

# Mary's Monthly Memo



August is here and with it a new school year begins. How exciting, new beginnings, new faces, new adventures and lots and lots of learning and having fun! I hope you are enjoying all the new materials you ordered through the grant you received from us. And, I hope everyone has a great school year. I'm looking forward to working with each and every one!

## *The Hand Holders: A Tribute to Caregivers*

*There is no job more important than yours,  
no job anywhere else in the land.  
You are the keepers of the future;  
you hold the smallest of hands.*

*Into your care you are trusted  
to nurture and care for the young,  
and for all of your everyday heroics,  
your talents and skills go unsung.*

*You wipe tears from the eyes of the injured.  
You rock babies brand new in your arms.  
You encourage the shy and unsure child.  
You make sure they are safe from all harm.*

*You foster the bonds of friendships,  
letting no child go away mad.  
You respect and you honor their emotions.  
You give hugs to each child when they're sad.*

*You have more impact than does a professor,  
a child's mind is molded by four;  
so whatever you lay on the table  
is whatever the child will explore.*

*Give each child the tools for adventure,  
let them be artists and writers and more;  
let them fly on the wind and dance on the stars  
and build castles of sand on the shore.*

*It is true that you don't make much money  
and you don't get a whole lot of praise,  
but when one small child says "I love you",  
you're reminded of how this job pays.*

*Author unknown*

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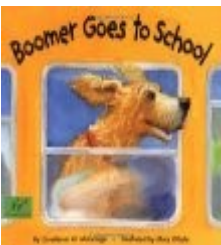
# Technical Assistance

This month's TA will focus on Pre-LAP training. Being thinking about who you want to be responsible for these assessments, I will be calling you to set up an appointment for this. This training is necessary to insure these assessments are submitted complete and correct the first time. Please allow up to an hour for the training. Also, before the training (time permitting), I'd like to read the story "Fish Wish" to the three year old children and have them make a jellyfish. I will bring the book and supplies for the jellyfish.

I emailed you a copy of the "ELIS Explorer" newsletter and I hope you've had a chance to read it. As we all know by now, the State of Florida is moving towards going paperless, which includes us also. This new database is replacing its 16 year old client-server application. It will allow users a comprehensive, dynamic and web-based tool for outreach, recruitment, information sharing, resources, referral and on-line applications for families to learn about and access Florida's early learning programs. If you haven't looked at it already, take a peek, it's going to change the way you currently submit paperwork.

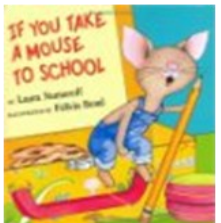
## Literacy Corner

*(This month's literacy focus is on "School")*



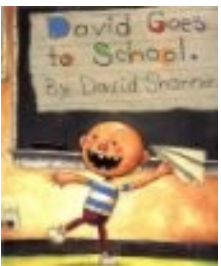
*Boomer Goes to School* By: Constance W. MeGeo

Boomer and his family moved to a city. Now Boomer is going to a new school! Like many new students, Boomer finds that going to school can be a bit confusing, but after a day of learning and fun, he discovers that school is a great place!



*If You Take A Mouse To School* By: Laura Nemuroff

This adorable book follows a boy and his mouse through a busy day at school. The children will laugh at this cute little mouse going to school!



*David Goes to School* By: David Shannon

This light-hearted companion to the Caldecott Honor Book "No, David!" is an entertaining, laugh-out-loud romp from the beginning of class to the end of the day. David's activities in school include chewing gum, talking out of turn, and engaging in a food fight, causing his teacher to say over and over, "No, David!"

# Crafts with Children (Ages 3 years and up)

## Tiny Easel

Give small-scale art a fitting gallery treatment with this craft-stick easel.

### Materials

- Acrylic paint
- 4 craft sticks
- Glue
- Small piece of card stock
- Pencil (to hold easel in place while it's drying)
- Paper strips



### Instructions

1. Paint the 4 craft sticks and let them dry.
2. Glue a card stock triangle hinge to three of the sticks, leaving a space between the front two sticks and the back stick.
3. Glue the fourth stick across the front to create a shelf (C) and use a pencil to prop it in place while the glue dries.
4. Finally, bend the easel at the hinge and attach one end of a 2-inch paper strip to the shelf and the other end to the back stick for added stability.

# Florida State Standards—Birth to Three

## *TINY EASEL*

**Physical Development**—Fine Motor Development (use, refinement and coordination of the small muscles).

**Approaches to Learning**—Creativity and Inventiveness is a strategy that requires flexibility and imagination. Using familiar materials in new ways is an example of the strategy. Systematically trying out old solutions to solve new problems, followed by experimenting with new solutions, is another example.

**Social & Emotional**—Self-concept when children increasingly become competent and confident in themselves. 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.

**Language and Communication**—Listening & understanding when children gain meaning through listening to instructions given by the teacher and being able to follow those instructions.

**Cognitive Development & General Knowledge**—Concept development and memory when children can recall the activity. “David, what did you just make? David replies, An Easel”

# Cooking with Kids (ages 3 and up)

## Apple Crisp a la Mode

### Ingredients

- 6 apples (or 6 cups of apple slices)
- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick), softened
- Whipped cream or ice cream



### Instructions

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees and lightly butter an 8 or 9-inch-square baking pan. Peel, core, and slice the apples and arrange them evenly in the prepared pan.
2. Place the oats, brown sugar, flour, spices, and salt in a sealable plastic bag, close, and shake until combined. Cut the softened butter into 1-inch pieces and add to the oat mixture.
3. Close the bag again and knead or squeeze until the mixture holds together.
4. Instead of using a bowl to mix the crumb topping, use a sealable plastic bag. This will cut back on dirty dishes and let young bakers--even preschoolers--lend a hand
5. Open the bag and crumble the topping evenly over the apples. Bake the apple crisp for 40 to 45 minutes or until the topping is golden brown and the juices begin to bubble around the edges. Cool slightly, then serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

## Florida State Standards—Birth to Three

### *APPLE CRISP a la MODE*

**Physical Development**—Fine Motor by sorting ingredients by a dimension, such as size or color.

**Approaches to Learning**—Eagerness & Curiosity enjoying opportunities to help parents, caregivers, and teachers, such as assisting with setting the table or mixing ingredients.

**Social & Emotional**—Trust & Emotional Security by engaging in positive social play alongside other children and, on occasion, with other children.

**Language and Communication**—Early writing by pretending to cook food using housekeeping props.

**Cognitive Development & General Knowledge**—Exploration & Discovery by washing hands when directed before the cooking activity.

**VERY IMPORTANT**

***Remember to check the  
DCF and ELC-FG Website  
for updates and training events!***

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**August**

22nd—First day of school for Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee, & Lafayette Counties

25th—First day of school for Union County

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