

### **Tips for Parents of Young Athletes**

Ways to Enhance the Child's Experience and Yours! Submitted by Elizabeth Mirabal

With a new year around the corner, many of us are working on creating our annual list of resolutions as well as preparing for another year of team sports with our children. Aside from less sweets and more exercise, parents may also want to consider a few goals to work toward as they participate in youth sports. Here are a few ideas to consider:

• Talk to your child about his/her practices and games. Guide your athlete as he/she discovers personal areas of success and skills that need improvement. You may say, "I'm proud of how fast you ran on the field. What are you most proud of today?"

• Choose your role and stick to it. Have you chosen to be a spectator and root for the teams? Did you volunteer to coach? Are you a game official? All are necessary in maintaining a positive environment for children. When compelled to switch roles, remind yourself of the role you've chosen. If you're a spectator, refrain from shouting out a call or play. If you're a coach, take the lead in ensuring young athletes are demonstrating good sportsmanship-like behavior at all times. As an official, recognize that you are the final frontier when it comes to game rules and team conduct. When all groups work together, the results provide for a supportive and educational experience.

• **Be emotional! Laugh! Cheer! Smile!** Fun isn't only for kids! Feel free to holler and liven up the environment! There may be times, however, when you believe an unjust call was made or a rule is not being adhered to. Suddenly, your emotions are all but requiring laughter. Reduce the possibility of an outburst by taking a few deep breaths, counting to ten, or by taking

with a league official. Statistics show that 28% of young athletes saw their parents yelling at or arguing with coaches and 31% saw parents arguing with officials (Trends & Tundes, HarrisInteractive, Volume 3, Issue 8, August 2004). That is one statistic you want to steer clear from!

• Focus on FUN and not winning. Help children develop selfesteem through their personal improvements and not a game win. Rather than asking, "Did your team win?" Why not ask, "Did you do your best? What did you learn today? Did you have fun?" Emphasize that his/her improvement was related to hard work at practice and listening to the coach. Therefore, the child learns to define individual success as a result of his/her own effort. This turns the focus away from an aspect he/she cannot fully control; the entire team's win/loss record.

• Ensure your fueling your child's engine with the "Good Stuff": It has happened to many of us. We ask our child to pick a snack to eat before a game and he/she runs out of the house with cookies. While the cookies may provide a quick burst of energy, it'll remain just that: a burst (that fizzles out quickly). Why not make a brief list of nutritional snacks your child can choose from THEN allow him/her to choose from there. Your options may include: a banana and milk, apple slices and cheese, or an ol' fashioned PB & J sandwich on whole-grain bread. This way, you've ensured your athlete chooses wisely and he/she maintains his ability to make the final choice. A win-win situation! Don't forget to rehydrate during practice and games with plenty of water! Frequent small sips of water are more

> beneficial than gulping down a bottle of water at halftime which may lead to stomach discomfort.

breaths, counting to ten, or a walk to the parking lot. Then, find an appropriate time and place to address your

concerns

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Protecting children from unsafe toys is the responsibilit everyone. Thousands of toys are on the market, each promising to educate or entertain our children Unfortunately, not every toy is safe. Be careful, vigilant shoppers by following these tips and precautions for toy sat

**Construction:** Look for sturdy, well-designed and well-made toys.

**Age Appropriateness:** Always follow the manufacturer's recommended age designation on the packaging.

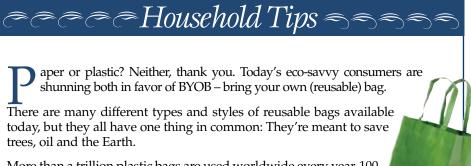
**Choking Hazards:** Do not buy small toys or toys with small parts for children under three.

**Toxic Chemicals**: Avoid toys made of PVC plastic; choose wooden or cloth toys instead.

**Magnetic Toys:** Powerful magnets pose special hazards if swallowed. Keep magnetic toys away from children under six.

**Lead:** Seek out information on toy recalls. Children exposed to lead can suffer developmental delays or even death. Visit cpsc.gov (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission) for up-to-date information on toy recalls for lead content and other hazards.

Careful toy selection and proper supervision of children at play is still the best way to prevent toy-related injuries. To report a product hazard or injury, call the CPSC at this toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-2772.



More than a trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year-100 billion of them in the U.S.-and it takes hundreds of years for them to decompose in landfills. Many of them make their way into our rivers and oceans, and kill birds and sea life. Paper bags are not necessarily a better alternative – environmentalists argue that trees must be sacrificed and paper mills pollute.

Become a more eco-friendly shopper by purchasing your own reusable bags, and persuade your friends to do the same. And put a reminder at the top of your shopping list to take the bags with you until it becomes an established habit!

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## SUMMERWOOD

### The Miracle Cure....

Submitted by Dr. Tenesha Weine

WATER. It's not fish oils, not calcium or magnesium, not even vitamin D...but Water. Water is the single most important nutrient in your body. So simple, yet so many of us are dehydrated. Your body loses about two quarts of water a day through perspiration, urination and exhalation. It is important for our bodies that we replenish this.

#### Water is needed and involved in every function of our body:

- Muscles are about 75% water
- Brain Cells are 85% water
- Blood contains 82% water
- Even your bones are 25% water

By depriving your body of water, your organs and cells can not function to their highest capacity. Water is essential for cell life and existence. You can live five to seven weeks without food but no more than 5 days without water.

#### Major signs you are dehydrated:

- Joint and Arthritis Pain water is a main lubricant in the joint spaces.
- Digestion Issues water helps keep digestive juices in the GI tract

supplied in order to create the acids it needs to prevent ulcers, gastric reflux, and constipation, and heart burn.

- **High Blood Pressure** when the body is dehydrated it can restrict the flow of blood to non vital organs and only concentrate on vital organs.
- Asthma bronchial tubes need adequate hydration to prevent constriction
- **Poor Memory** Synapses in the brain slow down without adequate hydration.
- Weight Management When you are dehydrated your body releases a hormone, aldosterone, which causes water retention.

If you are suffering from any of the above Conditions or Symptoms instead of reaching for a big gulp, star bucks, or any of the other unnatural beverages we consume.... try drinking more natural clean water. Gradually increase the amount of water you drink each day and these symptoms may start to subside.

So, how much water do you need to drink??

Take your body weight in pounds and divide it by two.

#### This is the number in ounces that you should drink per day.

\_\_\_\_\_Weight / 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ounces per day

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## SUMMERWOOD

### The Green Corner Green the Holidays, Part Two

Submitted by: Sheri Hicks

Last month, I focused on how to green up the Thanksgiving holiday. This month, in Green the Holidays, Part Two, I will focus on greening up Christmas. Christmas is a wonderful time, full of joy, celebration, remembrance, love and family. But it is also a stressful time full of consumption, overindulging and debt. I have a few suggestions that might take a bit of the stress and, in these hard economic times, debt from your shoulders so you can enjoy the holiday season for what it means to you and your family.

This year, instead of buying any roll of gift wrap, look for reusable bags or paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled products. My own family has passed around the same gift bags for the last five years!

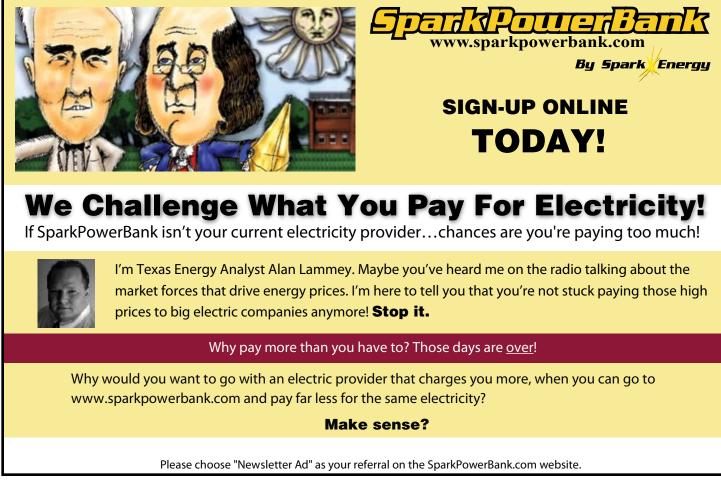
Make your own Christmas Cards by enlisting your kids. Kids create the most

amazing drawings with just a few crayons and card stock.

Make your own holiday ornaments. You can find recipes and instructions online for almost any kind of ornament from homemade cookie ornaments to origami. One of the prettiest trees I have ever seen was decorated almost exclusively with origami cranes.

If you have to buy lights, go LED. LED lights save up to 90% on energy consumption. The colors aren't quite as true as traditional lights, but with that kind of energy savings I am willing to adjust!

Give the gift of experience. Research has shown that people are far happier with experience than an object. In a study conducted by the University of Colorado at Boulder, researchers concluded that people tend to internalize their feelings during an experience and that is just not possible with an object. That could explain how so much stuff ends up in our garages! If you know a wine lover, give them a gift of wine of the month club or a tour of a local vineyard and winery with a nice bottle of wine. If you know a golfer, give them green fees for a local course. My own family loves to travel and this year, our gift to our nine year old, is to travel to New York City for Christmas. He is excitedly anticipating ice skating in Rockefeller Center, visiting Macy's Santa land, seeing the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, walking through Central Park, visiting the Natural History Museum and riding the subway. Of course he will get a few small gifts to open on Christmas morning but when those toys are discarded for the next "big" thing, he will still have his memories of his trip to NYC.



# SUMMERWOOD

# Recipe of the Month:



## **Hot Christmas Punch**

### Ingredients

- 3 Cups water 3 T whole cloves
  - 1 Cup brown sugar
- 3/4 tsp. salt 1 Tall can pineapple juice
- 1 large jar cranberry juice
- 6 sticks cinnamon, broken

#### Directions

Dissolve sugar in water and pour in percolator. Add juices. Place cinnamon sticks, cloves, and salt in basket. Percolate.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.

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### Going Green Hair Care Tips Submitted by Michelle Lasher

With the whole world turning to green energy and green products, there is little being said on taking care of one's hair on the green. Many people do not think about what changes can be made to help turn show time into green energy and energy consumption time, although it can be done.

- 1. Limit the time in the shower- The amount of hot water being used is decreased as well as energy. This helps the environment because water usage is down, gas usage is down, and energy is being conserved.
- 2. Wash your hair once every other day- If you ask a hair care professional how often to wash one's hair, he or she will often say once every other day or every two days. This gives one's hair more time to recover the natural oils that were stripped away during the washing process. This leads to softer, more manageable hair that has a very soft feel.
- 3. Rinse with cold water- By rinsing with cold water, the gas consumption is decreased. This in turn decreases the amount of pollution in the air and provides for a greener world. Need another reason to turn off the heat? The cold air helps to close the pores in the skin and the follicles in the hair. This leads to fewer pimples and shinier and softer hair.
- 4. Buy the bigger bottles- Although large bottles of shampoo tend to have more plastic in them, they also have more shampoo in them and cost less that the smaller bottles. Because the larger bottles have more shampoo in them, it is possible to use less plastic in the end because fewer bottles of shampoo will be purchased.
- 5. Use products that use recycled bottles!



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\$250 - 299,999	6	1	1	1	1	1
\$200 - 249,999	5	1	3	1	3	3
\$170 - 199,999	1	7	1	7	1	1
Under \$170,000	3	1	2	7	2	0
TOTAL	18	17	9	17	9	7
<b>New Construction</b>	7	7	2	7	2	2
Resales	11	10	7	10	7	5
Avg \$/Sq Ft	75.67	83.02	78.22	83.02	78.22	78.12
Avg Days on Mkt	66	88	59	88	59	77



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