

Center for Early Childhood Education

Newsletter

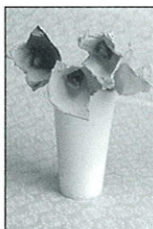
Our Mission: To help all children in Howard County to be successful when they enter school.

Issue 66, May 1, 2009

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Celebrate May Day with your child by making a May Basket to take to a friend or family member. When I was a child, we made cone-shaped containers to put flowers in from our yard and then we hung them on the door knob of a favorite neighbor. In case you don't have flowers in your yard, here is a way you can still celebrate May Day: Use a piece of construction paper, or several sheets of colorful pages from a newspaper or magazine to make the vase. Glue a handle on the vase and hang it on someone's door, or just hand it to someone you love and say, "Happy May Day!"

Cut the sections from an egg carton and let your child paint or color them bright colors. Put pipe cleaners, or thin sticks on the section for a stem.



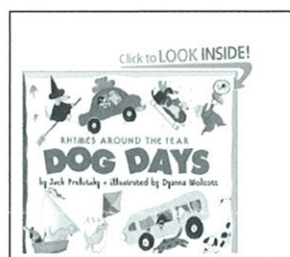
Also, as a child we had a May Pole Dance. You can help your child make a May Pole with a stick, or an insert from a paper towel roll, and ribbons or yarn or colored string. Let them put small dolls or animal toys at the end of each string to "dance" around the May Pole.

April Was National Poetry Month

Poetry helps young children hear things in a fresh way, just as the April showers brought new things for them to see such as flowers, buds on the trees, birds singing, insects crawling and hopping on the grass, and of course, grass growing. Take some time to read poetry to your child. As Carl Sandburg once said, "When you share a poem, you're helping to fill a backpack of invisible keepsakes."

Nursery Rhymes are great too. Remember this one?

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the
king's men, Couldn't put Humpty
Dumpty together again!



This poetry book helps your child learn about the 12 months of the year from a dog's point of view. Dog Days Rhymes Around the Year is written by Jack Prelutsky. It is appropriate for 3- to 6- year-old children, and parents, too!

Here Are Some Activities to Help Your Child With Language and Literacy.

Children gain meaning by listening. Read or say poetry to your child when driving, walking down the street, or even shopping. When 3 or 4 years old, have your child draw a picture from the book or poem on paper with crayons. Ask your child to describe a favorite scene from the book and then draw it on paper. When you are reading a book, make sounds from what is happening such as water splashing, a motorcycle 'vroom,' a door squeaking. Have your child make the sounds, too. Tell them the word that is name of the sound they just made, i.e. squeaking. Have your child look at the word in the book and pick out any letters in the word that he/she knows.

Little Learners Child Care

Did you know that the Little Learners Child Care program on the IU Kokomo campus is open the public? The program serves toddlers (ages 1-2) and preschool children (ages 3-6). Call (765) 455-9306 or e-mail childcare@iuk.edu for more information.



Citywide Kindergarten Roundup

If you have a child that will begin kindergarten in August, or you know of someone who has a child who will, please tell them about this most important roundup. The date is Thursday, May 7, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Sycamore School. All the K teachers in the Kokomo school system will be there, as well as principals, school nurses, and secretaries, who can help you with completing forms and know which school your child will attend. In addition, there will be people from the community who can help you with immunizations, dental checkups, and physical checkups.

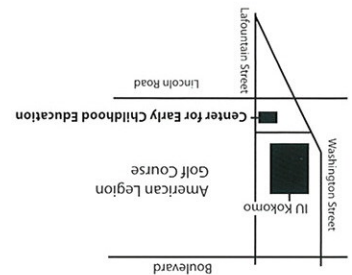
If you need further information, you can call the school near where you live or the Administration Building, 455-8000. You will also be receiving materials for your child to use during the summer to help him/her be ready to be successful when starting kindergarten.



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