

APRIL 2021

Family Newsletter



Finding Spring

by Carlin Berger

I Can Save the Earth!

by Alison Inches

The Earth Book

by Todd Parr

Recycle Every Day!

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Big Earth, Little Me

by Thom Wiley

One Tree

by Green Start

Earth Day and I

by Frank Asch

The Curious Garden

by Peter Brown

Compost Stew by

Mary McKenna Siddals

Michael Recycle

by Ellie Bethel

Celebrate Earth Day

by Any Hayes

APRIL SHOWERS BRING...

Each April we celebrate our youngest learners during the *Week of the Young Child*. Week of the Young child was established in 1971 to draw attention to the fact that the early childhood years create the foundation for a child's success later in life. In the center the week of April 12-16 we will have activities in each classroom aligned with a theme -

- o Music Monday
- o Tasty Tuesday
- o Work Together Wednesday
- o Artsy Thursday
- o Family Friday

April also brings two important days that draw our focus to caring for the planet, **Earth Day** (April 22) and **Arbor Day** (April 30). If you are looking for some Earth friendly activities to do at home with your child, our April book list (*left*) has an Earth Day focus this month and page 2 is full of Earth Day-themed activities for all ages!



Fun Fact

Did you know that the oldest living tree known to exist is over 5,000 year old! It is an ancient bristlecone pine.

Happy Earth Day!

Happy Arbor Day!



INFANTS AND TODDLERS



EARTH SENSORY BOTTLE

For Infants:

Using a recycled water bottle, fill it with nature items or items that are blue and green to represent the Earth. If you are going for a nature bottle consider filling the bottle with pinecones, sticks, small rocks, etc. or if you are going for an Earth bottle you can fill it with glitter, pompoms, colored water, etc. Once you are happy with the contents of the bottle, place hot glue around the top and seal. Let your child explore the bottle by moving it, shaking it, flipping it upside down!

ROCK EARTH PAINTING

For Toddlers:

Go on a walk with your child and look for small rocks that you think will be able to roll. Once you have a handful of good options place them in a bin or container with high sides. Cut out a circle from a piece of paper and place it in the container. Next, let your child add a few drops of blue and green paint. Finally, let your child move the container so the rocks get covered in paint and cover the paper, making it look like an Earth.

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K



RECYCLED PLANTER

This activity combines recycling and planting to help make our Earth a better place. Here are the materials that you will need to create the planter:

- Plastic water bottle
- Seeds
- Soil
- Chopstick or something similar to help push down seeds



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill the water bottle with soil.
2. Add a couple seeds into the water bottle, one at a time. Use the chopstick to help push the seeds into the soil.
3. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water into the bottle to dampen the ground and screw the cap on. Every few days, add a little bit of water to keep the soil moist.
4. Follow the instructions on the seed packet to know how much sunlight the plant/flowers need in order to grow.
5. For instructions to create a sling to hang your planter go to <http://bit.ly/EarthDayPlanter>. Additional optional materials for hanging your planter: String and four connected rings such as those from packs of Gatorade or Soda.

Curriculum Corner

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Developmental milestones are a great way to see if your child is meeting goals for their development. Milestones cover a variety of topics ranging from physical, cognitive, social emotional, and communication depending on the child's age. Although each child develops at their own pace the developmental milestones give a general timeframe for what your child should be accomplishing at each age.

SCHOOL AGE



COOKING DIRT CUPS

Who doesn't love combining chocolaty goodness with creepy crawly worms (gummy worms, of course)?! This fun recipe is kid-friendly to make and is one the whole family can enjoy!

Ingredients:

- Pudding mix
- Milk
- Cool Whip
- Oreos (crushed)
- Gummy worms



Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the pudding mix with milk (see back of box for amount of milk to add). Whisk together and let sit for 5 minutes to thicken.
2. Gently fold the whipped topping into the pudding mixture. Doing this gently will ensure the topping stays airy and fluffy.
3. Spoon the pudding into cups. Top each one with the crushed Oreos and then stick gummy worms in each.
4. Cover and chill the pudding cups until you're ready to serve!