

Need Ideas For Children's Holiday Gifts?

With the holiday season speeding toward us, parents and grandparents are beginning their annual quest to find the "right" gifts for the children in their lives — gifts that will have meaning beyond

this season or this year. Gifts that won't be sold at next summer's garage sale, because they're not "in" anymore. Gifts that their children will learn from and grow with, as well as enjoy.

"One of the best gifts you can give is the gift of discovery," said Dr. Alvin Granowsky, an expert in childhood education. "By selecting presents that expand their worlds, you're fueling their curiosity, broadening their knowledge, and providing a source of pleasure they'll enjoy for years to come."

With that in mind, here are 20 ideas for gifts that the children on your list won't outgrow — gifts for every interest and budget. Some are appropriate for one child, others, such as the telescope, the home computer, and the World Book Encyclopedia, are perfect family gifts. And all of them will be valued long after this year's trendy (and often very expensive) toys, fashions, sports equipment, and other "hot" gifts are gathering dust in the closet.

• A coin collecting book, coins minted the years you and the child were born, and a few foreign coins. Or a stamp collecting book, some stamps, and a magnifying glass.

• A small tent and sleeping bag, and an outdoor survival guide.

• A starter set of "real" tools: hammer, screwdriver, wrench, etc., engraved with his or her initials. Accompany it with a book of projects to try.

• An insect collection jar, a butterflynet, and a field guide (along with instructions to release the specimens unharmed).

• A telescope and glow-in-the-dark star guide.

• A classic board game, like chess, checkers or cribbage.

• An introduction to world events, history, heroes and wonders (and a leg-up on homework), via a set of The World Book Encyclopedia.

• A bound journal and a copy of Thoreau's Walden to read together.

• A home computer, new software for the computer at home, or a used typewriter and a ream of paper.

• An introduction to your favorite sport: a putter and some golf balls; a tennis racquet and a can of balls; a "grown up" baseball bat and ball; a football, soccer ball or basketball. And, of course, a few tips from you.

• Binoculars, a bird identification guide, and a bird feeder for their window. Or "adult" gardening tools, a gardening book and some seeds and bulbs.

• A camera, some film, a photo album and copies of favorite family photos.

• A piece of jewelry that sym-

bolizes your shared faith or is significant in another way such as a birthstone.

• A microscope and slides (both pre-prepared and blank).

• An "adult" watch or their own clock radio.

• Copies of a few of your favorite classic books, with a note written in each talking about when and why you enjoyed them.

• A piece of your family's history - something you received from a parent or grandparent, along with the story of its significance.

• A guide to fossils and some fossils or dinosaur bone fragments.

• An overnight bag or backpack embroidered with their initials.

• A musical instrument (as small as a harmonica, or as big as a piano), instructions or lessons.

Giving gifts from this list will gain you the quiet thanks of your child's or grandchild's teachers as well. Educators encourage students to pursue hobbies and collections, strongly recommend that children have reference materials and books available at home, and applaud all family efforts to keep their children excited about learning.

Cook's Question

(Continued from Page B8)

ANSWER — For the reader who requested a recipe for Sesame Chicken Soup, here is one from Lynn Rossi, Litz.

Sesame Chicken Soup

1 tablespoon sesame seeds

Brown sesame seeds in dry saucepan over medium heat.

Add:

1 tablespoon butter

¼ cup celery, chopped

1-2 tablespoons green onion, chopped

½ cup flour to make a paste

½ teaspoon nutmeg

Slowly add the following, while stirring and cook until thicken.:

6 cups chicken broth

When mixture is thick, slowly stir in the following:

½ cup half and half

¼ cup heavy cream

Freshly ground pepper

2 teaspoons salt

2 cups chicken, cooked and chopped

QUESTION — Roma Leibensperger, Germansville, wanted a pumpkin cheese cake recipe. Thanks to Susan Howard, Mt. Pleasant Mills, who sent this recipe and wrote: Everyone will be sure to comment on this.

Pumpkin Swirl Cheesecake

2 cups vanilla wafer crumbs or graham cracker crumbs.

¼ cup butter, melted

16-ounces cream cheese

¼ cup sugar

1 cup canned pumpkin

3 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

¾ teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon nutmeg

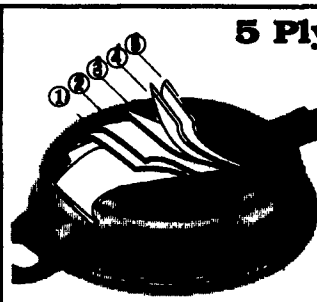
Combine crumbs and butter; press into bottom and sides of springform pan.

Combine cheese and ½ cup sugar and vanilla; mix at medium speed. Add eggs, mixing well. Reserve 1 cup cheese mixture. Add pumpkin and remaining sugar and spices to remaining cheese mixture. Mix well. Layer half pumpkin and half cheese over crust. Repeat layers. Cut through batter with knife for marble effect. Bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes. Loosen cake from rim. Cool before removing rim of pan. Chill.



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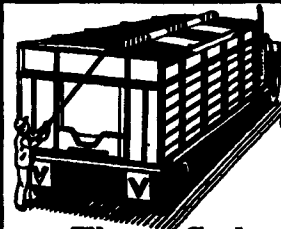
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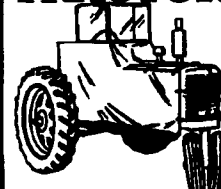
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