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This issue of PKR's Online Parenting Newsletter marks the beginning of our 5th year of continuous publication. We sent the first issue in November of 2000.

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The Online Parenting Newsletter vol.5 no.12 Nov, 2004:

THE BEST GIFTS OF ALL

Whether you can afford to shop at the best stores or are on a tight budget spend some time with your kids this holiday season making some of the gifts.

Nothing in the way of a purchased gift could be more precious to me than a series of little drawings my 8 year old granddaughter made for me of a trip we took together last summer in Alaska. She drew me a bald eagle, a seal on an iceberg, a salmon, a humpback whale, all of which we saw together and are currently framed and proudly on display in my home.

Set aside some time in this busy season for the kids (and you, if possible) to do some drawings or cards or crafts for Grandma and Grandpa or beloved neighbors. Older children and teens can write a note expressing how they feel about the person or they can write a poem or story especially for the person.

One trick another parent taught me was to write and illustrate a family holiday story together. You all sit down around the table and brainstorm what your holiday story will be about. You can take notes if the kids are small or a teenager can input on the computer. Decide which pages should be illustrated and who should do what drawing. Think up a catchy title and put the "book" together. Photocopy if your story goes to more than one person, and get it in the mail before the rush.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS!