



NEWS FROM THE

Early Childhood Resource Center

at the Springfield City Library

Sponsored by the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care

<http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/ecrc/ecrcmain.html>

Spring 2010



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

FOR KIDS:

Regular Preschool Storytimes resume on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 10:30 and run through May 18, 2010. Registration is required. Call 263.6828 x 201.

Coming in June: Go Green @ Your Library Summer Reading Club

An independent reading incentive program for all ages...read great books, participate in fun activities...happening at libraries throughout the Commonwealth! Stay tuned!



FOR PROFESSIONALS:

Art Attack! Want to do art with your kids but not sure how to start? Come learn how to turn recyclables or "extras" into art while stretching your kids' imaginations and honing their problem solving skills at the same time. Participants will make their own project. April 14 from 6-8 p.m. in the Central Library Community Room. Registration opens April 1. Call 263.6828 x 201 or register online at www.springfieldlibrary.org/ecrc

Save the Date! An Early Literacy Conference is planned for Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at American International College in Springfield. This is not an ECRC sponsored event, but as soon as the details are available they will be posted on the ECRC website at <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/ecrc/ecrcmain.html>.

New ECRC Resources

Counting Mats: Fish

This kit contains ten two-sided fish bowl mats. On one side, children read the number at the top of the bowl and put the correct number of foam fish in the bowl. On the other side, children can trace and practice writing the number with the write and wipe crayons. Activity guide is included. Ages 3+

Measurement Center: How Much Does it Weigh?

This measurement kit includes a balance scale, 24 activity cards, a wooden cardholder, plastic weights, plastic buttons, wooden cubes, and an aluminum cube. Ages 4+

Nutrition Take-Home Pack

These packs are intended for use by a child and her family to reinforce classroom concepts. The Nutrition pack includes the revised edition of *The Edible Pyramid*, a parent letter and activity guide, wipe-off crayons, and 6 plastic manipulatives: a bagel, butter, watermelon, meat, cheese, and peas. Ages 3+

Rhyming Words Picture Puzzles

These twenty, two-piece wooden puzzles feature rhymes such as whale/scale, cat/bat, bell/shell, and fly/cry. Each piece contains an image and a word. The puzzles are cut in such a way as to be self-correcting. Comes in a wooden storage box. Ages 3+

HIGHLIGHTED BOOKS:

The Bullying Problem: How to Deal With Difficult Children, by Alan Train

This book discusses the root causes of bullying as well as how to manage the bully and how to manage the victim. Not specifically for preschool, this book offers a view of bullying that everyone can learn from.

Math in Minutes: Easy Activities for Children Ages 4-8, by Sharon MacDonald

Sharon MacDonald hated to sit still and hated math, which is why she wrote this book.

Includes activities to teach number sense, estimation, measurement, money, geometry, sorting, classifying, and more!

Sensory Integration: A Guide for Preschool Teachers, by Christy and Rebecca Isbell

Do you know a child who hates to touch sand or playdough? Who jumps off the furniture or rolls around on the floor? This book discusses difficulties children might have with sensory integration and offers suggestions for instruction.

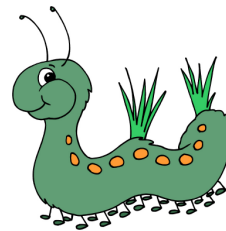
Storytime Magic: 400 Fingerplays, Flannelboards and Other Activities, by Kathy MacMillan & Christine Kirker

Chapters include topics such as: All About Me, Natural World, Transportation, All Around the World, Concepts, and more!

CAMOUFLAGE!

Here are two activities from the Council for Environmental Education:

Color Camouflage: Give children paint sample cards (collected from hardware stores) and head outside. Challenge children to match their paint samples to colors in the natural environment. Don't be afraid to choose bright primary colors! We did this activity at a workshop and even in the dead of winter we found matches for every chip.



Camouflage Caterpillars: Use sugar snap peas as "caterpillars." Put out some spring salad greens and discuss which leaves would be the best camouflage for the caterpillars and why.

Research Notes - Did you know?...

... that during an average reading situation, preschoolers notice the print less than 5% of the time? A study published in Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools last January found that teachers could successfully use targeted "print referencing" techniques to help children who do not have lots of home experiences with print be better prepared to learn to read. The study doesn't outline the whole program, but the appendix includes some sample teacher/child interactions and the list of books that the study participants used for each technique.

To review the study, go to <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/> and click on Databases, Educator's Reference Complete, choose Library or Remote Access (if you are using remote access, type in your library card number), Proceed, and type "accelerating early literacy development" into the search box. Accessed 12/8/09

<p>Central Library, 220 State Street, Springfield This newsletter is also available online at http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/. If you would like to be removed from this list, call 263.6828 x 201 or email me at clarocque@springfieldlibrary.org. www.springfieldlibrary.org</p>	<p>Central Library Hours: Monday 12-8 Tuesday 9-5 Wednesday 12-8 Thursday 9-5 Friday Closed Saturday 9-5 Sunday 12-5 (after Labor Day) Springfield City Library – A Place for You</p>
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