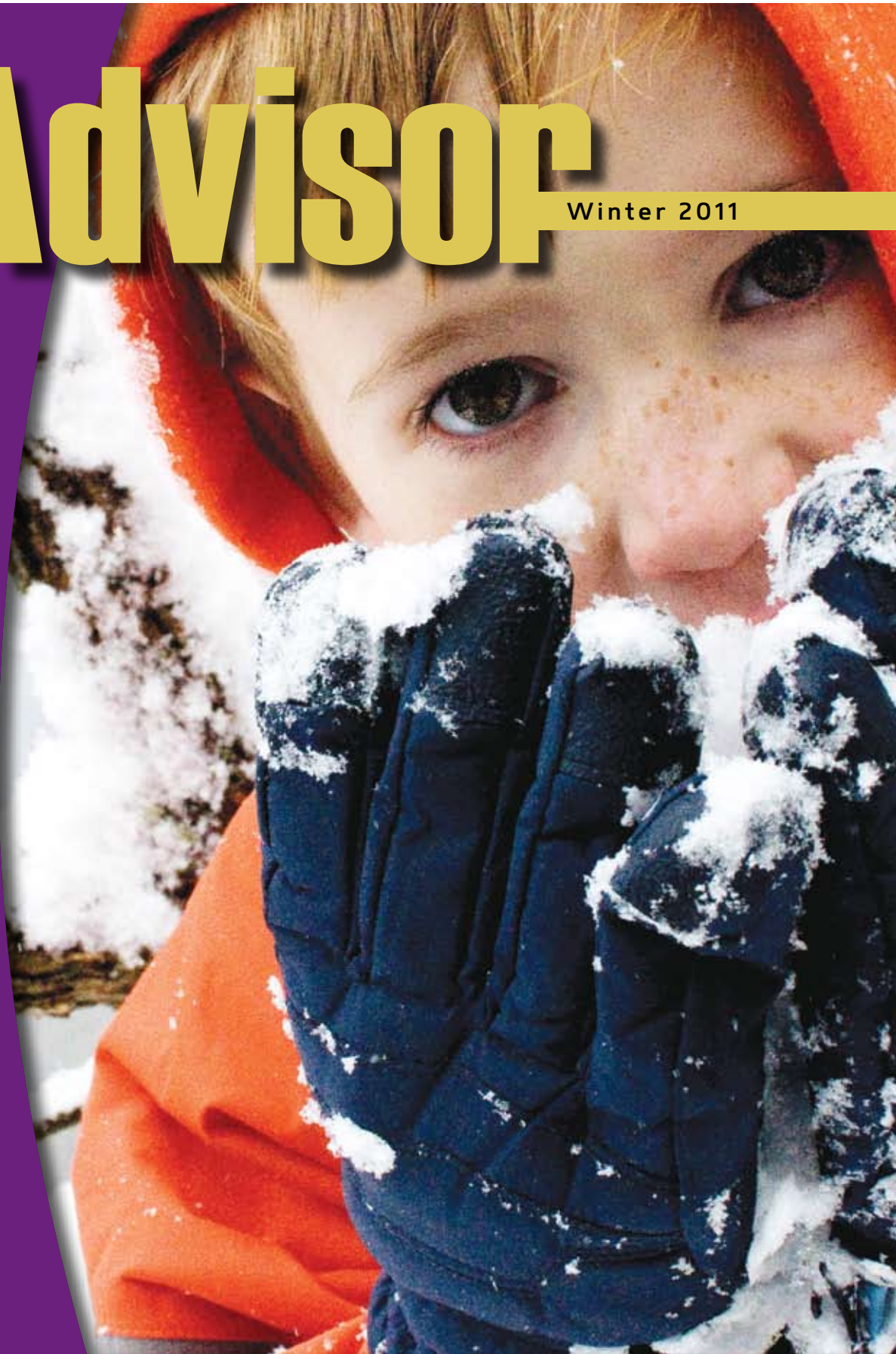


# Advisor

Winter 2011



[www.sffa.sk.ca](http://www.sffa.sk.ca)

# Advisor

## *Inside this issue*

- 2 CWLC 2011 nominations open
- 2 Book Corner
- 3 SFFA President's Message
- 3 Christmas allowances
- 4 Saskatchewan families save thousands through lower taxes
- 5 New crisis prevention and support program opens
- 5 PST exempt children's clothing
- 6 Expect weird responses
- 7 The holidays in foster care
- 8 Child safety this holiday season
- 8 Safe Streets and Communities Act
- 9 Take precautions against hantavirus
- 9 Universal precautions
- 10 Christmas party games
- 10 Perspective of a foster child
- 11 Craft stick Santa
- 11 Festive recipe

## CWLC 2011 Achievement Awards — call for nominations now open

The Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2011 CWLC Achievement Awards is now open. These awards were created in 2000 to recognize the contributions of youth, individuals or groups in various sectors of the Canadian child protection system that have led to significant achievements towards the goals of child protection services in Canada.

One CWLC Achievement Award winner will be selected from each category and will be honoured at the CWLC Recognition Event in Ottawa in March 2012. We invite all CWLC Member Organizations to nominate the person/group of their choice for the following Awards:

- RBC Youth Achievement Award
- Advocacy Award
- Research and Program Excellence Award
- Children's Services Award
- Foster Parent Award

*For more information, visit the CWLC website at: <http://cwlc.ca/en/events/achievement-awards>.*



## bookcorner

### What Child is This?

by *Caroline B. Cooney*

Delacorte Press/Random House, 1997

ISBN 978-0385323178 (hardcover)

ISBN 978-0440226840 (paperback)

On this Christmas Eve, the snow lies on the ground and the stars shine bright, but the grown-ups leave a lot to be desired. Katie, a foster child, wants only one thing: a family. Who is there who can bring such as immense gift? There are no wise men coming from the East. But there is Matt Morden, age sixteen, who believes he is doing a good deed. There is Liz Kitchell, also sixteen, whose family decorates and celebrates but leaves Liz wondering where the meaning of the holiday has gone. There are Mr. Knight and his son, Tack, who run an inn and put up a tree on which children's wishes will hang, waiting to be granted. It's Christmas, the season of miracles, joy, and hope. Is that spirit strong enough to bring about the impossible?



AWARDS AND HONORS

**ALA Best Books**

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## SFFA President's Message

On behalf of my family and the Provincial Board of Directors I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

As we reflect on the accomplishments over the past year within our association, we continue to move forward in supporting the children and youth that require foster care. In partnership with the Ministry we saw the introduction of the PRIDE Core modules and the Cultural component. These training opportunities have been very well received throughout the province.

In July, Saskatchewan sent representation to the 2011 IFCO Conference in Victoria, BC in which 23 countries were represented. This training opportunity provided tremendous networking for our members that attended. The kick-off to foster families week was held in Saskatoon and this year's recipient of the Helen Montgomery Award was



presented to foster parent Margaret Claypool.

During Foster Families week and in memory of Barb Bayer a long time foster parent and volunteer of the association, was remembered for her contributions to the foster community through the development of the SFFA Volunteer of the Year Award. This award was presented to Barb & Henry Unrah.

As a province we are in the place to be with so many great things happening in Saskatchewan. The economist

Paul Martin has said, "The boom in Saskatchewan is over... this is the new normal." We have a lot to be proud of and we have come a long way. I look forward to a prosperous 2012 and as an association there are a lot of exciting things in the works.

Being a foster parent takes truly special people and at times it can be both rewarding and also thankless. Thank you to all of our wonderful foster parents across the province for all the work you do. Thank you for your 24 hour, 365 days a year that you work tirelessly so the children in the province know the true meaning of "family."

I would like to extend a special thank you to Deb Davies our Executive Director and the Provincial Office staff for a super year of supporting our families.

*Sincerely,  
Jordan Carrier  
SFFA President*

## Christmas allowances

Each child in care shall receive a Christmas allowance to enable the caregiver to purchase a gift for the child and for the child to purchase a gift for their family and/or caregiver.

Payment of the Christmas gift allowance will be made automatically, in advance, through the FYAP system for children who are in care. A print out listing the gift allowance issued is sent to each service area

by mid November and the caregivers receive the allowance by mid November.

When children are missed or are admitted to care after October 31st, the caseworker arranges for payment of the allowance through FYAP as a purchase order. The Christmas allowance is \$75.00.



**DID YOU  
KNOW**



Mobile Crisis Services across the province received an additional \$1.4M in funding to ensure that professional after hour emergency Social Services are available in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.



# Saskatchewan families saving thousands of dollars through lower taxes

**S**askatchewan family of four earning \$50,000 a year has saved more than \$8,000 over the past four years as a result of the income tax reductions introduced by the provincial government.

If taxes had remained at 2007 levels, that family would have paid \$9,208 in provincial income tax over the

A family of four will pay no provincial income tax on their first \$45,550 of earned income, the highest income threshold in Canada.

A family of four earning \$75,000 will have saved a total of \$7,268, or 36 per cent in income taxes over the past four years as a result of the income tax reductions introduced since 2007.

4.5 per cent to two per cent saves Saskatchewan business operators \$80 million a year.

People buying light used vehicles in Saskatchewan have also seen their tax burden reduced since the government removed the PST on these vehicles. From 2008 to 2010, this new exemption took the PST off an estimated 242,000 used vehicles, saving Saskatchewan taxpayers \$148 million.

While taxes have been coming down, so has the province's debt. Since 2007, the government has paid down more than \$3 billion in debt, bringing the government general debt level to \$3.8 billion, the lowest it has been since 1988.

As a result of the province's strong economy and declining debt, Standard and Poors upgraded the province's credit rating to its highest level of Triple A, the first time Saskatchewan has ever achieved the highest rating.

"Less debt, lower taxes, and more money back in Saskatchewan families' pockets — that's the Saskatchewan Advantage," Krawetz said.

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**As a result of these improvements, the Saskatchewan family now faces the second lowest overall taxes in the nation, behind only Alberta.**

past four years. However, income tax reductions introduced by the government starting in 2008 lowered their income taxes to \$1,121 over that same period, a saving of \$8,087 or 88 per cent.

"That's a significant reduction," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said. "Putting that money back in the pockets of Saskatchewan families will go a long way toward making life more affordable."

These calculations include the enhancements made to the basic, spousal and dependent child exemptions, introduction of the Active Families Benefit and the Low Income Tax Credit, and the impact of indexation of tax brackets and personal exemption amounts.

As a result of these improvements, the Saskatchewan family now faces the second lowest overall taxes in the nation, behind only Alberta, and the gap with that province has narrowed over the past four years.

These income tax reductions have also reduced the number of Saskatchewan income tax payers by more than 110,000 in 2011.

"The Saskatchewan of today is a far more competitive and family-friendly place than it was," Krawetz said. "I think we're seeing that in the level of investment we're enjoying, the strength of the economy and the growth of our population. Our young people are coming home."

Krawetz said the government has also made important progress on reducing education property taxes and business taxes.

Over the past four years, total education property tax reductions amount to \$165.7 million, or 22.2 per cent. This year's reduction in the small business income tax rate from

**DID YOU  
KNOW**



There are approximately 700 foster homes in the province caring for about 1800 children and youth.

## Crisis prevention and support program opens in Waldheim-Hepburn area

A new crisis prevention and support program for people with intellectual disabilities officially opened in the Waldheim-Hepburn area.

The project was made possible by a partnership between Menno Homes of Sask. Inc., a community-based organization (CBO) headquartered in Waldheim, and the Ministry of Social Services, which provided capital funding of \$250,000 to go toward the purchase of a three-space home, located on an acreage near Hepburn, which provides residential crisis services. The crisis prevention and support program also offers prevention, education and outreach services.

“We congratulate the board of directors and staff of Menno Homes for developing and operating this program for people with intellectual disabilities in the Waldheim-Hepburn area,” Martensville MLA Nancy Heppner said on behalf of Social Services Minister June Draude. “Community-based organizations such as Menno Homes play a valuable role in supporting people with intellectual disabilities to be included in their communities.”

In addition to the capital funding, Social Services will also provide more than \$340,000 in annualized funding to Menno Homes in 2011-12 for operation of the crisis prevention and support program.

“This program is intended to augment, not duplicate, the community’s existing resources, while filling a gap in the services available to people with intellectual disabilities and their families,” Menno Homes Executive Director Tanya Mitzel said. “The specialized services this program offers are designed to prevent potential crises, such as the loss of one’s home, injury to self or others, or the loss of vocational supports.”

In addition to the crisis prevention and support program, Menno Homes serves more than 100 people with disabilities through day programs, a supportive living program, group homes and group living homes.

The capital funding allocated to this project is part of the provincial government’s four-year, \$76.9 million commitment to eliminate the waitlist of 440 Saskatchewan people with intellectual disabilities who require programs and services.

First announced in October 2008, the \$76.9 million waitlist initiative includes \$27.8 million in funding for capital projects. It is the largest investment in Saskatchewan history to support people with intellectual disabilities. By the end of 2011-12, services for 373 people - or 85 per cent of the waitlist - will be in place or in development with CBOs across Saskatchewan.

*For more information, contact:*

*Brian Miller, Social Services (Regina)*

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## First promise kept: PST exemption on children’s clothing

Premier Brad Wall today announced that his first campaign commitment will be fulfilled on November 15 when the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) exemption on children’s clothing is expanded to include children 17 and under. It currently applies to clothing purchased for children 14 and under.

“We made this announcement to make life a little more affordable for Saskatchewan families and today we are keeping our promise,” Wall said. “We wanted to bring this tax break into effect right away, in time for families’ Christmas shopping.”

The cost of the current tax exemption on children’s clothing to age 14 is \$7.3 million in the 2011-12 budget. Expanding it to include those 15 to 17 years of age is estimated to cost approximately \$3 million a year and will cost about \$1 million in the remainder of the current 2011-12 fiscal year.

Retailers are required to maintain a record of the declaration made at the point of sale verifying that the purchase of adult sized clothing is made for a person 17 and under.

*More information about the exemption can be found at <http://finance.gov.sk.ca/revenue/pst/bulletins/PST-1%20Children's%20Clothing%20and%20Footwear.pdf>.*

# Expect weird responses from foster kids towards the holidays

by JoAnn Wentzel

We expect holidays filled with joy and fun. Our wish is to share Christmas the way it should be with our foster kids. All we want is to feel good about being able to include kids who need the holiday spirit more than anyone. So, what is wrong? Why do these kids look like you've asked them to swallow poison rather than share the sumptuous feast? Why do they look at your gifts to them with disdain? Why do they pull away as you try to bring them closer into your family fold?



The reasons are simple. Number one is the guilt they feel. No doubt, your family celebrates the holidays in ways that are unfamiliar from the usually dysfunctional families most of our kids come from. If your foster kids find your ways of preparing for the holidays appealing, they will feel guilty because it tends to make them look down upon their birth families' celebration.

They may have an actual reason to think badly of their own celebrations as they may have been filled with bad memories. Your foster kid's holidays may have meant out-of-control drinking which led to crisis. This drinking might have been the precursor to arguments and fights, real violence and abuse, possibly sexual abuse. It may have been so stressful that bad language and worse behaviors became associated with what should have been a joyful time of year.

Your foster kids may believe that this is the time when your real feelings for them will be obvious. They could think they might not get any gifts

Put yourself in their place and try to understand that your entire world may be different from theirs.

Include them, but understand if they pull away.

since you don't have to do that. They may feel natural kids in your house will always get much more than they do. This will show your real feelings for them and that no matter what you say they are not just like your own children. In my house this was not the case, my natural kids got less than they should receive so everyone could be equal.

Some of your foster kids will feel a division in their feelings that they cannot manage. They know they should share the holiday with their natural parents, but may also wish to be with you. They feel like they are disloyal to their own parents and this causes a problem for them. When a child feels divided, he cannot be happy. We always gave them the option to do either or both. They could spend the holidays with our family or theirs. Some loved having an extra dinner, more gifts etc, but for those who had started to connect this

was a heart wrenching decision.

This may also be an uncomfortable time for foster kids since families get more emotional and tend to reveal their warm feelings about each other at this time. The closeness you share with your own children and family members points out the lack of good relationships in the foster kid's natural family. When you are hugging or kissing or just being close offer to share with foster kids in a subtle way, Such as, "hey, there's still room" when you are doing a group family hug. Invite, but do not initiate this until it is certain a child wants it even though you know they need it. I very seldom broke this rule since you never know for sure what a child's past was like and closeness may have very bad connotations for them.

The last thing that may unsettle kids is the fact that a great deal of the celebration focuses on religion and

your own beliefs. They may not have come far enough to believe as you do and might feel forced to share these ideas. Leave this area open. I believe it is fine to share your views, but never force them upon kids. If you show by example, your ideas, your religious beliefs will be more evident than when you sit down with the intention of convincing them. Our kids saw us pray for help and guidance, protection, and each other. They saw what we believed without us preaching to them.

Always keep in mind where your kids came from, the types of families they grew up in and the homes they lived in. Put yourself in their place and try to understand that your entire

world may be different from theirs. Include them, but understand if they pull away. Keep trying to let them be part of the celebration. In any way you can, make them feel that they are part of your family and meant to share the holidays. There is nothing like signing your Christmas cards and including their names so that the person receiving it knows, the card is from 'your entire family.' If they see a stocking hanging just for them, a name tag with their very own name on the table and presents under the tree for them, it will help them feel they belong there.

It is especially hard for kids who cannot go home for the holidays or have nowhere to go home to.

You need to help them feel they are part of your family most of all. So go the extra mile to make kids feel they belong at this time of year. Ignore their foul tempers and distant attitudes. They may be just really hurting inside and need you more than anything to think well of them.

Get them started as early as possible including them in every step of the preparations. Show them the excitement of the holidays, but be patient when their reactions are not what you expect. Inside, they may be in turmoil about what to do and how to act. Just use the love you always give and they will come around. And thanks so much for all the extra care you put into fostering every day.

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## The holidays in foster care

**H**olidays mean family and for children who are not with their family, a time for remembering those they've said goodbye to. Your child's family is excited about the holidays and may try to "make up" for their child being in foster care. All families have good times. They can't explain it, but somewhere the memories remain.

### What behaviors might you see during this time?

- Frequent pouting
- Aggression—including hitting, biting or kicking
- Whining
- Inconsolable crying
- Nightmares
- Suicidal ideations
- Old fears become new again
- Increase of temper outbursts

### Why are they doing this?

Traditionally the holidays consist of presents and parties, decorations and

dinners, but in foster care, they are also times of anger and annoyance as well as temper and trauma. Keeping a cool head and a warm heart will enable your family, including your foster child, to survive the holidays!

### What can you do?

1. Meet together with your child's family to plan holiday schedules. Be sure to include any school productions your child might be involved in! If one particular date or event is special to you, speak up now. When you ask for a certain date, offer something in return. Compromise!
2. Ask your foster child or his parents about their family traditions and try to incorporate some into your home.
3. Exchange family recipes with your child's family at Thanksgiving time.
4. Coordinate gift giving! Work together to determine gifts to

be purchased by your family and gifts to be purchased by the family of origin.

5. Share the load. You don't have to impress anyone!

### What about me?

Talk to other foster parents who can give you a boost. They share your pain! Call your caseworker. He/She will help in any way possible. Accept the fact that you won't please everyone. With so many people in your life, there is no way around it. Set the example of calm. Keep the children on daily routines. This will lessen their stress, which also lessens yours! Be flexible. Your level of calm becomes stressed when plans get canceled or changed. Be prepared with alternate plans.

*From: <http://www.hsdcs.utah.gov/PDF/Weekly%20Updates/The%20Holidays%20In%20Foster%20Care%20Brochure.pdf>*



# The facts on child safety this holiday season *by Nancy Ripton*

## **Holiday Safety Hazards:**

- Mistletoe berries can be toxic to your infant or toddler.
- Poinsettias aren't poisonous, but many other plants you might bring home for the holidays are, including holly.
- Most strings of Christmas lights are coated with a plastic that contains lead.
- Live spruce or pine tree needles can cause painful cuts in the mouth and throat if swallowed, so water your tree to keep needles from dropping.
- Vanilla extract contains ethanol and can cause respiratory distress if your child drinks it.

As parents, we don't want to make like the Grinch and steal all the Christmas cheer, but we don't want our children to get hurt during the holidays either. Unfortunately, holiday hazards can creep up where you least expect them. Here are four surprising holiday health hazards and how to protect your children from them:

### **1. Are poinsettias and mistletoe poisonous?**

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias aren't poisonous. So while you don't necessarily want your child to munch on a red leaf for lunch, an



accidental nibble won't kill him. The same can't be said for other holiday plants. Holly, Jerusalem cherry, boxwood and various species of yew are all poisonous, so keep them out of reach. As for mistletoe, we suggest giving it a miss until your children are at least three years of age. If eaten, mistletoe can cause severe stomach cramps, diarrhea and can even be fatal. And it doesn't take much—just three mistletoe berries can be toxic to your child.

### **2. Lights out**

Strings of Christmas lights can be a choking and strangling hazard and most are also coated with plastic that contains lead. Keep lights off the lower branches of your Christmas tree and warn your toddler not to touch.

### **3. Natural selection**

Older artificial trees and those made in China often contain lead. If you choose an artificial tree, buy new and check the packaging. Unfortunately, real trees aren't always safe either. The needles can cause painful cuts in the mouth and throat of a child who swallows them. Warn your child not to put any needles in her mouth and clean up loose needles daily. (Watering your tree every day will also help keep the needles from dropping.)

### **4. Baking hazards**

While your kids may love to help out with holiday baking, make sure spices and extracts are kept out of reach. Children can get high from nutmeg and become intoxicated and extremely sick from ethanol-containing products, such as vanilla and almond extracts. Ethanol causes Central Nervous System depression, which can lead to respiratory compromise when ingested. It may also result in dilated pupils, flushed skin, gastrointestinal distress, hypothermia and hypotension. Vanilla extract can be harmful even in small doses, as it contains up to 70 percent ethanol by volume (compared to beer, which contains between two and six percent ethanol). If you suspect your child has helped themselves to vanilla extract, contact your doctor immediately.

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## The Child Welfare League of Canada position paper on "Safe Streets and Communities Act"

On October 24th, 2011 the CWLC issued its position paper on the federal government's proposed "Safe Streets and Communities Act". While there are some meritorious aspects to the bill, there are a large number of concerning and damaging implications for Canada's most vulnerable children and youth. The position paper can be viewed on the CWLC website at: <http://www.cwlc.ca/en/news/2011/11/cwlc-position-paper-safe-streets-and-communities-act>.



# Saskatchewan residents are urged to take precautions against Hantavirus

Saskatchewan residents are urged to take precautions to avoid infection with hantavirus, especially when cleaning up rodent infested barns, homes or other buildings in their communities, following a recent hantavirus fatality in West Central Saskatchewan.

“Hantavirus infection is a rare but potentially fatal illness,” Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab said. “We advise people to take precautions against hantavirus by avoiding contact with deer mice to every extent possible. This is the time of the year when mice are moving indoors. Farmers, grain handlers, cottagers and home owners, who are most likely to be exposed, should take precautions when cleaning rodent-infested buildings to prevent direct contact and breathing in of air particles that may be contaminated. This includes ventilating the building by opening doors and windows for at least 30 minutes before cleaning, using wet mopping methods and wearing gloves.”

Humans are most often exposed to the virus by breathing in air particles contaminated by deer mouse saliva, urine or droppings containing infectious hantaviruses. Hantavirus infection begins with fever, muscle aches, cough, headaches, nausea, and vomiting. In rare cases, symptoms may get worse and lead to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), a rare but often fatal illness. HPS can progress rapidly into serious lung complications. Individuals who develop fever or respiratory illness within one to six weeks of potential exposure should seek immediate medical attention.

There have been 21 cases of Hantavirus reported in Saskatchewan since 1994, including four cases in 2004, one case in 2008, one case in 2010 and one this year. Exposure to hantavirus can be reduced by:

- Blocking openings that might allow rodents from entering a building.
- Storing human and animal food, water and garbage in containers with tightly fitted lids.
- Keeping yards clean, and storing woodpiles above the ground and away from the home.
- When cleaning a home or community, be aware of animal droppings and nesting materials, and take appropriate precautions to avoid exposure.
- Dampening areas contaminated with rodent droppings with bleach disinfectant and removing droppings with a damp mop or cloth to reduce the chance the virus may become airborne. Never remove droppings by dry sweeping or vacuuming.

For more detailed information about Hantavirus and how to prevent infection, please visit the Ministry of Health's website at [www.health.gov.sk.ca/hantavirus](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/hantavirus). Guidelines for workplaces with heavy infestations available at [www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/hantavirus-disease-guidelines-protecting-workers-public](http://www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/hantavirus-disease-guidelines-protecting-workers-public).

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## Universal Precautions

Practicing universal precautions can reduce the risk of disease.

### **Hand washing:**

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

### **Washing clothes and other linens:**

Clothing and linens soiled with blood or other body fluids should be laundered in the hottest water the fabric will allow. Soiled articles can be rinsed in cold water before washing in the hottest water allowed, if necessary.

### **Using protective clothing and equipment:**

Use disposable latex gloves when handling or cleaning up blood and/or other body fluids. Household rubber gloves can be used, but they need to be cleaned with a bleach solution and rinsed repeatedly with water before using them again.

Be sure to wash hands after removing gloves.

Use waterproof coverings on any open cuts or sores.

### **Cleaning spills of blood or other body fluids:**

Clean contaminated surfaces with detergent and water. Disinfect all surfaces with a solution of bleach (one part household bleach to 10 parts water). Be careful, as some surfaces may be damaged by exposure to bleach solution.

Rinse any mops or cleaning cloths with a bleach solution.

### **Disposal of contaminated waste:**

Secure waste in a sealed double plastic bag before discarding with routine garbage. If there are any sharp objects that may be contaminated, they should be put in a puncture proof plastic or metal container that can seal firmly.

## Affordable and fun Christmas party games

### Blindfold giftwrap

This Christmas party game involves you blindfolding two volunteers. Have them stand at a table with a number of small, unwrapped presents, sticky tape and ribbon. They each have to wrap, tape and tie with ribbon two or three presents blindfolded. The neatest wrapper wins. You could also divide the guests into two groups and have everyone have a go.

### Christmas gift list

Ask the guests to write their name vertically down the side of a piece of paper. Give them a few minutes to write Christmas gifts starting with each letter, beside each letter. Try to make up as many as possible beginning with each letter. The guest with the greatest number wins the prize.



### Clumsy fingers

Divide your party guests into two teams. Have two pairs of large rubber gloves (washing up type) or large men's gloves. Put plenty of wrapped sweets into two paper bags. The first person in each line has to put the gloves on, take a sweet from the bag, unwrap it and put it in their mouth. If they drop the sweet on the floor they have to start again. They then have to take off the gloves, and pass them to next person on the team. The team that finishes first wins the prize.

## The holidays in foster care

### A PERSPECTIVE FROM A FORMER FOSTER CHILD



The holidays are a time for family, friends, and laughter. It is a time of thankfulness and goodwill. Christmas is a wonder to a child, and the parents get just as excited thinking about the look on the faces of their little angels as they wake up Christmas morn and see the gifts under the tree. What a joyous time.

Not for the foster children. Now, there are a few lucky ones who have been with a wonderful, loving family long enough to trust them. But I'm talking about the majority of the children who spend less than a year with one particular family. Can you imagine the holidays with people you don't know? People who are in charge of you? Then their extended family comes over, and they all want to get a look at the 'foster kid'. All these people you don't know looking at you like a zoo attraction.

So these children get their Christmas presents, but many of the presents get left behind as the child moves on to the next family. This is an awful thing, especially when the child knows this. I know that I came out of foster care with nothing but a book that was given to me by my last foster family. One book. That was all I had of the part of my childhood spent in foster care...well, one book and a lot of internal scars.

*This is an excerpt obtained with permission from the blog 'Whispers From a Former Foster Child' which can be found at: <http://fosterchildworld.blogspot.com>.*

### Submissions to Advisor:

The purpose of our newsletter is to educate, update and inform our foster parents. Above all, we want to support the incredible work that you are doing! Anyone interested in submitting stories, poems or other items for publication in the newsletter is welcome to send their submission to the office at [sffa@sasktel.net](mailto:sffa@sasktel.net). Please note that submissions may be edited for length, content or clarity and names will be changed to maintain confidentiality.



# Craft stick Santa

This cute craft stick Santa ornament is made out of only four materials (miniature craft sticks, a little paint, cardboard, and some yarn), but the result is absolutely amazing. This craft makes a fantastic Christmas present for the kids to make for friends and family.

## What you'll need:

- 8 mini craft sticks
- Acrylic paint: red, white, flesh colored paint (we used peach), pink, black
- 3" x 3" piece of white cardboard or cardstock
- 6" piece of green yarn
- White craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Scissors

## How to make it:

1. Paint six of the craft sticks white and the remaining two red. Set aside to dry (see image).
2. Place the craft sticks onto the white cardboard and arrange them as pictured: Take a white craft stick and place it in the center. Then stagger other four in a stair formation with two on the left and two on the right. The last remaining white craft stick should be layed horizontally across the top of the other white craft sticks. The two red sticks should be positioned in a triangle to make a hat.

3. Use a pencil to lightly mark the outer edges of the triangular opening of the hat and the face opening (see image).
4. Remove the craft sticks and paint those two areas, the hat area red, and the facial area with the flesh colored paint. Let dry (see image).
5. Cut out around the painted areas, though keep it all in one piece so you can glue your craft sticks to it.
6. Glue the craft sticks to the cardboard and to each other. Allow to dry (see image).
7. Use the handle end of a paintbrush to dot on two pick cheeks and two black eyes. Mix a small amount of pink and peach and dot on for nose (see image).
8. Loop the green yarn and tie in a knot. Glue the knotted end to the back of the ornament.

## Tips:

- This can be made into a magnet instead of an ornament.
- Mini craft sticks are available at craft supply stores and discount department stores.
- For the cardboard in this project, we used the back of the cover from our construction paper pad!

## Rice Krispie Candy Canes

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup margarine or butter
- 1 (10 ounce) package regular marshmallows
- 6 cups Kellogg's\* Holiday Rice Krispies\*
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla (optional)
- Licorice

### Directions:

In a large microwave safe bowl, heat margarine and marshmallows at HIGH for 3 minutes, stirring after 2 minutes. Stir in vanilla. Stir in KELLOGG'S\* RICE KRISPIES\* cereal until well coated. While still warm, shape mixture into two 30 cm candy shapes using buttered hands. Place on surface sprayed with cooking spray, or wax paper. Decorate candy canes string licorice wrapped around it, secured by icing. Slice each cane into 6 slices.



### Stove Top Method:

Melt margarine in large saucepan over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely

melted. Follow steps 2 and 3 above. In keeping with good allergy practices, we remind you to be aware of allergens and to check labels on any packaged goods used. This recipe has been tested using Kellogg's\* products. Results with other products may vary.



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