

Spirit of Christmas

Let children create photo memories

(NC) There is no better combination than children and Christmas.

This year, let a camera help you share holiday fun with the children.

No matter what age, holiday photo-projects can entertain children for hours and make them proud contributors to the family festivities.

Kids love to take pictures and educators have discovered that photography is an ideal form of self-expression for children.

Put the kids to work on some of the holiday picture projects below and don't be surprised if they come up with some great ideas of their own.

A Book About Me:

Relatives who live too far away to share the holidays will treasure this personal present.

Have your child pick a theme: my favourite hobby or sport, how I feel, my neighbourhood.

Have plenty of film available so the young

photographer can cover all the angles and then pick out the pictures that tell the story best.

Get siblings and friends in on the act to provide pictures of the author in action.

The photos can then be arranged in a scrapbook.

Young children can write a short message under each picture while older children may want to make a more elaborate book using the pictures to illustrate their theme.

Our Family Tree:

Start a tradition and appoint your child official photographer when relatives visit during the holidays. Build the family tree with pictures of all family members on large sheets of cardboard or posterboard, using a china marker to identify and date the photos on the bottom border.

Or bridge the generation gap by having children interview older family members to gather stories for a family history book,

illustrated with pictures.

Holiday Place Mats:

Ask your youngsters to help liven up the holiday dining table by creating unique place mats.

Have them take pictures of decorations that catch the seasonal spirit.

Make sure they move in close and use the flash for bright, colourful pictures.

Attach the photos to 12x18-inch pieces of poster board with double-sided tape and cover front and back with clear vinyl self-adhesive.

Children may also choose to add their own creative accents such as stickers, drawings or cut-

outs, before sealing the mats.

Photo Ornaments:

What's more exciting to youngsters than the moment the Christmas tree goes up in the family room and the tree trims come down from the attic? While the grown-ups handle the high branches and fragile ornaments, the children can catch the action on film. Have them date the pictures and add the best and brightest to the tree. Punch a small hole in the top white border of the print, add colourful thread or a pipecleaner hanger. After the holidays, add the pictures to

your family album for happy memories.


Thank-you's With A Smile:

Do you get grumbles when you ask the kids to write their thank-you notes? An picture is worth a thousand words when your child

sends a photo of herself wearing the handknit sweater Aunt Sally sent, or a snapshot of himself in action on Uncle Bob's gift skates.

A short note with a personalized thank-you picture will share smiles - and appreciation - all around.

Adventures in Misty Meadows
BY ROBERT E. LEWIS



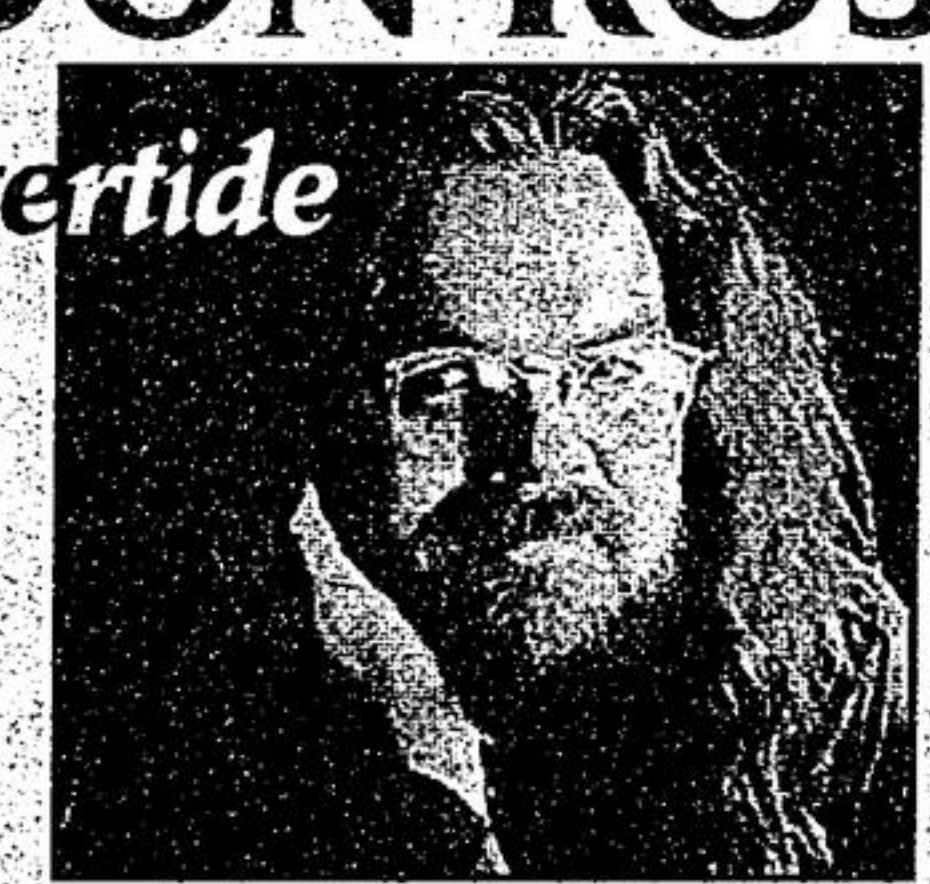
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Friends Again Volume II
The Homework Volume III
Ears For Sale Volume IV
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Adventures in Misty Meadows - "Stories with a Difference" - are distinctly Canadian. These heart-warming tales based on Scriptural principles will remind the reader and listener of a gentle lesson with each reading. The locale is somewhere near the village of Clarendon, Ontario. Mr. Robert Lewis, the author explains, "I have told and retold these stories to my grandchildren & foster children." Join us in an Adventure in Misty Meadows. Just call Robert Lewis, RR6, Clarendon, Ont. L1Y 1A3, (905) 640-1297.

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