



December 2016 Parent Newsletter

www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student

Serving Others

Giving back to the community is an important aspect of student-focused learning. In addition to building character and social skills, helping others gives students the opportunity to network with organizations outside of the classroom. Talk with your child about the importance of assisting others. Be sure to check with your child's school about upcoming community service projects.

To get ideas about service projects your family can do together, visit <http://www.kcedventures.com/blog/30-service-projects-rak-s-for-families-to-do-together>. You also can find additional ideas at <http://www.parents.com/holiday/christmas/gifts/holiday-craft-projects-give-back/>. Also consider assisting charitable organizations that are important to your family.

Consider asking yourself or your child's teacher the following questions about serving others in school and the community.

- How can I help my child learn the importance of giving back to others?
- What volunteer activities can my child and I do together?
- What volunteer activities does my child's school promote?
- How can my family volunteer throughout the year?

Child Safety

During the upcoming winter break, family activities will increase. Be sure to consider food allergies when sampling new recipes at family get-togethers. Also be sure food is prepared and stored safely. The following website provides valuable information: <https://www.foodsafety.gov>.

With all of the new toys on the market, it is important to know which toys are appropriate for different ages. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission provides statistics about toy safety and recalls: <https://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/toy-recall-statistics/>.

Consider the following questions as you plan activities for the winter break.

- What toys or video games are age appropriate for my child?
- Where can I find a list of toys that have been recalled?
- What can I do to ensure my child is safe during the winter vacation?
- What educational activities can my child do during winter vacation?