

Subject: Youth & Family Ministries -- Head Start for the New Year

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Holiday greetings,

Three things I was reminded of recently that, as a director of a children's ministry, I liked to do at this time of the year:

1. Put out a request to the congregation to bring in their calendars with attractive pictures, especially animals and scenes from nature. We cut them apart and filed them by topic. They were then available to use for bulletin boards and visual aids for teachers' lessons.
2. Watch for sales of craft materials and things like battery operated candles, which are easily obtained at this time of the year and almost impossible to find at other times.
3. Get started (if you haven't yet done so) on plans to incorporate "Season for Non-violence" themes, activities and resources into your program for children and youth. <http://seasonfornonviolence-cs.org> has some good ideas and useful resources under "school information".

What holiday ideas are you developing this year? We'd love to hear what you are doing.