

Make time to play during holidays

The holidays are supposed to be about spending time with those you love. But every December, it seems we spend more time preparing and stressing than enjoying each other. Remembering to play— sharing a smile, laughing and having fun with our families is really what this time of year is all about.

“For most of us, our current lifestyle makes play a luxury that few of us can afford,” says Richard Tait, father of three and grand poo bah, Cranium, Inc. “The holiday season is the perfect excuse to disconnect from the outside world and inject some play in our daily lives. Play brings us together, encourages us to laugh and allows us to put the rest of the world on pause.”

This holiday season, to help you tune out of work and routine schedules and tune into your family, Cranium offers tips to add play to your holidays.

Turn holiday planning into a family affair — Add play to your regular holiday tasks like cooking Christmas dinner or holiday baking. Give every member of the family a role in the planning and preparations. Add some Christmas carols into the mix and you’ve just turned holiday work into holiday play.

Holiday road trip unplugged— When packing the kids up and piling gifts, luggage and your contribution to the family Christmas dinner into the car to head to Grandma’s house for the holidays, leave the portable DVD players, mp3 players and hand-held video games at home. Inject play into the drive with fun road trip games like “Simon Says” or challenge the family to a holiday



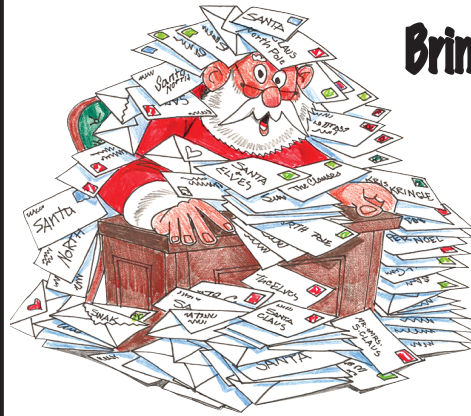
concert in the car.

Give the gift of activity— Rather than spend hours in line tracking down the hot gift this year, give the gift of fun, giggles and activity. Though the weather may be frightful outside, kids can get some indoor exercise with award-winning Hullabaloo. Designed for ages four and up, Hullabaloo is the high-energy game that has kids think fast as they bounce, twist, spin, high-five, and dance to the music, voice, and sounds in each game. It’s easy to watch your child play from the couch, but not as fun— for either of you. Set aside some family time every day— even if only for a few minutes— and get onto the carpet and play.

—News Canada

Letters To Santa

Bring your letters to SANTA



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DROP OFF: During business hours to our office in the Market Place Mall

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ALL letters will be forwarded to the North Pole

SOME letters will be published in the paper with answers from Santa

Dear Santa,
Hi my name is Eric. I was adopted and now living in Acton. For Christmas I like a Train for my Thomas train set, A DeGo and Thomas movie and A new sweater. I also like to have a sister which we also have to adopt.
Thank you Santa Merry Christmas

Love
Eric Walter Peacock-Mann

Dear Santa,
How are you? thank you for my gifts from last year. I bet you had a good trip at the south pole. Is it snowing at the North Pole? Do you like white or chocolate milk better? For Christmas I would like a Webkinz, the cat. It is black and white. I am eight years old, my little brother is one. Please try not to wake him up. I have two cats. I am going to bake you some cookies. My brother Easton will write you too.

Love Macey (age 8)

Dear Eric
Thank you very much for your letter! I hope you are enjoying your new home in Acton. I know you have been very good this year. I will get my elves working on some special presents for you. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Love Santa

Dear Macey
How nice it was to receive another letter from you and your brother again this year. Mrs. Claus and I are doing great and yes we have quite a lot of snow here at the North Pole, however I am not complaining because of course winter is my favorite time of year! Your very welcome for your gifts last year and I will do my best to get you what you want this year. I promise to be extremely quiet when visiting your house so that I do not disturb your little brother. Merry Christmas and I look forward to eating the cookies you bake for me.

Love Santa
P.S. White milk is my favorite

Dear Santa,
How are you? I saw you at the Mall. So far I only wave to you, from my stroller, but I really like you. I would like some little cars and trucks please. I like books too. I have been very good, just like my big sister Macey. Say hi to your reindeer for me.

Love Easton (age 16 1/2 months)

Dear Easton
I am doing great although I am very busy preparing for the big day! I hope you enjoyed your first Christmas last year and I am sure this year will be special for you as well. I am pleased you and your sister have been so good again this year and promise to bring you some well deserved presents. Merry Christmas!

Love Santa



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