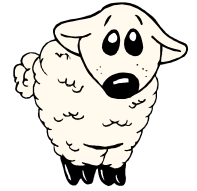




Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness

Mission: Every child in Pottstown will enter Kindergarten ready to learn and achieve



PEAK Classroom Connections

PEAK Classroom Connections: Creating a professional learning community for the early learning teachers in Pottstown to share ideas, improve instructional practices and implement researched-based best practices in the delivery of quality early learning experiences



PEAK Updates

Week of the Young Child

April 13-19 is the week of the young child. This event, created by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), began in 1971 in order to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. As well as to recognize the Early Childhood programs and services.

The theme of 2008's Week of the Young Child is "Bring Communities Together For Children- Children Bring Communities Together".

Pottstown will be celebrating Month of the Young Child throughout April with activities planned at many sites, including, guest readers, open houses, and a huge family event open to the public. Please look for more information coming soon and encourage your families to attend the events.

MARCH, 2008

DROP PEAK A LINE

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Upcoming Events

- 3/13/08 Family Center, Family Fest @ 5PM
- 3/28/08 "Power of Documentation" exhibit- Gratz College
- 4/12/08 DVAEYC Conference field trip
- 4/12/08 Early Childhood Educator's Night out at the Phillis
- 4/13/08 Month Of the Young Child event at YMCA

NURSERY RHYMES

Many of our children aren't exposed to nursery rhymes the same way you may have been when you were a child. They are an important part of literacy education as well as the literacy heritage we all share. Many of the Nursery Rhymes we hear today were around over 100 years ago. Rhymes are a time honored way to develop phonological awareness, oral language, print connections, and many other reading skills.

Rhyme of The Week - Select a rhyme each week, (it could go with your theme or just be chosen for their applicability in teaching a skill) and write it on a poster or language experience chart. Reread the rhyme each day.

As the children are ready to take the rhyme further you can use it in some of the following ways:

- Clap the syllables.
- Put dots under each word to help children connect the spoken word and printed word.
- Find words that rhyme.
- Listen for words that start the same.
- Identify letters and words they know.

Remember to be very intentional about your lesson planning and using your observations to determine what level the children are at, and what kind of challenge they need next.

Vocabulary Extend vocabulary by asking children what unusual words (ex: tuffet, curds, contrary) in rhymes might mean. Model how to look words up in a dictionary to find definitions.

For more information about nursery rhymes, visit these fine websites:

www.drjean.org

www.readwritethink.org

<http://rhymes.org.uk>- this website tells the history of each nursery rhyme

ALL TIME FAVORITES

Humpty Dumpty

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
Together again.

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory, dickory, dock.
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down.
Hickory, dickory, dock.

Little Boy Blue

Little boy blue,
Come blow your horn.
The sheep's in the meadow,
The cow's in the corn.
Where is the boy

Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider
And sat down beside her.
And frightened
Miss Muffet away!

Jack Be Nimble

Jack be nimble.
Jack be quick.
Jack jump over
The candlestick.
Jump it lively.
Jump it quick.
But don't knock over
The candlestick!

Hey, Diddle, Diddle

Hey, diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed.
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away
With the spoon.

Muffin Man

Do you know the muffin man,
The muffin man, the muffin man?
Do you know the muffin man
Who lives in Drury Lane?
Yes, we know the muffin man,
The muffin man, the muffin man.
Yes, we know the muffin man
Who lives in Drury Lane.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



There are many learning opportunities that can be combined with St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget, if you are going to introduce this day in your classroom- make it meaningful and connect the learning to the childrens' life. Make sure to give them some context knowledge for why you are doing the things you are doing.

Shamrock Stories:

Materials: Green paper shamrocks

Discuss with children what being lucky is and feels like.

Have children draw a picture on the shamrock of why they are lucky or have children dictate a story, " I am lucky because..." while an adult writes the story down".

Shamrock Music:

Incorporate Irish music into your class during this week. Have children dance to the music and do a "jig".



Related Books:

Lucky Leprechaun by Dawn Bentley

The Luckiest St. Patrick's Day Ever by Teddy Slater

Irish Potatoes Recipe

Ingredients:

7 ounces shredded sweet coconut

1 pound confectioner's sugar

8 ounces cream cheese

4 tsp vanilla

cinnamon

Mix everything together except the cinnamon.

Form into small, irregular shaped balls.

Roll in cinnamon

Tasting of the Green

Have each child's parent to send in a green food to share with the class. Ask for things like green apples, green jell-o, kiwi, pickles, green grapes, celery, green beans, green kool-aid, etc. Have children do a sampling of the green foods. You can chart whether they enjoyed them or not, list their favorites, create a class book of green foods , be creative and have fun!

RAINBOW

This song would lend itself well to a flannel board.

Rainbow Song

Tune: Hush, Little Baby

Rainbow purple, rainbow, blue
Rainbow green and yellow too,
Rainbow orange, rainbow red,
Rainbow shining overhead.

How many colors can you see?
One, two, three, up to green,
Four, five, six colors can be seen.

Rainbow purple, rainbow blue,
Rainbow green and yellow too,
Rainbow orange, rainbow red,
Rainbow shining overhead.

Erupting Colors

Materials:

Clear bowl or baking pan, milk, food coloring, liquid dishwashing soap

Pour milk into a cake pan to cover the bottom, usually about 1" deep. Sprinkle several drops of food coloring on the milk. Now add a few drops of dishwashing detergent in the centers of the largest drops of color. Watch the erupting, boiling colors!

(If the colors stop erupting after awhile, begin again from clean milk and colors

Rainbow Stories:

A Rainbow of My Own

by Don Freeman

he Rainbow and You

by Edwin and Robin Krupp

What Makes a Rainbow

by Betty Ann Schwartz

Rainbow Rob

by Roger Priddy



Mr. Mike's Library Corner

PEAK
Teacher Newsletter

April is Family Reading Month at the Pottstown Public Library

Ice Cream for Books!

Read at least 10 books with a family member or friend throughout the month of April to earn a Friendly's Kids Meal.

Registration begins
April 1, 2008

Family Storytime Workshop

Saturday April 19 10:30AM-11:30AM

If you've got kids age 3-6 at home register for this fun informative workshop to expand and develop ideas for enhancing shared book experiences at home. Each family will receive a copy of this year's One Book, Every Young Child's selected title Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres and a host of great ideas to use with the book.



Parent/Child Workshop - A core component of the Family Place Libraries initiative at the Pottstown Public Library

A 5 week series for parents and caregivers and their young children age birth to three, held in the community room in the children's department of the Pottstown Public Library. Each week has a different focus including nutrition, child development, speech, hearing, and language development, general health, and more. There will be a special guest at each session to be a resource for parents and caregivers. These guests will be local professionals who specialize in children and child development.

We invite you to come play with your child in a safe and social setting with the added bonus of a resource professional there for you to discuss pressing topics or simple curiosities.

Registration is required. Space is limited.

Sessions are held on Wednesdays from 10:00AM to 11:15AM.

Our next series will begin May 7 and continue through June 4.

Storytime Schedule

Open Stories

Mondays at 10:30

March 17, 24

April 7,14,21,28

Infant/Toddler Stories

Thursdays at
10:30 and 11:15

April 10,17,24 May
1,8,15,22

Spanish Storytime

Saturdays at
11:45AM

March 8,15,22

For more information about any of these programs please call or stop by the Children's Department (610)970-6551.

One Book, Every Young Child

This program was developed for Pennsylvania to highlight the importance of early literacy in Preschool children. The program goes beyond the importance of not only reading stories to children, but highlighting the significance of engaging children in stories- by asking questions, discussing the illustrations and engaging in play that is supported by the story. The 2008 selection is Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres.

Throughout the state Early Childhood Educators, Libraries and schools will be reading this book to children and sharing it with families. There will be numerous events and activities across Pennsylvania. In Pottstown we will be doing a number of activities to support this state wide initiative.

Throughout April look for such events to take place in Pottstown such as: local dignitary readings of the book at Early Childhood Centers, Library events for families, and book giveaways. In addition, teachers in the PEAK program will be receiving lesson plans to use with the story and families will be getting information about activities to engage children at home.

Visit the website : www.onebookpa.org for more information!

