

Buying Local/Local Experience Ideas

Farm Products—honey, maple syrup, fruits, cheeses, etc. (also supports local farms!)

Soaps, candles, lip balms—Goat milk and honey and botanical based products are available from a number of sources (e.g. Three Sisters in Essex, www.threesistersfarms.com)

Herbs, teas and botanicals—Visit Caprilands Herb Farm in Coventry (www.caprilands.com), and check out the variety of local products in their gift stores and online; Sundial Gardens has a beautiful formal garden and imported tea products in Higganum (www.sundialgardens.com).

Locally **Wine and Beer** and **Vineyard & Brewery tours and tastings** (CT Wine Trail, CT Beer Trail)

Yarn and wool products—Buy your favorite knitter CT grown and spun wool or wool products! (Burgis Brook Alapacas in Guilford, www.burgisbrookalpacas.com)

Local crafts— Works of local artisans including basketmakers, candlemakers, woodworkers, potters, weavers and more (Wesleyan Potters in Middletown)

Hand-screened t-shirts—Eco-friendly, sustainably designed, made in Middletown at Cinder + Salt!

US made toys can be found at Amatos Toy Store on Main Street!

Gift certificates for local restaurants, yoga classes, theater performances, concerts and more!

Look for local fairs, like the Holiday Bazaar Shop, Saturday, December 3rd, 6-9pm at New Britain Museum of American Art, featuring local artisans!

Other Giving Ideas

Give necessities. Buy your family the new Energy Star dryer you've needed; give organic or locally grown food, or energy saving light bulbs.

Give your time. A card with a promise to help clean the basement or babysit the kids could be someone's favorite gift.

Give services. A gift certificate for a massage, an afternoon of a cleaning service, a garden planted by a landscaper.

Give gifts that keep on giving, locally. Donate in the person's name to a nonprofit like a local environmental group, hospice or social justice organization.

Give homemade. Kids underestimate the appreciation of a homemade gift. Many are easy to make: a laminated bookmark with photographs, candles, cookies, notecards, and hand-knitted.

Give your skill. Good photographer? Give a family photo shoot. Organizer? Offer to help with a cluttered study or bedroom. Cook? Your favorite recipes.

Give them skills. Buy art or drawing classes, music lessons, obedience training (for the dogs!).

Give an experience. Take your kids wall climbing or bowling, go on a special family vacation, treat a friend to lunch, watch your kids so your spouse can have the afternoon alone.

Give an heirloom. Emphasize the importance of family connections by giving a favorite piece of jewelry, a knick-knack or furniture.

Give used. A treasure from an antique shop, a refinished piece of thrift shop furniture, a rare find from a used book store.

Give back. Kids may better appreciate what they have, if they understand that so many people have less. Donate to toy drives, send money to a disaster relief organization, bring food to the soup kitchen, have them sort through their things and give excess to a thrift store, engage them in community service.

Give a little at a time. Kids are often overwhelmed by the gift pile. Try giving one on each of the eight days of Hanukah, each of the twelve days of Christmas, or open some on Christmas Eve.

Give thanks! Creating moments to appreciate your good fortune and reflect on your values can be a welcome respite in this busy time.

Support social, economic and environmental justice. Buy goods with the Fair Trade label; check out catalogues and links from the Fair Trade Federation (www.fairtradefederation.org and www.globalexchange.org); support sustainable development (such as in Nicaragua, www.nicanet.org); fight modern slavery at www.notforsale.org; make direct micro loans to deserving entrepreneurs around the world (www.kiva.org).