

MOMs UnLtd - Tips to Try Today

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Grace Chapel

Helpful Hints: Putting the Hallowed back in Halloween

Even the most hard-core culture warrior can struggle when their little ones get excited for Oct 31. Here's some ways to have fun *and* remember Christ!

- ✦ **Craft and/or hand-out bookmarks** with a Christian Halloween message ("Light the Night with Jesus" or "Fear Not: God Lights Our Way") to give to trick or treaters with a life saver or two.
- ✦ **Carve Christian themed pumpkins** and add a verse or two to display outside.
- ✦ **Throw a Noah's Ark party.** Read the Genesis account of Noah's Ark and ask the kids for party ideas. Food choices could follow a "pet food" or "feed store" theme.
- ✦ **Have a Reformation Day or Church History Party** where the kids learn about a historical person from our Christian past. Dress up, play games and have some trivia challenges. If you are ambitious or homeschooling, maybe prepare a scene like a re-staging of the Diet at Worms or of the debates between Martin Luther and his critics.



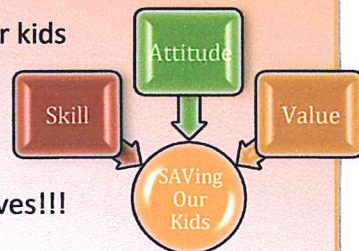
All of the above ideas are adapted from http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/ss/halloweenaltern_4.htm and <http://www.annieshomepage.com/alternative.html>

~by God's grace we are "unlimited" as moms in the influence we possess to raise our children "for their good and God's glory!"

MOMs Review

Remember, as MOMS we are really **SAV**ing our kids from a lot of grief in the future if we:

- learn the **S**kill and **A**ttitude and **V**alue
- model these truths in our families
- impart these important truths into their lives!!!



"Busy-Bag" Swap for Toddler and Pre-Schoolers

Picture it; the snow is already at 6 inches and still falling, the snow pants and boots are already soaked, but your toddler still has energy to burn. And it's only 9 am! If you feel exhausted just thinking about it, not to worry! Tiffany Malloy has found a fantastic idea called the "Toddler Busy Bag" with all the fixings for fun-filled activities for the lazy days of winter.

The Big Idea:

A "busy bag" is a collection of, we hope, **20 zip-lock bags**, each filled with the pieces for a different low-budget activity. Each activity is designed for learning basic concepts, such as colors, shapes, body parts, etc. The zip-lock baggie includes the fun hands-on mixing, matching, turning, touching, type of learning that toddlers and pre-schoolers love. Some examples

of the activities are matching colors to a color wheels, "building" felt houses, and matching shapes with different types of pasta. See <http://therigneys.wordpress.com/2011/08/26/toddler-busy-bag-swap/> for more ideas and pictures.

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Best Molasses Cookies Ever

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar
- 6 tbs molasses
- 1 large egg
- 2 1/4 tsp bkng soda
- 1 tbs ground ginger
- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar, plus 1/3 cup for coating

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine and whisk flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, allspice, and pepper.
2. With an electric mixer, cream butter, brown sugar, and 1/2 cup granulated sugar. Beat in molasses and egg. With mixer on low, gradually beat in flour mixture until just combined. Flatten into a disk, wrap in plastic and freeze for 20 minutes.
3. Roll into balls and then in bowl with sugar to coat; place on baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Flatten to round shape.
4. Bake until brown, 11 to 15 minutes. Cool cookies on a wire rack.

Adapted from www.marthastewart.com

Proverbs 22:6

"Point your kids in the right direction and when they are old; they won't get lost" (M)

“Busy Bag” Swap for Toddlers / Pre-Schoolers (cont’d)

Continued from front page

The ideas are as limitless as your imaginations and we are looking for moms to choose, invent, or create an activity to swap with other moms!

Here’s how it works:

If you would love to have a go-to activity center for you and your 1-4 year-olds this winter email Tiffany at tiffany.malloy@gmail.com by **November 9th** to sign up for one activity.

If 20 moms participate, we can walk away with 20 activities! But the more the merrier!

Tiffany will contact the moms on the sign-up list with the final number of copies needed for each activity.

Finally, gear up for a fun **“Toddler Bag” Swap Party** on **Wed., Nov. 30th from 9:30-10:30am at Tiffany’s house**. We moms can be armed and ready before Christmas! If you can’t make it, don’t worry! Drop off a bag of busy bags at Tiffany’s house the weekend before, and then she’ll deliver the bags to your house sometime after the swap party!

Thank you Tiffany!

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Money Saving Tip

Buy bread from an outlet instead of a grocery store. Save about 25% at the Pepperidge Farm Thrift Store in Broomall !

Each Toddler Bag activity should be:

(adapted from the website)

- ✂ **Self-contained.** This way, you can just grab a bag and GO!
- ✂ **Transportable.** To be used at home, but also to grab to take to a restaurant, a waiting room, plane trips, car rides, etc.
- ✂ **Convenient.** None of the bags should have supplies that require major set-up or clean-up: (no paint, watercolors, liquids, sand, dirt, etc.)
- ✂ **Inexpensive.** Don’t spend too much money on this project!
- ✂ **Easy to Make:** Don’t spend hours and hours making their activity.
- ✂ **Re-usable.** Activities can last a while so that our other children can use them in the future. Lamination can be important for some of the activities.

Book Reviews

THE HELP

*Written by Kathryn Stockett
Rec. by Stephanie O'Mara*

As the Civil Rights movement gears up, Skeeter decides to write a book about being a black woman working in a white woman's house. The maids are afraid they'll lose their jobs and possibly their lives if they tell what really goes on behind closed doors. But slowly, secretly, the truth comes out.

*Review adapted from
www.thefish.com*

PARENTING BEYOND YOUR CAPACITY

*Written by Reggie Joiner
Rec. by Tiffany Malloy*

A very biblical and challenging view of shepherding our child's heart as a group effort. We need other people in our children's' lives too! A book for moms with kids of any age.

WHAT EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST

*Written by Melissa Rossi
Rec. by Kindra Kearney*

Finding myself mystified by the Arab Spring, I wanted a simplified overview of a desperately complex region of God's world. This book with its country-per-chapter format and factual insets offers the fly-by basics as a point of departure. While some political points irritated me, Rossi seems to expose the often hidden hypocrisies on more than one side of an issue.

MOMISMS

“Being a parent is feeling like the inside of a garbage can.”

~Kindra's Mom: on not showering regularly.