

Families for Literacy Program Newsletter

May, 2018

Tutors: please go over this newsletter (whatever is appropriate) with your adult student and encourage him/her to visit the Story Times with their children, it's a lot of fun!



Middletown Library, 21256 Washington Street, Middletown, Tuesdays, 11:30 am

Redbud Library, 14785 Burns Valley Rd. Clearlake, Thursday, 11:00 am

Upper Lake Library, 310 2nd St, Upper Lake, every 1. Thursday of the month, 2 pm

Lakeport Library, 1425 N. High St. Lakeport, Fridays, 10:15 am and 2:30 pm

Have you ever heard about **Nature Deficit Disorder**? Although not recognized as a medical condition (yet?) there is evidence that children are spending less time outdoors, resulting in a wide range of behavioral problems. With busy schedules and tempting electronics inside the home, it is often difficult to give your children the time outdoors you enjoyed as a child. Try these

Awesome, fun, affordable and creative outdoor activities:



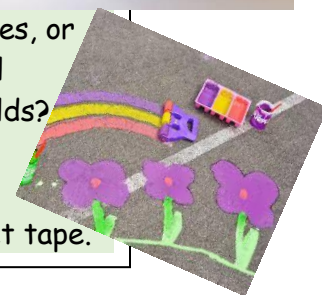
◆ **Sandbox.** If you do not have a traditional sandbox buy a bag or two of play sand and fill a large flat storage container. The kids can dig and play - and you can put the lid on it when they are done. The lid converts it easily into a perfect table to play on. (Idea and picture: forwhatitsworthjeannie.com)

◆ **Enjoy the Simple Pleasures!** Remember how to skip a stone, make a daisy chain, or blow a grass whistle? Sometimes the simplest outdoor activities leave the most lasting memories. Climb a tree, play tag, watch a butterfly or look for faces, monsters and animals in the clouds!

◆ **Sidewalk Chalk.** Kids love to color with sidewalk chalk. Sidewalk chalk is easy to make, and by doing it at home, you can save money, create your own designs and colors, and have fun with the whole family.

What you need:

- Plaster of Paris (non-toxic, but very fine powder, do not let young kids handle it)
- Tempera Paint (Tempera paint is egg-based and non-toxic)
- Old bowls or plastic containers for mixing
- Cold water.
- Molds - have fun choosing! You could make small chalks with ice cube trays, round Yogurt container chalks, or big fat toilet roll chalks. Or use thinner paper-towel tubes, or tubes found inside aluminum foil, plastic wrap, wrapping paper etc. - better for small hands. Cut these longer rolls in 5 inch segments. How about Popsicle or Play-doh molds? Shaped silicone baking trays? Maybe even plastic egg cartons?
- To fill the molds: old spoon, and plastic sandwich bag (optional)
- *Possibly:* petroleum jelly. *For toilet roll molds:* Wax paper or plastic wrap, and Duct tape.



What you do:

● **Prepare your molds.** Disposable molds like yogurt containers will not need any preparation. Coat other molds (such as your baking trays or ice cube trays) with petroleum jelly so the chalk will slip out easily when dry. If you are using cardboard tubes line the inside with wax paper to make them waterproof (waxed part facing up) and tape the bottom shut with Duct tape so nothing leaks out.



This is the recipe proportions for one 5-inch tube:

- Mix 2-3 tablespoons of tempera paint with 1/2 cup of water. Slowly stir in 3/4 cup of plaster of Paris. Go for the consistency of cake batter. Spoon the mixture into a sandwich baggy and snip the end.



Squeeze the contents into the mold. I used a masking tape ring to support the tubes →



- Allow to dry for at least 12 hours before peeling the cardboard off.

- Once dry you can use your homemade chalks for sidewalk drawing.



Tracing is so much fun: Have a kid lay down, trace her body and let her color it in with clothes or wacky patterns. She can turn the tracing into pirates, fairies, lions, or heroes with super powers. Try laying in different positions or draw a scene around, maybe a ballerina spinning on stage, or Tarzan swinging through the jungle. Or make up chalk games such as hopscotch or tic tac toe.

Tip : Plaster of Paris reacts with water and heats up to pretty hot temperatures that could burn you. Do NOT allow your children to poke their fingers in the chalk mixture when mixing or pouring! It is non-toxic so the finished chalks are safe for the children to handle.

Tip: Don't pour any leftover mixture down the drain - it will harden and block it. Discard leftovers in an old container or use it to make a handprint of your child.



"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."- unknown Author

May 13th is Mother's Day!



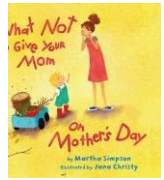
Mother my Darling Sung to: "Rock-a-bye Baby"
 Mother my darling, Mother my dear.
 I love you, I love you
 Each day of the year.
 You are so sweet,
 And you are so kind.
 And I am so glad that you are mine!

I Love Mommy (Fingerplay)
 I love Mommy, I love Mommy,
 Yes, I do, yes, I do.
 Mommies are for hugging, **(Hug self)**
 Mommies are for kissing, **(Blow a kiss)**
 I love you, yes I do. **(Point to mother)**

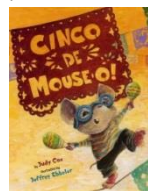


What not to give your mom on Mother's Day, by Martha Simpson
 A little boy offers advice on what NOT to give your mom on Mother's Day, unless she's an animal.

I love you more each day, by Suzanne Chiew
 'Each day is bright and beautiful, each day holds something new, and every day is magical when it is shared with you': Join Mommy Bear and Little Bear as they search for the most precious thing in the world.



Cinco de Mouse-O! by Judy Cox
 Mouse enjoys the sights and smells of Cinco de Mayo despite being trailed by a determined cat.



These and many more books are available at your local library!

Summer Reading Program - For Everyone!
 Programs for babies, toddlers, children, teens, and adults. Even if your child is too young to read you can sign up and read with and to them!
 Summer reading starts on **Saturday, May 19th**. At that time (or any time thereafter) you can sign up at any branch of the Lake County Library.
For more questions please call or visit your library.

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