



Things to Think About!

Check it Out

By Karen Morgan

Just a few places to go for tips, ideas, games, and recipes for your holiday season.

marthastewart.com

How could we not include this one?

AmazingMoms.com
Great ideas for Family Fun!



Thanksgiving Web
a supplement to Halloween Web

www.halloween-website.com/thanksgiving.htm

FamilyFun.com
Great ideas. Practical advice. Fun stuff to do.

cooksrecipes.com
Recipes for every cook!
A Premier Internet Cooking & Recipe Site
Featuring over 17,000 recipes & growing!

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kraftfoods.com™

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Thanksgiving. A Time to be Thankful!

By Linda Jorgensen



Why are we in such a hurry to rush through Fall? Have we forgotten to enjoy the moment we are in or are we so looking forward to the future we must rush through today to get there? Is everything just a blur between September 1st and the 1st of January?

An attitude of “hurry, hurry....” can make even the sanest of households lose their cool. For homes with children who need extra time and care this attitude can be a recipe for total exhaustion and miserable Holidays.

This is the year to slow down and learn to “enjoy the moment” starting now.

What are your favorite Thanksgiving memories? Do you enjoy the holiday as a small family unit or spend the day traveling between extended family members or friends? Do you have time honored Family Traditions your family looks forward to and loves? Have you even considered what those are?

Discuss with your family what they think is really important. You may be surprised as to what you learn.

Last year we sat down as a family to talk about the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday and the things we all liked and disliked about it. The results were surprising. Things I thought most important were low on my children’s lists of “What I like about Thanksgiving”. While things I thought were of little consequence turned out to be of more importance to my children.

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That family meeting prompted some changes and I now keep a Holiday Journal to keep track of what those changes and priorities are. At the end of the Holiday we'll have a family council to evaluate how we feel the Holiday went. We'll tweak the day as we need to. Here is the list of family favorites and requests we will be doing this year. Perhaps some of these ideas may be of help to you as you look for ways to slow things down and enjoy each holiday as they come.

1. Bring back the Thanksgiving Tree. For years we have had a tree branch that has been planted in a bucket with some plaster of paris. Fall leaves made out of paper to write our "thankful for's" on and then tie to the tree. The leaves are read at dinner on Thanksgiving Day. I didn't pull the tree out last year and it was sorely missed.
2. Decorate for Fall/Thanksgiving right after Halloween is over. Put the spooky stuff away the day after Halloween and bring out those Pilgrims!
3. Simplify our Thanksgiving dinner menu. Turkey, mashed potatoes and a "great green salad" are standard favorites. Candied yams were "voted off the table" while whipped sweet potatoes were requested. Plenty of olives, cranberry sauce, fresh green beans, home-made rolls and gravy rounded out the dinner requests.
4. Change desert! No one in this household likes pumpkin pie. Why do I spend 2 days sweating over how my pumpkin pies turn out when they only meet an ignominious end in the garbage can at the end of the weekend? An apple gallet that my son can make himself, a cherry pie and plenty of vanilla ice cream to smother both will make all family members happy. And I get to spend some great time in the kitchen baking with my children.
5. Most emphatically, put away the ties and the dresses! No more dressing for dinner. Casually comfortable but still nice (*in case we have hosting responsibilities*) is the order of the day.
6. Family games after dinner. Rousing games of ball in the yard, (*weather permitting*), then bring out the card tables and the board games and let the games begin!
7. A good movie at the end of the evening after everyone is in P.J.'s and ready for bed. Bring out "*It's a Wonderful Life*" and the popcorn. (*Reminder to self. Find a copy on DVD. VHS tape is worn out*).

Bottom line...do what you and your family loves and enjoys, not what anyone else seems to expect. The results may just surprise you.

As someone once said, "Special memories help keep family members close even when they are far apart". Keeping your day relaxed, enjoyable, and doing activities you love will bring family memories to last a lifetime! It's all up to you!

May you truly enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving!

