



The Mini Page

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Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
A White House holiday



Safe Holidays to You

Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are joyous winter holidays when we celebrate with family and friends. Make sure your family enjoys the holiday season by staying safe. The Mini Page offers some tips for safety during these fun times.

- Check your Christmas lights for exposed or frayed wires. Also look for loose connections or broken sockets. Replace any lights that aren't in good condition.
- Remember to blow out candles and keep matches away from young children. Candles should be at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Even better, use battery-powered candles.
- Make sure to keep a screen in front of the fireplace, even if your home has a gas-fueled fire.
- Water your Christmas tree regularly. Dry tree needles can be a fire hazard.
- Put ornaments that are breakable or have small parts at the top of the tree, where little kids can't reach them.
- Some of the beautiful plants of the season are poisonous to humans and pets. Keep these out of reach: mistletoe berry, holly berry and Jerusalem cherry plants.



Practice food safety as you help prepare goodies to eat. Wash your hands, utensils, dishes and anything else that touches raw meat, including poultry and fish, and raw eggs before and after use. Store leftovers properly and heat them thoroughly before serving.

- Keep batteries away from babies and toddlers, especially the little "button" types.
- If a bike or skateboard is on your gift list, make sure you also ask for a helmet to wear while riding.
- Turn off Christmas lights when you leave the house or go to bed.
- With a lot more cooking and baking going on, and more people in the kitchen, be extra careful around hot stoves and open oven doors.
- Keep your Christmas tree in a sturdy stand that won't tip over.
- Ask an adult before you try a drink. Some adult drinks are not safe for kids.



Cold weather safety

If you are out in the cold too long, you could get frostbite. When this happens, ice crystals form in the skin.

Symptoms of frostbite are pain in the fingers, toes, nose, cheeks or ears. You might also have blistered skin that is glossy and hard to the touch. If this happens, the adult looking after you should:

- call a doctor;
- take you indoors;
- have you wiggle the affected body parts to increase blood supply to that area;
- immerse your frozen part in warm, not hot, water. Also, avoid getting warm with high heat from fireplaces or stoves. Don't rub or break blisters.

Dress warmly

If you do plan to be outside playing or helping with chores, take care to keep warm. Dress in thin layers, including:



- long johns
- one or two shirts
- pants
- sweater
- coat
- scarf
- warm socks
- boots
- gloves
- mittens
- hat

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/1PmJLsi
- bit.ly/1MUldqd
- bit.ly/3W2l4Za

At the library:

- "Safety and Merry Christmas: Learning Safety Through the Joy of Christmas and New Year" by Sunphich Phimoolchat

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of holiday safety are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



BATTERIES, CANDLES, COAT, DRINKS, FIREPLACE, FROSTBITE, GLOVES, HAT, HELMET, HOLIDAY, LAYERS, LIGHTS, ORNAMENTS, OVEN, PLANTS, SAFETY, SEASON, TREE, WATER, WINTER.

U U M O V E N P L A N T S Z B
S A F E T Y K G L O V E S E S
T X K B B H O L I D A Y D T T
N T E M L E H H A T Q S R I H
E T A O C A N D L E S E I B G
M K H W W I N T E R E A N T I
A R D D R E T A W R A S K S L
N O S E I R E T T A B O S O F
R F I R E P L A C E F N P R M
O M V S R E Y A L M H T Q F R

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are decorating an outdoor tree for the birds. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

Based on materials originally produced and/or created by Betty Debnam.

- bird
- key
- heart
- fish
- ruler
- star
- word MINI
- exclamation point
- muffin
- mushroom
- book
- bell
- flyswatter
- letter U
- question mark

Mini Jokes



Sara: When does Santa finish delivering toys to all the kids?
Sidney: Just in the St. Nick of time!

Eco Note



Birds across the globe have independently evolved nearly identical warning cries to alert others of invasive threats, according to a study published in Nature Ecology and Evolution. Researchers from Cornell University and Spain's Doñana Biological Station found that more than 20 bird species across four continents share a "whining" call used to identify parasitic birds — species such as cuckoos that secretly lay their eggs in other birds' nests, leaving the hosts to raise their young.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Talk to your family about escape plans in case of a fire in your home.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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