



Mary's Monthly Memo

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A Special Thanks to Ms. Nikki's VPK Class at Happy Hearts East for the use of these painted pictures. This is an excellent example of open-ended art in the classroom. The direction to the children was to paint a spring picture. These kids get to paint daily!

This beautiful piece of work is from Heather Register a teacher at Lake City Kiddie Club. She attended my "Count on Math" workshop and this was her homework. It's a "Barefoot Bingo Math Game". Heather went above and beyond on this assignment. Way to go Heather!

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-Quote for the Month-

Reinforce what you want to see repeated. What gets rewarded gets done.

By: Brian Tracy



Technical Assistance

Over the past few months, I have been working with each of you (director's) with several different tools designed to help you in each of your classrooms and to improve the quality you already provide at your site. April will be a continuum of the past few months. I will also use a new tool called the *School Readiness Curriculum Evaluation*, which you received a copy of in my March newsletter.

I hope you are enjoying this time of year and taking the children outside often. Spring is such a beautiful time of year with all the trees and flowers blooming. This is nature at its finest.

Social and Emotional Development

There are three primary components of social-emotional development in young children, *Trust and Emotional Security*, *Self-Regulation*, and *Self-Concept*. Emotional security is expressed and trust and emotional security during the infant and toddler years.

Trust and emotional security include how children feel about themselves as well as how safe they feel in their environment and relationships with others. The confidence a child develops through positive relationships with parents, caregivers, and teachers provides a foundation for the development of pro-social behaviors during the preschool years.

Self-regulation is the second component and involves the ability to manage one's own needs and emotions. Over time, young children move from reliance on others to competence.

Self-concept is from warm and responsive reciprocal relationships, young children develop a sense of themselves as increasingly competent and confident. With support from their parents, caregivers, and teachers and safe and challenging environments, the perceptions of young children about their competencies become more accurate and satisfying.

~Birth to Three Years Standard~

Crafts with Children

A Herd of Eggimals

After they've given up all their Easter candy, give your plastic eggs an adorable second life as an owl, skunk, dog, cat, pig, or mouse.

Materials

- Plastic Easter eggs
- Tiny pom-poms
- Felt
- Crafter's Pick The Ultimate glue or hot glue
- Black permanent marker



Instructions

1. To make the felt features for your critters, use hot glue to attach the pieces to the eggs and a black permanent marker to draw the face details.
2. **Pig:** Curl a 4-inch piece of pipe cleaner around a pen to make the tail, then glue it in place.
3. **Mouse:** For its tail, glue on a 3-inch length of yarn, knotted at the end.
4. **Skunk:** First glue the rear half of the stripe to the tail, then glue the tail and front of the stripe to the body.

ATTENTION

The CPR and First Aid class for May is full! There are two CPR classes scheduled for June 11, 2011. Hurry and register, classes fill-up fast!

Literacy Corner

- *The Best Easter Eggs Ever* by Jerry Smath
- *Little Quack Loves Colors* by Lauren Thompson
- *My Precious Little Bear* by Claire Freedman
- *The Big Bad Mood* by M. Christina Butler
- *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton
- *Little White Rabbit* by Kevin Henkes
- *We're Going on a Book Hunt* by Pat Miller



VPK News

VPK Corner

By: Melissa Brady, VPK Coordinator

We are approaching the end of the 2010-2011 VPK Fall Program year very quickly. Now is the time to make sure your children understand and are able to use, effectively, the new skills you have been teaching.

Children should be able to: (among many other things)

- Write first and last names
- Know the letter names and sounds of the letters in their first and last name
- Be able to answer questions about what happened in the story you read to them
- Retell the story
- Be able to answer those "What If" questions
- Should show independence and be able to button, zip, get themselves fully dressed and brush teeth.
- Should be able to understand syllables, compound words, onset and rime.
- Should show enjoyment when a book is read and want to "read" independently

REVIEW your VPK Standards - put great thought into you lesson plans. Make every activity count with as many standards wrapped up as you can.

If you need help or have questions, please give me a call at (386)961-0129 or (866)752-9770, ext. 129 make sure you leave a clear message so I can call you back.

Thanks,
Melissa Brady

Family Services Department News

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

Please complete and return the **CCR&R Update Forms** by **April 29, 2011!**



Upcoming Trainings

Don't forget to check our website often as we are putting all training announcements there. elc-fg.org We have been placing our trainings on our web site now for some time. We still have teachers tell us that they are not getting this information from their director. Be sure to let your staff know, they do not have to rely on you to inform them of trainings, they can go on to our web-site themselves and register. If you have any questions about this call your Program Specialist.

Cooking with Kids

Easter Bunny Cupcakes

Ingredients

- A cupcake (baked from your favorite recipe)
- White icing
- Shredded coconut
- Pink decorators' sugar
- Jelly bean nose
- Chewable Sweet Tart eyes
- Large marshmallow
- Mini marshmallows



Instructions

1. Frost a cupcake (baked from your favorite recipe) with white icing and sprinkle on shredded coconut fur.
2. Cut a large marshmallow in half widthwise. Squeeze each half slightly to give it an oval shape, then decorate the sticky side of each one with pink decorators' sugar and set them in place for ears.
3. Add a jelly bean nose and either jelly bean or snipped Sweet Tart eyes, and mini marshmallows for cheeks.
4. For a finishing touch, draw on decorators' gel pupils or whiskers if you like.



VERY IMPORTANT

***Remember to check the
DCF Website for updates!***

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April

3rd-9th-
Children's
Week, Tallahassee

11th — 16th
Mary—
Vacation.

24th Easter

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