Holidon Times

Holiday Guide 2020



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Table of Contents

Holiday Hacks

Parental Pointers

Family Funtime

Kids Korner

Travel Tricks

Baking Blasts



Genius hacks that'U save time, space and...your sanity!

Gifts



Are you unsure what to get your family and friends for Christmas?

Have them make three guesses of what you bought them. You'll now have three ideas of what to get them!



Is your inbox clogged with promotional emails, coupons and e-receipts?

Create a separate email account for holiday shopping.
It'll help you save those coupons without using up valuable space.



Looking to buy a gift that gets them excited again and again?

Sign them up for a 3 month subscription (Baketivity!) or for their favorite products or magazines etc. They'll be pleasantly surprised anew!

Kitchen



Do you find yourself buying groceries that you already have at home?

Take a picture of your fridge and pantry before you go shopping. Look at it when you're unsure if you have that item.



Do you hate cleaning up fridge spills after parties and family dinners?

Cover your fridge shelves with plastic wrap. Simply remove it after the party for a quick and easy cleanup.



Is too much food lingering around and going bad?

Reduce waste by putting all foods with a close by expiration date in an "Eat me first" box.



Genius hacks that'U save time, space and...your sanity!

Storage



Do you want to store your ornaments in an organized space-friendly way?

Place small ornaments and balls into empty tins, egg cartons, wine boxes and containers.



Do your lights get all tangled when you store them?

String them around flat cardboard boards or paper towel rolls to prevent that from happening.



Do you want to store your wrapping paper without them getting crumpled?

Slip them onto shower rods or cardboard rolls to keep them from unraveling.

& More...



Are you constantly searching for the end of the roll of tape?

Stick a paper clip underneath the edge of the tape and say goodbye to searching for the end.



Do you want your home to smell festive without spending a fortune on diffusers?

Bring some water to a boil and sprinkle in some cloves and cinnamon powder or sticks.



Do you want to feel great and look great?

Smile! Smiling for just 60 seconds will immediately improve your mood (even if you're in a bad one).

Parental Pointers

Holidays are always fun....and (almost) always stressful. There's lots to do, places to go, things to buy. But, let's not forget the basics- who we're doing it all for. Our family! Here's some tips on how to prioritize.



Let your kids help out.

There's so much that has to happen. By allowing your children to help with cooking, decorating and setting up parties, you can remove some of your work load and make them feel special.

Keep to routine as closely as possible.

Children crave routine. By serving them nutritious meals and putting them to sleep on time, they'll be such angels that even your always-a-perfect-mom neighbor will turn green with envy.



Don't forget that they're children.

Holiday parties and services can be exhausting for children. Try not to schedule more than 1 demanding event per day, so they shouldn't get overwhelmed.

Parental Pointers





Expensive doesn't mean quality.

Your kids may appreciate expensive gifts and trips but great memories are what makes something truly special. Focus on giving them value. Explore your city, embrace the outdoors and read together. Build a connection that lasts.

Teach your kids about budgeting.

Encourage your kids to write a list of the people they want to buy gifts for. Help them determine the price they want to spend per person, and while shopping, help them keep track of their budget.





Celebrate the mess.

A messy home is the sign of a happy home. Rather than obsessing over the mess, be grateful that you have family and friends to celebrate with. That doesn't mean that your kids shouldn't pitch in to clean up. Assign one room to each child that they'll need to organize to their best of their ability.

Family Funtime

Holidays are for having fun...together! The following activities will strengthen your child's team playing skills while building memories. 3, 2, 1...GO!

For the following games, you'll need to divide your family and/or friends into two even groups.

Each group will compete against each other to be the first one to win these **Minute 2 Win It** games. At the start of each game, turn on a one minute timer to see who can complete the challenge in that time.

Action with Apples



Freeze 2 apples in advance (one per group). At the count of 3, the first player from each group will place the frozen apple under their neck. Without using any hands (only the head/neck), the player next to them will have to get the apple under their neck. The group that gets the apple back to the first player, WINS!

Stack 'em Cups



Prepare 55 plastic cups for each team. Individual players from separate teams will compete to stack the full pile of cups first. Starting with 10 cups for the bottom layer, they'll build up the cup tower until the last level, which will have just one cup. For more fun, play this repeatedly, with each player getting a turn to compete. Then tally up the winning points of each team and see which one won.





Collect the Colors

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Prepare 6 empty cups, a straw and one small M & M bag per player. At the count of 3, players will suck up the M & M (thereby connecting it to the bottom of the straw). They'll then transfer each color to its own cup. The player that has all the candies sorted first, WINS! (and gets to eat the M & M's;) For additional fun, play this repeatedly, with each player getting a turn to compete. (Be sure to use new M & M's per round, for cleanliness purposes.)



Beautiful Bracelet



Give each player a pipe cleaner and a cup of Fruit Loops or Cheerios. Each player has one minute to thread the cereal onto the pipe cleaner, using only one hand. Bonus: see who can then close the bracelet around their hand, once again using only one hand.

Have some family fun!



This one's for you, kiddos! While the adults prepare for the holidays (๒๐ษ่ากษ์!), keep yourself entertained with these crafts and activities (โนก!).

Make a Card

Do you want to send your loved ones a holiday card? Now you can design a card on your own.

You can copy the empty template, so that you can send multiple cards.

Cut out the below cards.

Using crayons, markers, gel pens or any other coloring tools, design the back of the card and cheer up your loved one!







Make an Envelope

Now that you have a card to send, you'll want to give it to them.

Make this easy envelope on your own, without any supplies!

To spice it up, decorate with paint, buttons and other accessories.

Wallah! There's your ready envelope. Now go and make someone's day!

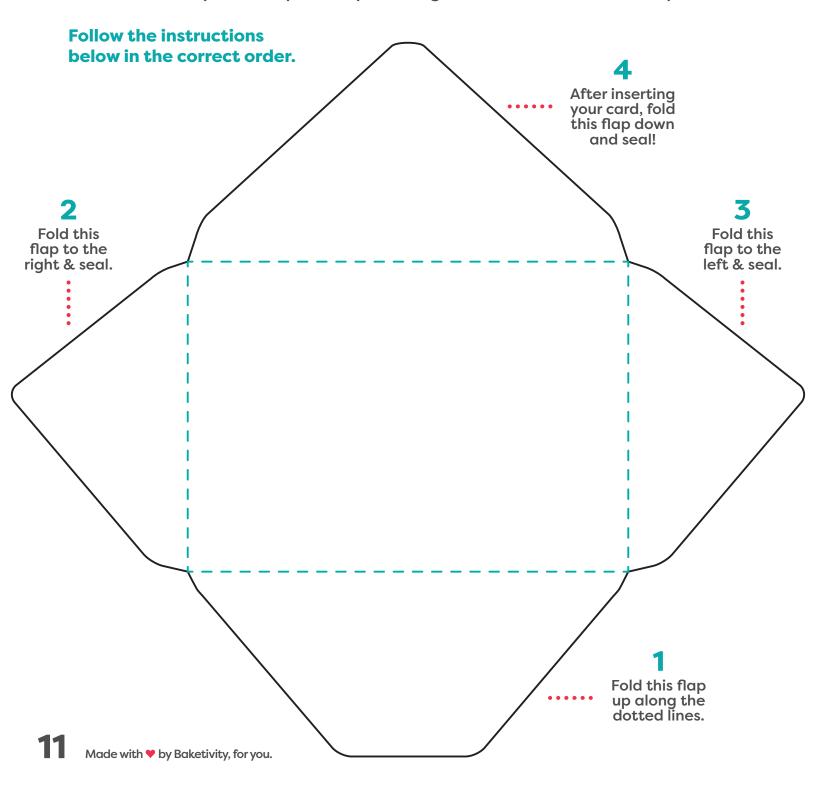


Table Decorating

Surprise everyone by setting a holiday-themed table!

Tree Napkin Fold

Sourced from: marmiteetponpon.com



All you need is square paper or cloth napkins!

INSTRUCTIONS:



Fold the napkin in half to get a rectangle shape.



Fold it in half again, to get a square shape.



Turn the napkin so that the open flaps face down, towards you. Fold the top layer up, leaving some room by the right, left and top sides.



Repeat with the remaining three flaps.



Flip the entire napkin around so that the upturned flaps are on the surface you're working on.



Flip the right side over to the inwards of the napkin (a third of the way).



Flip the left side of the napkin inwards, covering the side that was already folded.



Fold the top down and flip the napkin over.



Tuck the top flap upwards.



Do the same step with the remaining flaps.



There's your tree!



Tree Kisses

Sourced from: itallstartedwithpaint.com



INSTRUCTIONS:



1 Cut the paper into triangles.
(See the picture for the shape.)



Paste the tip of the toothpick onto the bottom back of the paper.



3 Stick the other tip into the chocolate kiss.



Kids Korner

Gumdrop Tree

Sourced from: belladia.typepad.com

INSTRUCTIONS:

All you need is a styrofoam cone, small gumdrop candies & toothpicks!

- 1 Cut the toothpicks in half.
- Put the flat side of the toothpick into the flat side of a gumdrop.
- Starting at the bottom of the cone, push the pointy end of the toothpick into the styrofoam cone.

 Work your way around and up the cone. Place the gumdrops as close together as you can.
- Put one gumdrop onto the tip of the tree.



The 10 Commandments of Fun Family Travel

(Yes, it can be fun!)

1

Pre-book the most that you can.

This will spare you from waiting on line to buy tickets while the kids get antsy. You may also find great discounts that are otherwise not available.

2

Bring new toys and books.

New toys will keep your kids attention for a longer time. The same goes for new books and technology.

3

Travel with basic medicines.

Bumpy car rides and different weather temperaments can cause a family member to get sick. Pack along basic medicines and a first aid kit to make them feel better quickly.

4

Have your kids memorize your contact information.

It's easy to get lost when you come to new places. Save yourself anguish by having your children know the contact information of all the adults traveling with you. This includes phone numbers, email addresses and local addresses.

5

Give your older kids a travel journal.

Your children will be able to think more deeply about their trip when they write it down. Make time for everybody to reflect back on their day and write down their thoughts and feelings. 6

Plan a schedule.

Travel is all about being spontaneous but keep your eye on the goal. Make a loose schedule by jotting down what you want to accomplish.

Schedule some downtime.

You may be raring to go on day 1 and 2 but chances are that by day 3 you'll need a break already. Scheduling downtime every day of your trip will keep the little ones and big ones refreshed and full of energy. Downtime doesn't mean a nap. It can mean laying in the grass at a park, taking a stroll along a river or watching a movie at a local theater.

8

Snacks, snacks, snacks.

Nothing spoils a trip like hungry kids do. Take along small snacks, cut up fruit and veggies and some energy bars whenever you go out with the kids.

9

Accept that things will go wrong.

There will always be situations getting in the way while traveling. Anticipate them so that when they come it won't be a surprise

10

Be grateful.

Yes, there may be hardships. Yes, you may miss your flight or lose your luggage. But never stop being grateful that you have family and friends to travel with.

Nothing says Home like the smell of baking

Need we say more?

Here's some fabulous treats that you can make that are easy, clean and delicious!



Brownie in a Mug





Ingredients

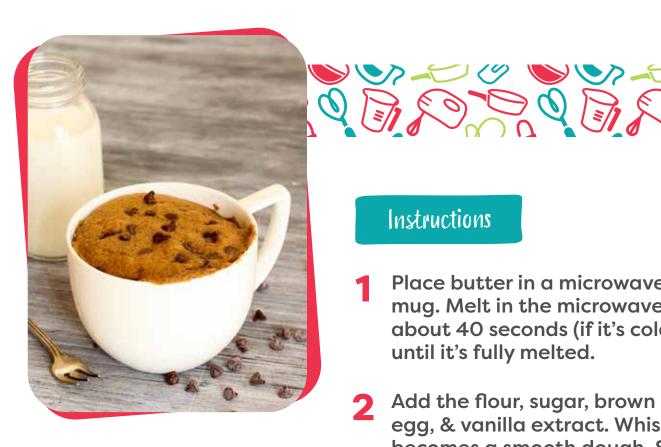
12-16 oz microwavable mug

- 1/4 cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

- 1 Add the flour, sugar, cocoa, salt & cinnamon into the mug. Mix well.
- Pour in the water, oil & vanilla extract. Stir well.
- Microwave for 60 to 90 seconds.
- 4 Add a scoop of ice cream on top of the brownie & dig in!

5 Minute Cookie



Ingredients

Microwavable mug 1 tablespoon unsalted butter 4 tablespoons flour 2 tablespoon sugar 1 tablespoon brown sugar 1 tablespoon whisked egg 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 tablespoon semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

- Place butter in a microwave-safe mug. Melt in the microwave for about 40 seconds (if it's cold), or until it's fully melted.
- 2 Add the flour, sugar, brown sugar, egg, & vanilla extract. Whisk until it becomes a smooth dough. Stir in the chocolate chips.
- Press the dough evenly across the bottom of the mug OR Scoop the batter and form it into a cookie shape and place on a microwave-safe plate lined with parchment paper.
- Microwave for approximately 50 seconds. Let the cookie cool a few minutes, then eat immediately.



We hope you enjoyed this pamphlet!

Even more so, we hope you'll have an enjoyable & memorable holiday!

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