



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, Dec. 10 – 12:00 – Policy Council

Thursday, Dec. 11 – 11:00 – “Cookies with Santa” –  
5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room

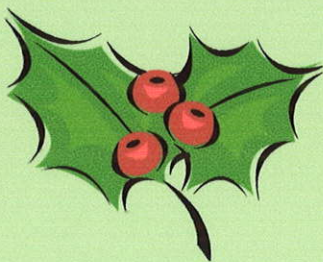
Thursday, Jan. 8 – 11:00 – socialization – Vanessa,  
T, Cassandra, Katasha

Wednesday, Jan. 14 – 12:00 – Policy Council

Thursday, Jan. 15 – 11:00 – socialization – Eleanor,  
Pam, Shante’, Renee’

Thursday, Jan. 22 – 11:00 – socialization – St. Clair  
County

Thursday, Jan. 29 – 11:00 – socialization – Vanessa,  
T, Cassandra, Katasha



## NEW YEAR'S EVE

January 1 represents the fresh start of a new year  
after a period of remembrance of the passing year,

This day is traditionally a **religious feast**, but since  
the **1900s** has also become an occasion to celebrate  
the night of December 31, called New Year's Eve.

There are **fireworks** at midnight at the moment the  
new year arrives

## Falling Snow

by anonymous

See the pretty snowflakes  
Falling from the sky;  
On the wall and housetops  
Soft and thick they lie.

On the window ledges,  
On the branches bare;  
Now how fast they gather,  
Filling all the air.

Look into the garden,  
Where the grass was green;  
Covered by the snowflakes,  
Not a blade is seen.

Now the bare black bushes  
All look soft and white,  
Every twig is laden,  
What a pretty sight!



## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

### From, The National Safety Council

#### Decorating Safety

Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." It can irritate your eyes and skin. A common substitute is non-flammable cotton.

When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many plants may be poisonous or can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

When displaying a tree, cut off about two inches off the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.

Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.

If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights only outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.

Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs, around furniture legs or across doorways.

Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Unplug extension cords when not in use.

If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered to avoid dry branches from catching fire from the heat of light bulbs.

When displaying outdoor lights, fasten them firmly to a secure support with insulated staples or hooks to avoid wind damage. Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.

# Snowmen Cookies

Servings: 8 Prep Time: 70 min. Cook Time: 10 to 12 min.

Have a decorating party featuring snowmen (and women) cookies! Your little bakers will love using all the decorations--frosting, pretzel sticks, spice drops, and sprinkles.



## Notes

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## Ingredients

- \* 1 roll (18 oz.) refrigerated sugar-cookie dough
- \* 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- \* 1 bag (12 oz.) white-chocolate chips
- \* 2 tbsp. vegetable shortening
- \* 2 orange spice drops, cut into quarters
- \* 1 can (16 oz.) vanilla frosting
- \* Red and blue paste food coloring
- \* White and pink confetti sprinkles
- \* 8 small pretzel sticks
- \* 1 tube black decorating frosting

## You'll also need

- \* 2 cookie sheets
- \* Parchment paper
- \* Rolling pin
- \* 2 plastic resealable bags

Watch all your favorite shows weekdays on NICK!

# Snowmen Cookies

## Ingredients (continued)

### Kitchen Tip

Make sure the frosting is at room temperature. This will make it much easier to work with.

### Directions

#### \* Step 1

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.

#### \* Step 2

Knead the cookie dough and the flour on a clean work surface until smooth. (Kids can help with this part.) Divide the dough in half and roll out one piece to a scant 1/4-inch thickness. Help your kids learn about shapes by cutting out and assembling the different parts of the snowmen. Use round cookie cutters of three different sizes for the snowmen bodies (circles) and use scraps of dough to make the hats (squares and rectangles) and snowmen noses (triangles).

#### \* Step 3

Transfer the shapes to the sheet pans. Roll any scraps with the remaining dough and continue cutting out shapes until you have eight snowmen.

#### \* Step 4

Bake the cookies until golden brown, about 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer them to a wire rack and cool completely.

#### \* Step 5

Parents should heat the white-chocolate chips and the shortening in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring occasionally until just melted. Remove from the heat, but leave the bowl over the pan to keep the chocolate fluid. Carefully dip cookies to coat just the tops of the snowmen in white chocolate up to their hats. (This is a job for grownups.) Allow the excess chocolate to drip away over the bowl and return the cookies to the sheet pans.

#### \* Step 6

Kids can now add the piece of orange spice drop for the nose while the chocolate is still wet. Continue with the remaining cookies. Refrigerate until set, about 5 minutes.

#### \* Step 7

Tint half of the vanilla frosting pink and half of the frosting light blue with the paste food color. Spoon each color into a resealable bag.

#### \* Step 8

Snip a small corner from the pink-frosting bag and help kids pipe a hat and skirt on four of the cookies. Pipe several pink dots for buttons. Add a white confetti sprinkle to the skirt and hat. Use a dot of frosting to attach the pretzel sticks as arms.

#### \* Step 9

Snip a small corner from the blue-frosting bag and help kids pipe on a hat and a vest to the remaining cookies. Add the confetti sprinkles and pretzel sticks. Lastly, pipe the eyes and mouth with the black tube frosting. Let the cookies set for at least 1 hour.

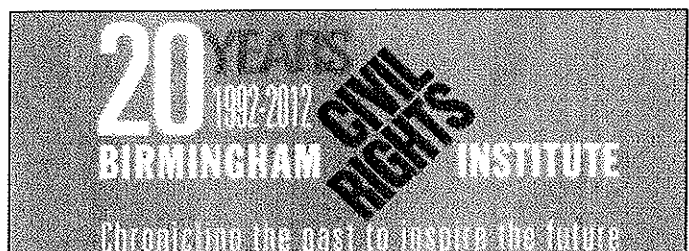
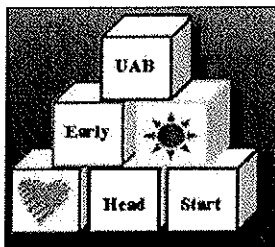
Watch all your favorite shows weekdays on NICK!

# SAVE THE DATE!!!!

UAB Early Head Start Program  
School Readiness Forum  
at the  
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

February 25, 2015  
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served



# UAB EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM

## COOKIES WITH SANTA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

11:00 – 1:00 P.M.

UABEHSP OFFICE BUILDING, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM



COME JOIN US FOR COOKIES,  
PICTURES WITH SANTA AND FUN-  
FILLED STOCKINGS.





Instead of sleeping, Little Teddy Bear just wanted to run, jump, and [play](#).

### **Teddy, It's Too Soon!**

All was quiet at the Bear family house. Hnnnk, shhhs, hnnnk, shhhs. They were asleep for winter, snoring and dreaming in their beds as fluffy snow fell outside.

Little Teddy Bear stirred beneath his covers. He didn't want to sleep anymore. He wanted to play. "Wake up, Olivia," he said to his sister, tugging on her polka-dot pajamas. "Let's play together!"

Olivia yawned. "Teddy, it's too soon!" said Olivia, scratching her head. But Teddy couldn't sleep. And Olivia's messy hair looked so silly, he started to giggle.

"Try telling yourself a story," said Olivia, patting down the curls that were sticking out. "When I think about ballerinas, I have nice dreams." Teddy wanted to play, not dream. Maybe Mama would help. "Mama," whispered Teddy, "are you awake?"

Mama Bear jumped out of bed with a start. "Who? What? Why?" "I can't sleep, Mama," said Teddy. "Teddy, it's too soon to wake up!" Mama said. "I'll make some warm milk to help you fall asleep."



**Mama Bear and Papa Bear did everything they could to help Little Teddy Bear fall asleep.**

Teddy didn't want warm milk. And he didn't want to think about ballerinas, either. Just then, Papa Bear woke up. Hnnnk, snort! "What's all this noise?" he asked. Teddy told Papa he was wide awake.

"Maybe we can help you fall back to sleep, Teddy," Papa said. "A softer pillow might do the trick."

"An extra blanket might make Teddy feel warm and sleepy," Mama said. "Or hugging Cubby," Olivia said, squeezing a furry stuffed bear cub. "That always makes me feel cozy!"

They talked on and on about ways to help. "What do you think, Teddy?" they finally asked, looking around the room. Hnnnk, shhhs, hnnnk, shhhs. Teddy was already upstairs tucked snugly in his bed ... snoring and dreaming and fast asleep.



Oriental Trading  
**FREE-N-FUN**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Christmas*

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