

Explorations

Winter

History

- Use family pictures to construct a family history for your child.
- Ask older members of the family to tell a story from when they were young to your child. Your child can make a book of the story. A collection of these stories can become a treasured part of your family history.
- Visit your local Chamber of Commerce and find out about the history of your town or city. Who founded it and how long ago? What was it like to live there a in the past?
- Read books that take place in the past with your child, such as the Little House series, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, The American Girls series, Time Warp Trio series or Magic Tree House series.

Government

- Engage in a community service project with your child.
- When at a store or restaurant show the receipt to your child. Show them where the tax is added. Discuss the ways that the local community, state and national governments use taxes.

Geography

- Ask friends or family who travel to send your child a postcard. Find the location of the postcard on a world map. Try to collect a postcard from each continent or state, if possible!
- Ask questions like “In what direction are we headed?” “What is close to the place we are going to?” “What is far from the place we are going to?”
- Buy a puzzle of the United States. Children learn quickly the location of the states when playing with puzzles.



Culture

- Discuss the different holidays that people celebrate in the winter. Some holidays and customs are more visible in our culture, but find out about holidays that are not as visible. For example, do you know about Hanukkah, Santa Lucia, Kwanzaa, Los Posadas, Winter Solstice, Diwali, or Eid ul-Adha? Use books or the Internet as a research tool to find out about what these holidays or festivals are all about.

Economics

- If your child gets birthday or holiday money, help her divide it up to save, invest, spend and give to charity.
- How do bills get paid in your family? Do you pay your bills in person, use checks, or have them paid directly by your bank. If you feel comfortable show your child what a bill looks like and discuss what it pays. What services do you pay for monthly?