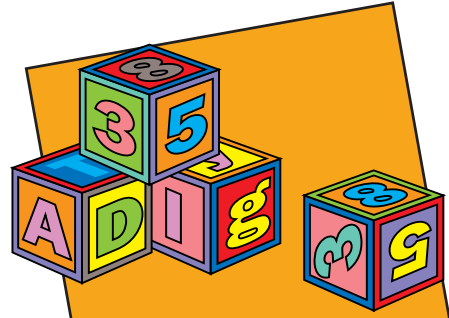


PRESCHOOL PRESS



A Publication of the Anchorage School District STeP Center
and the Early Childhood and Elementary Special Education Department

April 2004; Volume 2, Issue 8

WALK INTO SPRING WITH YOUR CHILD!



Spring has begun to show it's beauty. Take advantage of the natural curiosity and wonder of your children this month, encouraging them to use all their senses as they discover mysteries in the natural world. Your child can use all 5 senses to taste, touch, see, smell, and hear the sounds of spring in Alaska. Do you remember the classic nursery rhyme: "

Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells and pretty maids all in a row."

Do you know you can grow an easy indoor garden by using the top 1" of a carrot and putting it in a shallow dish and add water! You and your child can check the carrot every day to see that the stump is wet. Soon your carrot stump will have lovely lacy leaves-a pretty plant that is easy to grow.

ABOUT THE PRESCHOOL PRESS

This publication is designed for preschool families in the Anchorage School District - it is delivered via email on the third Thursday of the month - to order, email fraczek_eudora@asdk12.org or call 742-3872.

IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue of the Preschool Press, you will find articles for parents and preschool children on the following topics:

Walk into Spring with Your Child!
Spring Fine Motor Activities
Basic Concepts Taught Through Gardening
A May Alphabet for Preschoolers
Learn More About ASD Preschool Services
Important Numbers to Remember

SPRING FINE MOTOR ACTIVITIES

Springtime is here and what a perfect time to spend some time with your child. Here are some fun ideas/tips for indoor gardening. These ideas are just some fun ways for you to spend with your child. They are also great fine motor activities.

Grass heads-Clean and dry half of an eggshell. Carefully draw a face on it. Place some soil in the shell and put grass seeds in soil. Watch as your grass heads grow hair. As they grow you or your child can “trim their hair”.



Carrots-Carefully cut the top off a plastic pop or water bottle. Fill with soil and place carrots seeds inside. This is a fun activity that can last all summer. Your child can see inside how big the carrot is getting. (Your carrot will only grow as large as the bottle you use.)

Remember to keep soil out of your child’s reach and to have them wash their hands when they are finished planting.

BASIC CONCEPTS TAUGHT THROUGH GARDENING

The transition from Winter to Spring in Anchorage can be a long one as we are all experiencing this year. The change in seasons provides a wonderful opportunity to try out some indoor gardening. Simple plants that are easy to grow provide the most enjoyment for young children who have little experience with the concept of time and waiting.

You can provide your child with a clear plastic cup and some dirt. The child can fill the cup part way by spooning in some dirt and planting a few quick sprouting seed such as grass, beans, or even bird seed. Water lightly and check daily. The child could draw a picture each day of the changes they see. If they are unable to draw, you can discuss the changes and draw for them. If you position the seeds near the side of the cup, you should be able to observe development of the root system and the stem. There are many science concepts: roots/stem/bud/seeds; wet/dry; how many?; colors, size, shape; yesterday, today, tomorrow, day and night, etc. You will have so many things to talk about with your child! In addition, you will be sharing an appreciation and fascination with our natural world.

A MAY ALPHABET FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Here is a "May Alphabet" to enjoy and share each day and each letter of the month with your child. You can do the things, find pictures to go with the comments, or take time to find things that each letter talks about. Enjoy our Alaskan spring as color returns to your yards and trees!

A-April is over

B-Blowing bubbles

C-Catching butterflies

D-Dancing around the Maypole

E-Eating ice cream on warm afternoons

F-Field trips and class excursions

G-Getting ready for summer

H-Happy May Day

I-Insects

J-Jugs of lemonade for old-fashioned picnics

K-Kisses and hugs for Mom on Mother's Day

L-Learning about transportation

M-May baskets to fill with flowers

N-Noticing new flowers every day

O-Outside fun, and learning, too!

P-Picnics and parades

Q-Queen of the Maypole

R-Riding trikes and bikes after school

S-Summer's almost here!

T-Time to "watch a tree"

U-Understanding the miracle of living things

V-Vacation is on the way

W-Wrapping up a wonderful year

X-X-tra special time of year!

Y-Yet another year is almost over

Z-Zoo animals to "get to know"



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ASD PRESCHOOL SERVICES

The Anchorage School District Special Education Department is actively looking for children between the ages of 3 and 5 who may be in need of special education services. Each year our department uses its "Child Find Program" to locate these children. Here are answers to some common questions we receive from parents and community members about special education services for students who have yet to enroll in Kindergarten.

Take a peek at the ASD website, <http://www.asdk12.org/depts/sped/preschool/>, for answers to these common questions and more!

- * What are special education services and which children are entitled to receive them?
- * How do I know if my child needs special education services?
- * How does the Anchorage School District locate children who may need special education services?
- * What about children who have not yet turned three years of age?
- * What kinds of preschool programs are available to students who qualify for preschool special education?
- * How do I know if my child is ready to start Kindergarten?
- * Where can I get more information about special education services and the special education process?
- * Who do I contact when I have questions?



TREASURE CHEST OF IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Child Check 337-9505
Southcentral Hotline 563-3200
Denali Kidcare 269-6529
WIC 343-4668
Poison Control 800-222-1222
Childcare Connection 278-2273

