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homeroom

A Newsletter for the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
Parent Edition April 2019 Volume 1, Issue 42

Bug and Bird Themed Books

-  *National Geographic Little Kids Look and Learn: Bugs*
-  *From Caterpillar to Butterfly* by Deborah Heiligman
-  *Are You a Butterfly (Ladybug, Bee, Dragonfly, Ant, Grasshopper)?* by Judy Allen
-  *Waiting for Wings* by Lois Ehlert
-  *The Very Busy Spider, The Very Clumsy Click Beetle, the Very Quiet Cricket, The Very Lonely Firefly, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Grouchy Ladybug* by Eric Carle
-  *Hey, Little Ant* by Phillip M. Hoose and Hannah Hoose
-  *In the Tall, Tall Grass* by Denise Fleming
-  *About Birds: A Guide for Children* by Cathryn Sill
-  *Birdsong* by Audrey Wood
-  *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems
-  *How Do Birds Find their Way?* by Roma Gans
-  *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell
-  *Birdsongs* by Betsy Franco
-  *Mama Built a Little Nest* by Jennifer Ward

Father's Read in February Participants

Thank you to all the Father's who participated in our February read a thon.

Boston Mountain Coop

Quintan Harvey
Arkansas River Education

Service Cooperative-- Brinkley
Timothy Gabbard, Sasha Smith and Emmitt Swift

Ozark Unlimited Resources
Dam Willis

Dawson Cooperative-- Poyen
Dustin Morrison

Wilbur D. Mills Cooperative-Lonoke

Wesley Bynum, James Wise, Robert Nelson, Trey Hearn, Marc Reed and Cody Jones

Wilbur D. Mills Cooperative-Searcy

Jeffery Crouch, Brandon Coderre, Randy Stevens and Gary Workman

Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Ravi Challa, Willie Griffin, Jeremy Billiott, Scott Moffitt, Timmy Watt, Hemant Desai and Rush

Faulkner/White County HIPPY

David MFerron, Nathan Turner, Shane Cochran, Brad Jackson, Mickey McCall, Justin Burgess, Jake Churchwell, Kevin and Aidan Henry, Dustin Burdin, Blake Crites, Roy Boggs David Bayless, Aryn and Greg Herring, Montreal McCray, Samuel Nelson, Philip Andrews and Zacchaeus Delph-Bundy.






Growing through Gardening





With spring's arrival (finally), it is a great time to get outdoors with your children. Being in the fresh air is great for everyone's physical and mental states. Gardening offers fun and educational activities that you can do with your children.

Gardening, whether in small pots on a patio or out in a yard, helps children learn many valuable concepts and can have lifelong benefits for your entire family.

Benefits of Gardening:

-  **Scientific Knowledge:** Planting a seed and watching it grow is a memorable science lesson. It teaches children how seeds, soil, water, and sun need to work together to create a plant.
-  **Responsibility:** Making sure a plant has enough water and sunlight gives children something of their own to be responsible for and something they can be proud of when the plant starts to grow. They also learn that when they do not do their job, their will be negative consequences.
-  **Importance of Nature:** When children plant seeds they need clean soil and clean water to make it grow. This helps them appreciate nature and taking care of the earth so plants and

animals can grow from it.

-  **Hands-on Learning Experiences:** Children can learn about plant anatomy and the life cycle of plants. They can also do experiments with how much water they should use or keep track of how tall their plants are growing. Children can make predictions about their plants, and learn new vocabulary terms as they discuss the plants and the planting process.
-  **Healthy Eating:** When children grow their own food, they are more likely to try it. This is a great opportunity to talk about why eating healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables, is so important.
-  **Healthy Lifestyle:** When children are more active, such as when tending to a garden, they are less likely to be obese. When the whole family is involved in gardening, everyone is likely to be healthier.
-  **Improved Attention and Focus:** When children have a close connection to nature, it can be calming. Tending to a garden can increase a child's ability to focus on a specific task and build his/herself-esteem as the child reaps the benefits of focused attention as the plants grow.

(Source: education.com, myhealthschool.com)

See inside for some easy gardening activities.

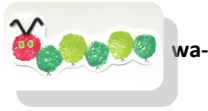
Spring Activities-Bugs and Birds

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Craft

(Math-shapes, patterning, Science-colors and color mixing, Literacy, Language, Creativity)

Materials:

- White paper
- Thick paints (not tercolors)- red, green, yellow
- Clean sponges
- Scissors
- Black pipe cleaners (optional)
- Black marker or crayon
- Googly eyes or scraps of construction paper
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book (optional)



Directions:

1. Cut circles out of your sponges to use for painting that are all about the same size.
2. Squeeze your paints onto a paper plate. Use red, green and mix the green and the yellow to make a yellow-green color.
3. Have your child dip the circle sponges into the paint and then stamp them onto his/her paper to create a caterpillar. (Talk about making a green/yellow-green pattern)
4. Use a black marker or crayon to draw the legs.
5. Cut off small pieces of black pipe cleaner and glue onto the red caterpillar head for antennae or draw them on with black marker/crayon.
6. Add some eyes to your caterpillar with construction paper scraps or googly eyes.

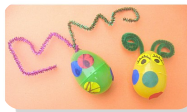
(Sources: buggyandbuddy.com)

Plastic Egg Shaker Bugs

(Fine and gross motor skills, Language, Science, Math, Creativity)

Materials:

- Plastic eggs with holes in the top (most have them)
- Pipe cleaners
- Plain circle stickers (label stickers)
- Markers/crayons
- Dried beans or rice
- Tape or strong glue



Directions:

1. Place a small amount of dried beans/rice into the egg. Then tape or glue the egg shut so the rice/beans do not fall out.
2. Have your child draw on the circle stickers with markers and then place two of the stickers on the egg for eyes.

3. You can add additional stickers for spots or other decorations.
4. Pick out a pipe cleaner or two and thread them through the hole at the top of the egg.
5. Let your child shake his/her bug shaker while dancing and singing. (See bug song below)

(Source: Notimeforflashcards.com)

The Insects Outside Song

(Language, Fine motor, Science)

(To the tune of: *The Wheels on the Bus*)

The fireflies at night go blink, blink, blink
Blink, blink, blink, blink, blink, blink
The fireflies at night go blink, blink, blink
Out in the garden.

The bees in the flowers go buzz, buzz, buzz
Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz
The bees in the flowers go buzz, buzz, buzz
Out in the garden.

Other verses:

Crickets in the fields go chirp...
Caterpillars on the leaves go munch...
Spiders in the bush spin their webs...
Worms in the ground wiggle and squirm...

(Source: Childcarelounge.com)

Bird and/or Bug Scavenger Hunt

(Science-observation, Senses, Language, Fine and gross motor skills)

Materials:

- Blank piece of paper
- Pencil or crayon
- Clipboard or piece of cardboard

Directions:

1. Help your child fold the blank piece of paper in half, then in half again, then in half again. Unfold the paper and you should have 8 boxes.
2. Attach the paper to a clipboard or to a sturdy piece of cardboard about the size of the paper (i.e. one side of a cereal box).
3. On a nice spring day, head outside with paper, clipboard, and pencil to try and find as many birds and/or bugs as you can.
4. When your child finds a bird/bug have him or her try and draw it in one of the boxes. Challenge your child to try and find enough birds or bugs to fill all of the squares.
5. Along the way, stop and talk about what you are noticing about where the birds or bugs are (i.e. under rocks, on branches, in trees, flying in the air, etc.), details about the creatures (i.e. color, size, shape, movement, sounds etc.) to encourage observa-



tion skills, scientific knowledge, and language development.

Extensions: Write the type of bird/bug beneath your child's drawing, if possible. Hang up your child's bird or bug chart when you get home.

****Remember:** Never touch or move a bird's nest or eggs.

Breakfast For the Birds Feeder

(Fine motor skills, Science, Language)

Materials:

- Stale bread or toast
- Cheerios, or any round shaped cereal
- Yarn or sturdy string
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil
- Optional: notebook or blank paper and a pencil



Directions:

1. With a pen or pencil, punch holes into your bread slices and, if not toasted, leave out until stale (overnight).
2. Using your yarn, string together the bread crusts and cereal and find a great place to hang your feeder so that your child can observe the birds that come to eat.

Extension:

- Keep a notebook/paper and pencil or marker near where your child watches the birds. Have your child draw pictures of the different birds that he/she sees coming to eat at the feeder.
- Check out a book on birds from the library or look up the different birds that come to your window on the internet to determine what kind they are and learn more about their habits.

(Source: Busybeekidscrafts.com)

The Owl-Action Poem

(Language, Literacy, Fine and gross motor skills, Science)



There's a wide eyed owl

(thumb and forefingers around eyes)

With a pointed nose (use fingers to make a "v" at end of nose)

Two pointed ears (fingers pointing up from head)

And claws for toes (fingers and arms bent in front of chest)

When he sits up in the tree (point to tree)

And he looks at you (point at child/adult)

He flaps his wings (fold arms and flap)

And he says "Hoo, hoo."

(Source: preschooleducation.com)