



Our kids have gotten a number of gifts. They seem to be more overwhelmed than thankful. How can we help them focus on the love that motivated these gifts and thank the givers?



Here are a few pointers.



- Little ones don't make the connection easily between the new toy and grandma's love. The actual toy in hand is his or her focus. Making the connection is your job! "Grandma knows how much you like trucks, Max. She told me it made her happy to buy that truck for you."
- Express delight and thankfulness at the gifts you've received. Your child will follow suit.
- Set aside time for all of you to write thank-you notes. (If you don't write thank-you notes, guess who won't either?) Begin by reminding your child of the gift and who gave it. Provide sheets of paper on which your child may draw a picture or trace a handprint. Invite your child to dictate words for you to write to thank the gift-giver.
- To reduce the confusion of too many gifts, put a few gifts away for a while. (This is best done when your child is napping.) Bring one gift out at a time on a rainy day or other time when your child will really enjoy it. (Should your child notice the gift is missing, simply explain that it's put away for now, and you'll bring it out sometime for a special surprise.)