biking, and being outdoors. Ideal gifts for this age group are board games, science or craft kits, bikes, doll houses, jump ropes, and roller blades.

Finding age appropriate toys for children enable them to grow and develop at a level suitable for them. (SS)



MEMORIES

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about the exploits of your generation. I can just hear the groans as family members respond to the "when I was your age I..." and yet the tales are told over and over again. Stories illuminate a family's journey and each new experience is fodder for new anecdotes, jokes, and stories.

Stories carry enormous power and can bring a kind of "magic" to your family. You might want to try one of these activities at the dinner table or at your next family gathering.

Family heirlooms or treasures.

What is the story behind the article? Was it carried by hand

from a foreign country? Was it an offering from a husband in the family who had accidentally mowed off the irises 40 years ago? Placing an item on the family dinner table as a centerpiece is the perfect opportunity to talk about it's history. Hint: when you give family heirlooms write the story of the article and attach it so the story won't be lost.

Picture a memory
Dig out an old family photo and have family members make up a story about the picture and then tell the real story behind the picture. Family stories, if handed down orally from generation to generation, will

likely outlast photographs.

Happenings
On individual slips of papers write categories such as: the funniest things that ever happened to me; the most embarrassing; the weirdest; the scariest, etc. Then give each person a few minutes to think of an incident. Each person must explain the stories behind his or her statements.

Keep Journals
Journals are a wonderful way to record happenings and to help you remember stories you can share with your family.

Spend time together—tell stories.



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