December 16, 2009 -- Holiday gifts: Tips from a Tween

Laurel Taylor Baughman is a sixth grader at Centre Learning Community. This weekly column, published on Wednesdays, is a collaboration of Centre County Communities That Care serving Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, and Philipsburg-Osceola Area School Districts, and Care Partnership: Centre Region Communities That Care serving the State College Area School District.

Giving and getting holiday gifts is a tradition we all love. But picking out gifts is not always easy.

Finding gifts for everyone in the family is hard on a tween’s budget. Here are some ideas that don’t cost a lot of money.

Frame a picture you’ve drawn
Make an iMovie of yourself and your brothers and sisters
Make a book with a list of your favorite memories about someone you love
Make cookies to give in gift bags
Make gift certificates for things you will do, like shoveling snow for grandparents, making breakfast for parents, or taking a little brother to a movie
Frame a picture of yourself
Make a box of dress-up clothes for a little sister, brother, or cousin
Make a calendar using cut-out pictures, photos, and drawings
Make a gift certificate for a volunteer activity you will do in honor of someone, like volunteering at the food bank in honor of your grandparents
Give a younger child in your family some of your books that you liked best when you were little
Give a jigsaw puzzle to the whole family and plan a time for everyone to work on it together
Make an ornament, jewelry, or other craft
Make your own holiday gift cards
Make a photo album of a special event, like a family vacation or grandparent’s anniversary

Hugs!

Here are some gift ideas for tweens. Feel free to ask us for other ideas. We are usually more than happy to supply them!

Computer and video games
Skinny jeans
Movie certificates
Tickets to a concert or sports event
Favorite team items
Sports equipment
Favorite DVDs
Cell phone?!
Gift certificates for family activities, like going sledding, going bowling, or going white water rafting next summer
iPod
Magazine subscriptions
Hobby supplies
Board games for groups, like Apples to Apples, Beat The Parents, or Pictureka
Gift certificate for a one-on-one outing, like lunch and shopping at the mall or dinner and a movie
Things to decorate our rooms, like posters, pillows, or desk supplies
Journal or diary
Books from a favorite series, like Twilight, Harry Potter, or Chicken Soup for a Teenager Soul
And you cannot go wrong giving money or a gift card!

Note: Tweens are children in the age group of approximately 9 to 14 years of age.