

SMARTS

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"THE SMART SCOOP"

Homelearning News for April, 2009

CONVENTION SURVIVAL GUIDE EDITION

Convention season is just around the corner! Some of you are seasoned convention-goers; others are attending for the first time this year. Especially for a first-time attendee, a convention can be quite overwhelming. You are bombarded with an overabundance of information, views and resources. It is very easy to overspend on things that you don't really need and often don't ever use. Here are a few tips to make the convention season an enjoyable and successful one for you and your family.

BEFORE YOU GO ...

1. If the convention does not offer activities for children or child-minding services, consider leaving the kids at home. Make the day as relaxing and leisurely as possible. Go with a friend or your spouse --- plan on having lunch together to break up your day. If you do bring the kids, consider bringing along a grandparent or someone to help you with the kids;
2. Wear comfortable shoes as you'll be doing a lot of walking! Almost all convention halls are cement floors & can be hard on your feet and legs;
3. If you plan on doing any shopping, you may want to bring along a rolling tote;
4. Bring along a notepad and pen to jot down things that either catch your eye in the Vendor Hall or notes you glean from workshops;
5. Plan your "route". If the convention website has an Exhibitor Listing, note down the Exhibitors you would like to visit in the Vendor Hall;

6. Know your pricing. If you are shopping for something specific, check out prices online before you go to the convention. That way, you'll know if you're really getting a great deal by purchasing at the convention;
7. Many conventions offer parent workshops or seminars and some often require pre-registration. Be sure to register well before the day of the event to ensure yourself a seat in the workshop or seminar of your choice. That way, you won't be disappointed when you arrive at the convention, and find that most or all workshops are full. When registering for workshops, choose ones that sound interesting to you and are age-appropriate for your child(ren).

WHEN YOU ARRIVE....

1. Grab a Convention Guide and give it a cursory look before you enter the Vendor Hall. Many of the Exhibitors have some great incentives or coupons that are valid only during the Convention. Some offers may be "while quantities last" or on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to visit those booths first if you wish to take advantage of those offers;
2. Take a look at the Vendor Hall Directory in the Convention Guide and plan a "route". Be mindful of your workshop times and where the workshop rooms are located;
3. In the Vendor Hall, listen to demonstrations and take notes. If something catches your eye, write down the item and vendor name in your notebook. You may want to return later to take another look or make a purchase and you don't want to be saying to yourself " Now, where did I see that?!! "
4. Pick up catalogues along the way. If you do not see a catalogue offered on the table, ask for one. Catalogues are very expensive to produce; some Exhibitors choose not to openly display their catalogues but are more than happy to provide one to those who ask. You may also ask the Exhibitor if their catalogue is online - if so, take their card and view their online catalogue at your leisure; less for you to carry and it helps to save a tree!
5. Avoid impulse buying and overspending. Know your budget and stay within it. No reputable vendor wants to sell you curriculum or resources that you don't need or won't enjoy using with your children.



SMARTS' CONVENTION SPECIALS!



SMARTS will be attending a number of Conventions and Expos this Spring. We encourage you to drop by our booth at each event – we'd be happy to see you! For all of our customers who may or may not be able to attend Conventions this year, we offer weekly Convention Specials !!

This year, we will be offering your choice of **either free freight on all orders over \$100 or 10% off all orders over \$100 where freight is not required.** (Some restrictions apply *ie Rosetta Stone, Auralog*). Take advantage of these Convention Specials by either visiting us at Convention or by shopping online at www.shopatsmarts.com. Feel free to contact us by telephone 1 (877) 817-6278.



WHERE WE'LL BE...

We have our bags packed! Here's where SMARTS will be this Convention season:

April 17th & 18th ALBERTA HOME EDUCATOR'S CONVENTION (AHEA)

Westerner Park – Stockmen's Pavilion

Red Deer, Alberta

Booths 109, 113, 208, 212

For Ticket Info: www.aheaonline.com

AHEA Convention Week Special (offer set out above)

Valid: April 17th, 2009 – April 25th, 2009

May 1st & 2nd BC CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATOR'S CONVENTION (CHEC)

Heritage Christian School

905 Badke Road, Kelowna BC

Booths 48, 49, 50 & 59

For Ticket Info: www.bcconvention.ca

BC CHEC Convention Week Special (offer set out above)

Valid: May 1st to May 9th, 2009

Friday May 22nd FRASER VALLEY HOME LEARNING EXPO (FVHLE)

Abbotsford Recreation Centre

2499 McMillan Road, Abbotsford BC

For Ticket Info: www.fvhomelearningexpo.ca

FVHL Expo Week Special (offer set out above)

Valid: May 22nd – May 29th, 2009

June 5th & 6th

BC HOMESCHOOL CONVENTION

Unfortunately SMARTS is not able to attend the BC Homeschool Convention held in Guildford this June. We will be running our Convention Week Specials however!

BC HomeSchool Convention Week Special (offer set out above)

Valid: June 5th to June 13th, 2009

OUR 2009 CATALOGUE IS NOW AVAILABLE !!

Our 2009 SMARTS Catalogue is "hot off the press" !! If you would like a paper copy of our new Catalogue, simply drop us an email or a quick phone call and we'll be happy to send one to you! Alternatively, our 2009 Catalogue is available to view or download off our website www.shopatsmarts.com



FRASER VALLEY HOME LEARNING EXPO



FRIDAY - MAY 22nd, 2009

Online registration is now open for the Fraser Valley Home Learning Expo, being held in May. Tickets are selling very quickly ~ seats to some of the Expo's Parent Workshops are filling quickly!! Expo Coordinators now welcome Bev Rempel, who will be conducting an Excellence in Writing workshop for parents! Register online for all workshops and grab your tickets today at www.fvhomelearningexpo.ca to ensure access to all events & the workshops of your choice !! SMARTS will see you there!

When:	Friday May 22 nd , 2009
Where:	Abbotsford Recreation Centre 2499 McMillan Road, Abbotsford
Admission:	\$15 includes three workshops & Keynote Speaker
Children:	FREE when accompanied by an adult
For Tickets:	www.fvhomelearningexpo.ca

Expo details and tickets can be accessed at the following website:

www.fvhomelearningexpo.ca

FRASER VALLEY
HOME LEARNING **expo**