

Holiday Hints

Simple “Homemade” Holidays

(NAPSA)—You don't need to be gifted to unwrap new kinds of family fun this holiday season—just creative. From making holiday cards and gifts to holding decorating parties and holiday family cook-offs, there are a number of activities that can help you and your whole house ring in the season with smiles and laughs.

The good news is you don't have to do a lot of shopping around for fun ideas. You can find them in newspapers, magazines, on TV and online. For example, FamilyFun.com offers a number of holiday suggestions in its “Activities and Crafts” section, like the ones that follow:

Get Crafty

Families can make Baby-Sock Snowmen to decorate their homes. The project is easy enough for a kindergartner to do with help, but can be fun for older children as well.

- Fill the foot of a baby sock with batting, tie it shut just above the ankle and trim off the cuff.

- Divide the sock into a body and head by tying ribbon (the scarf) around it.

- To make the hat, gather a colored sock together at the ankle and tie it with string. Leave enough string for a hanging loop. Cut off the foot, roll up the edge of the sock like a stocking cap and glue it on the snowman sock.

- Glue small buttons on the snowman's chest and draw his eyes and mouth with a marker. Cut a one-inch piece of pipe cleaner and poke it in for the nose. For earmuffs, wrap a piece of pipe cleaner around the head and tuck it under the hat. Glue on mini pompoms for ears. To see the adorable snowmen,



A Taste Of Holiday Fun—Mock Toffee Bars are an award winning, easy-to-make holiday treat.

go to www.familyfun.com.

After you've made your snowmen, celebrate with a delicious holiday treat.

Cook Up Fun

This recipe for Mock Toffee Bars took first place in the Web site's cookie contest. Here's how to make it:

Ingredients

Saltine Crackers
1 cup brown sugar
Pecan pieces
½ cup butter
12 oz. chocolate chips

Line cookie sheet with foil; butter heavily. Place crackers side by side to cover cookie sheet, salted side up. Combine butter and brown sugar and cook until it boils and bubbles (3 to 4 minutes). Pour over crackers and bake 7 minutes at 375°F. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate chips. Spread chocolate with a spatula. Sprinkle with nuts and press into chocolate with a spatula. When cool, break into pieces and serve.

For more holiday craft and homemade gift ideas, visit the Web site www.FamilyFun.com.