FROM KING FEATURES WEEKLY SERVICE,

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NOW HERE'S A TIP

FOR RELEASE NOV.. 16, 2026

By JoAnn Derson



• Candles will burn more evenly if you refrigerate them for a few hours before lighting.

• "To make your drains fresh-smelling, shake a half-cup of baking soda into the drain. Then pour 2 cups of vinegar that you have warmed on the stove. It will froth and bubble. When it is done, run the hot water and give it a little scrub." — R.C. in Idaho

• Visit the dollar store for low-cost toys to use on car or airplane trips. You can get several busy toys and dole them out one at a time. Most parents will attest to what a lifesaver this can be.

• "When planning to visit my hometown for the holidays, I set aside a few hours to take the kids to the park or a nice playground. Then I message all my old friends and classmates with kids (Facebook is great for this) a few weeks ahead of time and let them know when I will be there. It's great to catch up while the kids play, and even if no one shows up, we still have a fun break." — F.L. in California

• Cookie sheets make great temporary mud and moisture trays for dirty shoes. Stash one at the entry to your home, and you will have less dirt tracked across your floors.

• "Keep knitting yarn in check with empty tissue boxes. Set your yarn ball inside the box and let the string lead out of the top. When not in use, tape the string to the side of the box. Boxes can be stacked and stored for future projects." — C.W. in Indiana

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembrook Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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