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N O R T H I D A H O

R.A.P. family

Relatives As Parents

DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

GLEND A WEAVER 208-769-7096



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The RAP Mascot is the turtle. The turtle, like us and our children, has a hard shell to protect it from getting hurt, but the inside is soft, vulnerable and love able. We must learn to stick our heads out of our shells and take a chance. When your head is in the shell you can't move forward!

❖ Winter Wonderland Christmas Party ❖

Are you raising relative children, foster children or hard to adopt children? If so....

You and your family are Invited to...

"The Winter Wonderland Christmas Party"

When : Saturday, December 14, 2013

Time : 11:00 am - 3:00 pm (Open House)

Where: Prairie Avenue Christian Center

3639 W. Prairie Avenue

Hayden, Idaho

Come enjoy an assortment of foods, crafts, live music, games, face painting and a special visit from Santa as you enjoy the company of other families that are just like yours.

Please RSVP by December 8, 2013 online at www.icwpartnership.org or **Jessica Gross at 208-660-4905** or kidseverywhere.jg@gmail.com

Sponsored by: Kootenai Alliance for Children & Families, Kootenai County KinCare Committee, One Church, One Child, ICWRTC, CASA, Health & Welfare, and Prairie Avenue Christian Center.

RAP Meeting & Christmas Stocking Pick Up

The Relatives As Parents group meeting will be on December 12, 2013 at the Jewett House locate at 1501 E Lakeshore Drive, Coeur d'Alene. We meet from noon until 2:00 pm. We share a potluck luck lunch and have no cost child care. This being our Christmas meeting we encourage you to bring cookies, finger foods, chips and dip and etc. This will also be the time we will distribute the Christmas stocking items to those that signed up. If you can't make this meeting to pick up your kiddos presents you will need to call me and make other arrangements. **Glenda 208-769-7096**

RAP Newsletter Change Starting January 2014

I have been writing the Relatives As Parents newsletter for the past 8 years. It is something I really enjoy doing. The expense of the ink, paper and stamps have gotten too expensive for my budget, so it is with much regret to inform you that I will no longer be mailing the RAP out to your homes. You may read the newsletter if you do not have a computer by going to the library or the Senior Citizen Center and use one of their computers and go to www.kootenaialliance.org/kincare Most Libraries and Senior Citizen Centers have programs where they teach you how to use the computer if you are not familiar on how to go online. I will continue to publish the RAP newsletter monthly online.

Keeping the Kiddos Busy During the Christmas Break

Christmas vacation often goes by too quickly, but on the other hand, it can feel like forever if children are bored the whole time they are out of school. It pays to have a plan so you can keep your child entertained during Christmas vacation. If your child has plenty to keep him or her busy while at home, everyone will be happier, and parents will be able to get more things accomplished.

Crafts are a good source of entertainment during Christmas vacation, or any time. Stick to easy options that won't lead to frustration. Simple crafts can be made from kits, common items found in any craft store or online, or from things you already have around the house. From colorful paper chains and gifts for pets to snowmen made from Styrofoam balls, your children will have fun creating holiday decorations and small gifts throughout their Christmas vacation. The Dollar store is a great place to find these supplies.

While your children have likely already played existing board games many times, they are still a good option for keeping busy. Kids can get creative, or ask for a little help from you in this area, and make up new games to play with existing game boards and game pieces. You might also want to pick up a new game or two to keep things interesting during Christmas vacation, but try to choose something that the whole family will enjoy. This way, it can be played when guests come to visit too or on family nights any time of year. Pick up some new movies or traditional holiday books for children too.

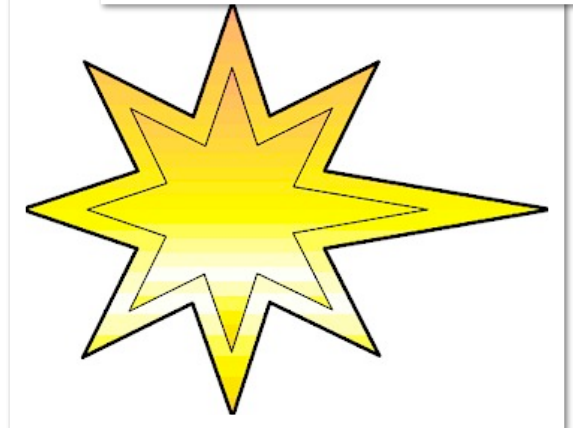
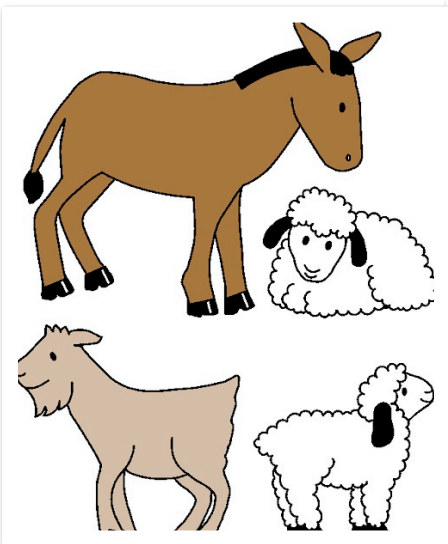
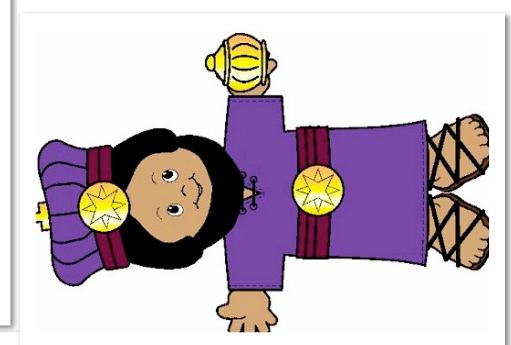
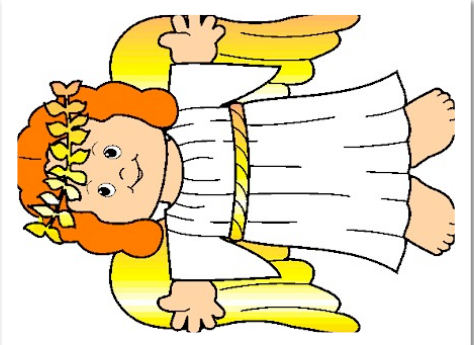
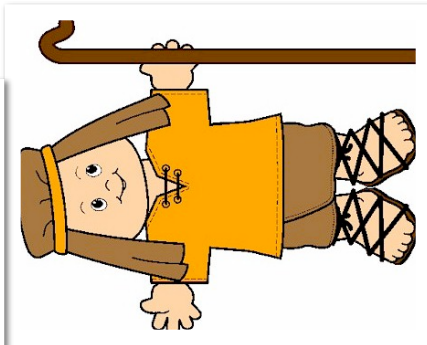
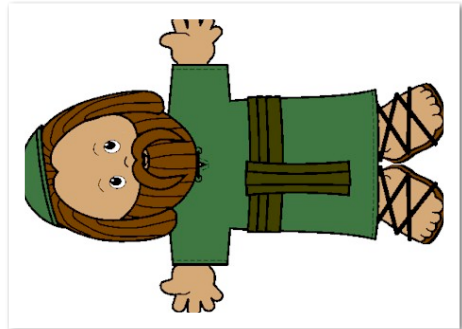
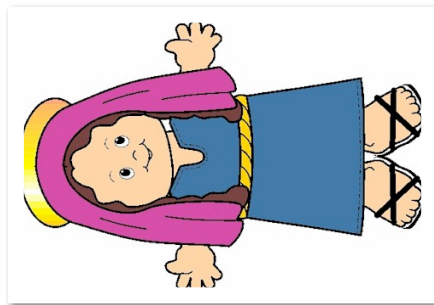
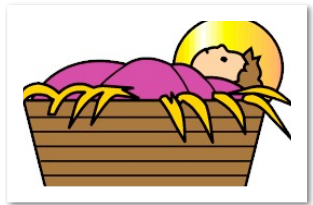
Setting up play dates during Christmas vacation is also a great idea. Your child can go visit friends or enjoy an outing while you shop, wrap gifts, or attend to the many other items on your list. You can then host a play date to return the favor, so their friends' parents can have some free time. It's also good to make plans for some family activities during Christmas vacation, such as taking a drive to look at Christmas lights or other holiday displays.

Another good option is engaging children in activities that will not only keep them entertained during Christmas vacation but will also allow them to feel helpful and involved in holiday preparations. Take children into separate rooms and have them wrap each other's gifts. Another fun idea is to give each child some Christmas decorations that you don't intend to use. Allow each one to create a holiday design plan for his or her bedroom. Children will feel very grown up and helpful, and they will enjoy expressing themselves in this way. You can also let them plan a family New Years Eve party...with decorations, entertainment, food and games.

Paper Doll Friends Nativity Scene

Instructions:

Cut out to represent Mary, Joseph, wisemen, angels, and shepherds. Cut toilet paper tubes into 1" rings. Glue a ring to the back of each figure and animal for a stand. Place other figures inside a box to complete your scene.





Coeur d'Alene Relatives As Parents next meeting will be on December 12, 2013 at the Jewett House. The Jewett House is located at 1501 E. Lakeshore Drive. We share a potluck lunch and have no cost child care. We begin at noon and go to 2 o'clock, but you are free to come and go as your schedule permits. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Glenda at 208-769-7096

Grandparents who truly care, make sacrifices for their grandchildren...

RAP family

Glenda Weaver

3202 Wedgewood Lopp

Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83815

glendainidaho@hotmail.com

