

"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million." -Walt Streightiff

Let's Pretend!

Ten hands swirl the white finger paint around the table.

"I'm drawing the wind," announces Ling Su, dashing slanted bold strokes.

"Looks like scribbles to me," says Pete.

Ling Su hesitates for a moment and then smushes the paint into more wild patterns.

"Maybe you haven't seen the wind, then," she says.

From For the Love of Children by Jean Steiner and Mary Steiner Whelan

Fun for Families

- Give the gift of self and time – drop everything else and play with your child
- Go skipping with your child
- Find a place outside and draw with sidewalk chalk
- Participate in local celebrations – street fairs, craft fairs, festivals
- Listen to and build on your child's ideas
- Let your child have a tea party for their stuffed animals or dolls
- Gather nuts, bolts, washers and other small mechanical items and tools for play and sorting
- Listen to music and dance with your child
- Prepare greeting cards and take them to the post office together



December

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Resources For Families

Book: Playful Parenting by Lawrence J. Cohen

Website: American Library Association www.ala.org
Has a link to great sites for parents, caregivers, teachers and others; color-coded by age for easy use.

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC)
www.ecacparentcenter.org A North Carolina parent center for parents of children with special needs.



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This is the time of year for family and friend gatherings, so it's a good time to talk with your child about all of the different kinds of families and what it means to be a member of a family. It's also a time when families are inclined to hurry and get stressed. Here are some tips that can help if you start to feel the stress of the holidays closing in on you:

Reassess and Prioritize - Holiday stress sets in when you try to do it all. Take some time to think about what is important to you, and then let the rest go! If your child has special needs, it is okay to tell family and friends what he/she can or cannot handle.

Delegate! - Let each family member be responsible for cleaning and/or decorating a room. Children will feel more included in the holidays as if they are involved in the preparations.