

8

sustainable nights of Hanukkah

Flip through this booklet for some
inspiring sustainable themes &
gift ideas

Night 1

SOMETHING THEY WANT

A “want” gift helps us tune into what truly excites our kids. Instead of gifting the hot toy of the season, we can choose something that highlights their interests. Like art supplies for the constant doodler or new gear for the sports fanatic.

Sustainability tip: Check your local thrift/consignment shops first, then neighborhood “Buy Nothing” groups.

The idea is to give them something that they’ll use for longer than a week.

Night 2

SOMETHING THEY NEED

A “**need**” gift allows us to give our kids something practical that they can use. What are the things they’re going to be doing daily/weekly? Can we get them something that would make these tasks more enjoyable/easier? This gift is a good reminder that sometimes the things we need are also the things we want.

Sustainability Tip: Find something durable and repairable.

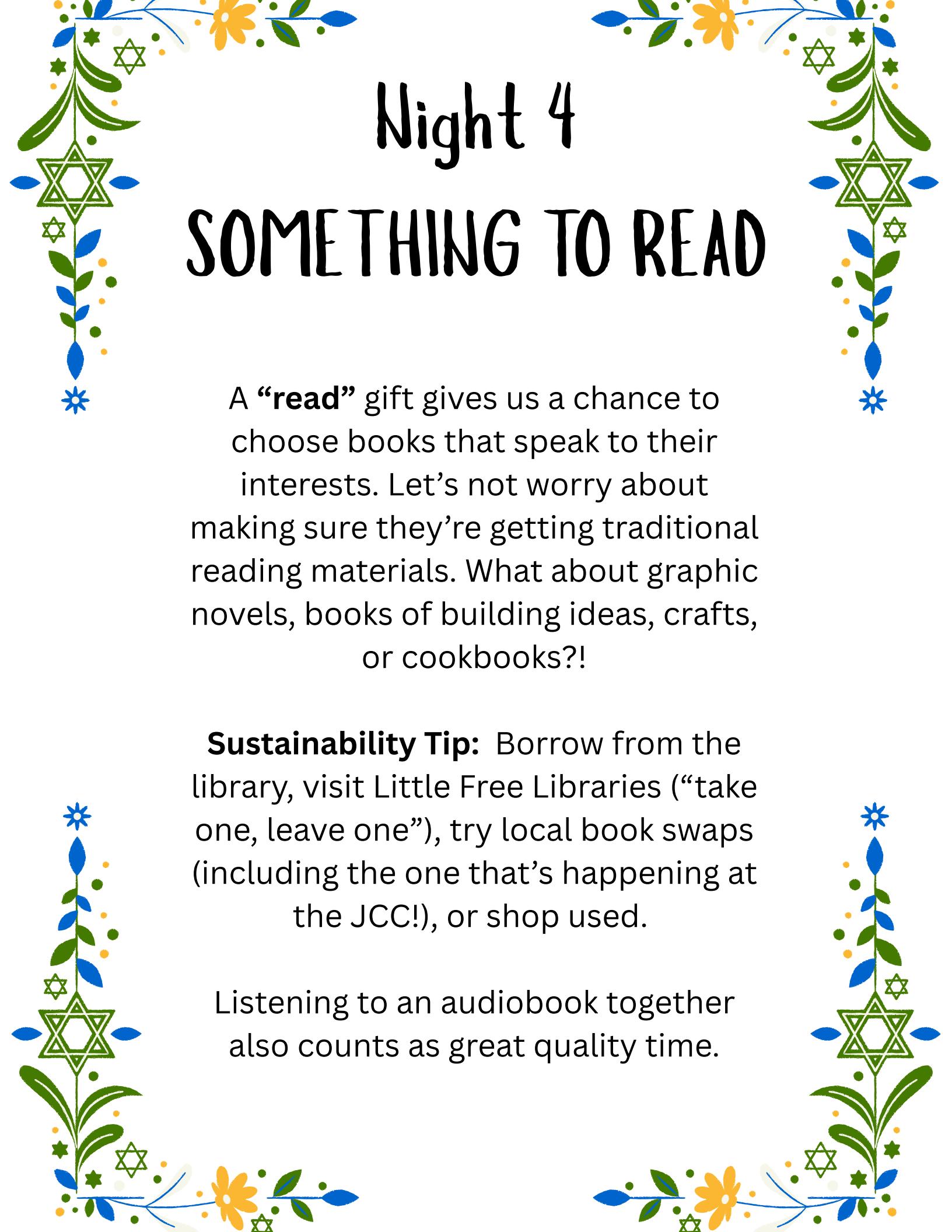
Would they appreciate a stepstool for the bathroom? Or a reusable water bottle?

Night 3

SOMETHING TO WEAR

A “**wear**” gift meets a daily need for our kids. It allows them to feel confident and safe in what they have on. And a way for us to tell them “we see you” and how you choose to express yourself.

Sustainability Tip: Thrift first. Ask friends or family with older kids about hand-me-downs, or make it special with a small repair or patchwork.



Night 4

SOMETHING TO READ

A “**read**” gift gives us a chance to choose books that speak to their interests. Let’s not worry about making sure they’re getting traditional reading materials. What about graphic novels, books of building ideas, crafts, or cookbooks?!

Sustainability Tip: Borrow from the library, visit Little Free Libraries (“take one, leave one”), try local book swaps (including the one that’s happening at the JCC!), or shop used.

Listening to an audiobook together also counts as great quality time.

Night 5

SOMETHING PRE-LOVED

A “**pre-loved**” gift teaches kids that new isn’t the same as better. It keeps great items in circulation and out of landfills. A used bike, a gently loved toy, or a puzzle collection can feel brand new to the child receiving it.

Sustainability Tip: Shop at your local thrift store!

When you find the perfect thing, make it “gift-ready” by cleaning it, replacing missing batteries/parts if needed, and wrapping it thoughtfully (and sustainably).



Night 6

SOMETHING TO DO

A “**to do**” gift gives kids something even better than more stuff... time, memories, and connection.

Oftentimes, gifts in the form of an activity or experience also end up supporting local businesses.

Sustainability Tip:

Think simple and local.

Ideas: bake something together, go on a nature scavenger hunt, paint rocks for the garden, attend a local show, or gift a pass/membership to a museum, zoo, or science center.

Night 7

SOMETHING TO GIVE

A “**give**” gift or “tzedakah” can help kids practice generosity and feel part of something bigger than themselves. This can be donating to a cause they care about, sponsoring an animal, or giving their time to help an organization. This gift is a great way to build empathy and values.

Sustainability Tip: Pass along outgrown coats, toys, or books for someone else that may want to gift it.

Volunteer and make it an annual tradition!

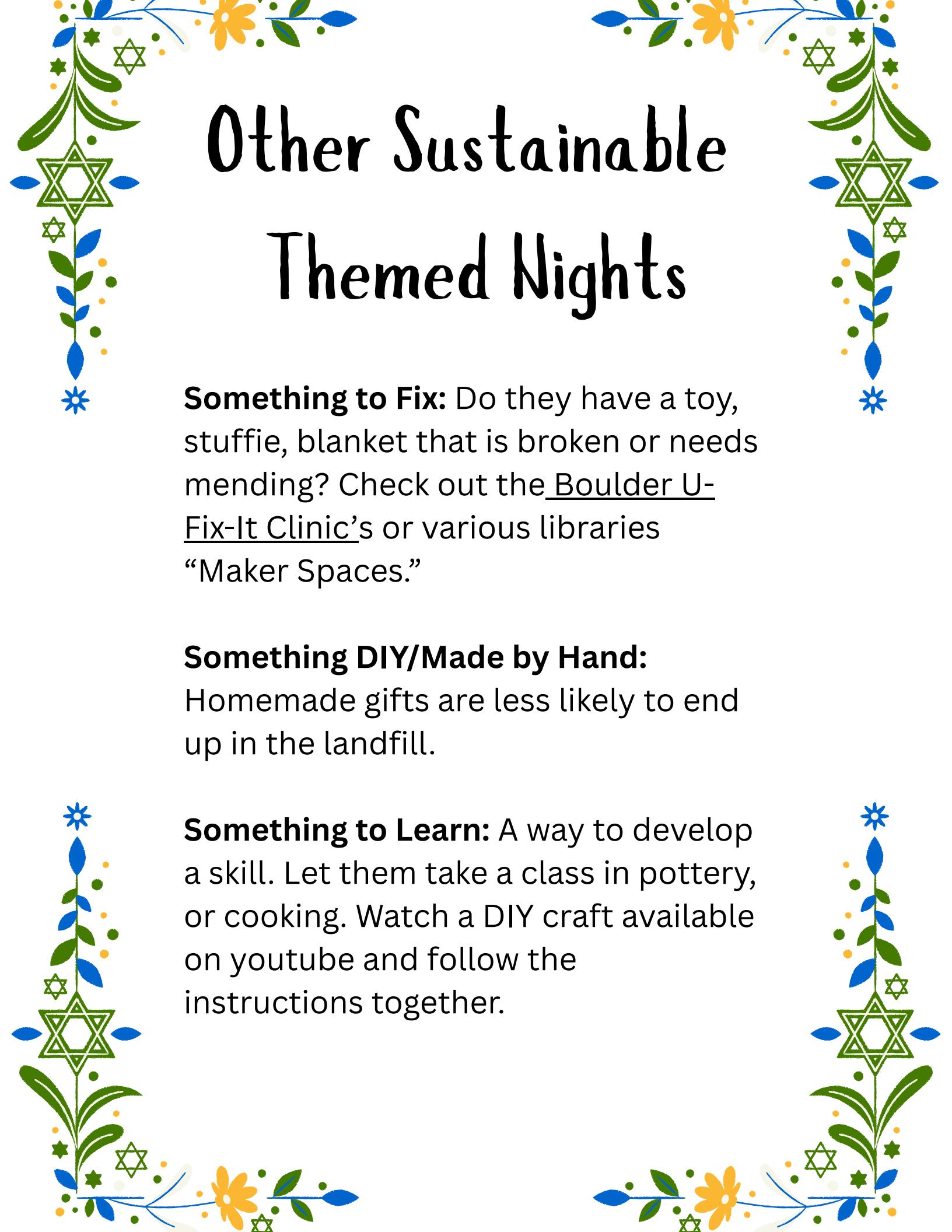


Night 8

SOMETHING TO CHEW

A “**chew**” gift is practical, fun, and low-waste because it gets enjoyed and used up instead of becoming clutter. Try homemade cookies, a hot cocoa bar, or locally made goodies.

Sustainability Tip: Shop local when you can, choose minimal or recyclable packaging, and consider refill shops or bulk bins. Reusable jars/tins make great container upgrades.



Other Sustainable Themed Nights

Something to Fix: Do they have a toy, stuffie, blanket that is broken or needs mending? Check out the Boulder U-Fix-It Clinic's or various libraries “Maker Spaces.”

Something DIY/Made by Hand: Homemade gifts are less likely to end up in the landfill.

Something to Learn: A way to develop a skill. Let them take a class in pottery, or cooking. Watch a DIY craft available on youtube and follow the instructions together.