



Holiday Activities for Young Readers

The holiday season is now in full swing and it's easy to get caught up in the food and fun! In between family gatherings and holiday dinners, spend some time reflecting on the past year and your children's hopes and dreams for the New Year. Here are some ideas to get you started preparing for winter with your growing readers and writers!



- Fold and cut paper to make snowflakes to hang in your windows. Help your child to write a wish for the New Year on each one. Make sure to save one for your own wish!
- Borrow a few winter books from the library to read together, such as [Owl Moon](#) by Jane Yolen, [The Snowy Day](#) by Ezra Jack Keats, [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett, [Frederick](#) by Leo Lionni, [Singing Away the Dark](#) by Caroline Woodward, [Nate the Great and the Snowy Trail](#) by Marjorie Weinman Shermat.
- Invite your child to make a list of their favorite holiday foods. Choose one dish from the list and prepare it together.
- Fix a mug of hot chocolate and create snow art together by gluing cotton balls to construction paper. Ask your child to use describing words while talking about the way the cotton balls feel and look, listing them on the back of the paper once dry.
- Staple together a few pages of blank or lined paper to make a book titled, *Did You Know?* Or *Who Likes the Cold?* About animals that live in cold climates. Use the computer, library, or even your smart phone to look up and record facts about polar bears, penguins, seals, bears, moose, wolves, and more. Don't forget the illustrations!
- Instead of buying gifts for your friends and family, ask your child to make them! Using crayons or markers, have your child think back to the best memories of the year and draw these scenes, including lots of detail. Place the drawings in inexpensive frames and give them to those special people!
- Purchase white or plain colored wrapping paper that your child can decorate with pictures and words that remind them of the holiday season. When you go to wrap presents, use this personalized paper. No ribbons needed!