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All I Want for Christmas

Susan E. Murray
Andrews University

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CREATIVE PARENTING

All I Want for Christmas

BY SUSAN E. MURRAY

Dear Mom and Dad:

Instead of writing to Santa, I decided to write to you about what I really want for Christmas this year. I know you worry about spending too much on me, and then you worry about not spending enough. When you listen to me and buy me a few of the things I want, I feel listened to. It is important for me to have some of the same things other kids have; but you can over do it, and then I feel a bit guilty myself. You may not believe your ears, but it's really not about the money you spend on me.

What I'd really like is for both of you to tell me that you love me. I may pull away or even try to escape; but I'm listening. The way you think you are showing your love may not mean the same to me. Could you also write it in a note and leave it on my pillow, or write it on the bathroom mirror, or write it on the banana you send in my lunch, too? Could you tell others during conversations how special I am and how important I am to you?

I'd really like you to keep your promises, too. I'm pretty smart you know. If you put me off and say, "We'll do that another time," or

"We don't have the money now, but later ...," I'll be counting on that.

I need you to say what you mean and mean what you say. If you tell my brother that he'll have to go to bed early, and then let him stay up until I go to bed just because he whines and stalls, I'll be disappointed and angry.

I know you are busy at work and stuff, but I am busy all day at school. I need you to have some down time with me in the evenings. I want you to listen to what really happened at school. And when I talk to you, I don't need your solutions about how I should do better. I just want you to listen.

My friends are important to me. I wish they were important to you, too. When you don't remember their names, that hurts! I'd like for my friends to be able to come over to our house. I'd like to take a friend to town or come over for sabbath afternoon. They don't care if the house isn't clean, and I don't either.

Well, actually I do care if the house is clean. I really need to learn how to be organized and do important things around the house. Can you show me how, and then trust me to take some responsibility?

I know Christmas is really about Christ's birth, but I like to have some fun, too. Could you keep working on your own Christian experience and be healthy in all the important ways? Could you let me know that you will absolutely and unabashedly love me forever, no matter what? Then I can better understand God's love for me, and I'll be getting the best gifts ever!

Thanks for listening.
Your Kid

Note: American parents spend \$4.2 billion for candy and snacks, \$6.3 billion on clothes, \$8.4 billion on toys, and \$2.1 billion on computers, stereos, and software for Christmas gifts. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, kids make around 25 shopping trips to buy things for themselves and pick things for parents and grandparents to buy for them. Children spend \$3.5 billion of their own money and influence their parents to spend another \$21.2 billion.

