



## Mary's Monthly Memo

M  
A  
R  
C  
H  
  
2  
0  
1  
1

Spring is in the air! I love March and all the changes that come with it. Spring is here, Daylight Savings Time starts, St. Patrick's Day happens, all the greenery and the beautiful flowering trees. Start planning now for lots of outdoor activities. Take advantage of the weather now before it starts getting too hot. Which we know will happen all too quickly! Plant a garden and some flowers with the children. Let them take care of it and watch it grow. Reap the harvest and let the children eat the vegetables they helped grow. Think of all the activities you can cover with this one project (math, science, language, etc). If you don't have the space for a garden, get some pots and use them for a container garden. Have fun and enjoy this time of year. Happy Spring and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

### Inside this issue:

Technical Assistance	2
Crafts with Children	2
Literacy Corner	3
VPK News	4
Family Services News	4
Upcoming Trainings	5
Cooking with Kids	5
Calendar	6



# Technical Assistance

March will be curriculum assessment month. I have attached a checklist I will use for the assessment. As you all know by now, AWI is working on a statewide curriculum list. If your curriculum is not on the list, you may need to choose one from the list to purchase. If your curriculum is "provider made", you will need to show me the resources you are using. I will sit down with each director and go through the checklist and make suggestions as necessary.

## Approaches to Learning Standards

When teachers consider a child's approaches to learning, they observe the way the child explores new materials, shows excitement, sustains interest in an activity, and approaches new challenges. **Eagerness and Curiosity** to engage with the environment is the first component of Approaches to Learning. Four-year-old children are naturally curious and use questions to learn. A second component is **Persistence**. When interested in an activity, four-year-old children can attend for long periods of time and are able to seek help when needed. The third component, **Creativity and Inventiveness**, is demonstrated as four-year-old children try and enjoy different approaches and ideas. **Planning and Reflection** is the fourth component. Increasingly four-year-old children set goals, try out different solutions, and, often through trial and error, find solutions to problems. These approaches to learning are critical skills that facilitate learning in all of the other domains of development.

The development of approaches to learning is highly dependent on the quality and quantity of interactions with supportive adults. Teachers that observe and assess learning styles, provide a well-designed learning environment, plan a variety of challenging activities, encourage children, and ask questions to scaffold group and individual learning opportunities will help children develop positive approaches to learning.

# Crafts with Children

## Handprint Rainbow

Age: 3 and up

### What you'll need:

- 1 sheet light blue construction paper
- Acrylic craft paint: red, orange, purple, blue, yellow, green and white



### How to make it:

1. Place construction paper on work surface in front of child.
2. Have child curve their hand and paint (start with red) the side of the hand along the pinky and down to the heel.
3. Gently press side of painted hand onto the construction paper to form half of the first rainbow ray.
4. Repeat step 2 and 3 with red paint on the other hand to form the other half of the rainbow ray.
5. Repeat these steps with all the colors of the rainbow, washing hands in between each color. Starting from the top of the rainbow and working downward, the order is: Red Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple
6. When rainbow is complete, have child make a fist, then paint the side of the fist generously with white paint. Press onto bottom of the rainbow to form the clouds.
7. Repeat across paper under the rainbow until entire rainbow is lined with clouds.
8. Allow to dry completely.
9. This step is optional, but if you are sending this as a gift, use a marker to write a message across the top!

### Quote

*"While we try to teach our children all about life, Our children teach us what life is all about."*

~Angela Schwindt

## Literacy Corner

- *Quiet Bunnies Many Colors* by Lisa McCue
- *Never Ever Talk to Strangers* by Annie Marie Pace
- *Spring is Here* by Will Hillenbrand
- *St. Patrick's Day* by Annie Rockwell
- *Dawdle Duckling* by Tony Buzzeo
- *Biscuit Meets the Class Pet* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- *No More Hitting for Little Hamster* by Bernette Ford



# VPK News

**February 25, 2011** - Final 2009-2010 VPK Provider Readiness Rates should be posted to the <http://vpk.fldoe.org> website

**March 1, 2011** - Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Family Services Department will begin issuing SUMMER 2011 VPK Certificates of Eligibility

**March 21, 2011** - ELC Family Services Department will begin issuing FALL 2011-2012 VPK Certificates of Eligibility

**\*\*\*\*\*EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY\*\*\*\*\***

Providers - you may only accept a Certificate of Eligibility from a family that says "PROVIDER COPY" on the top right hand side of the document and must have the original signature from the parent/guardian.

## Family Services Department News

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

All **VPK** attendance sheets are due in the Coalition office by the **3rd** of every month.

All **School Readiness** attendance sheets are due in the Coalition office by the **5th** of every month.



# Upcoming Trainings

March 15th - Melissa Brady, VPK Coordinator

Watch our website for more information.

## CPR/First Aid Training Dates for 2011:

March 19th—CPR 8:00am (class is full) and First Aid 1:00pm

May 21st—CPR 8:00am and First Aid 1:00pm

# Cooking with Kids

## Rainbow Stew

**Ages 2-6**

### **Supplies:**

Cornstarch, sugar, water, food coloring, medium saucepan, mixing spoon, sandwich-size Ziploc bags

### **Activity Detail:**

Stir together 1 cup cornstarch, 4 cups water, and 1/3 cup sugar in a medium saucepan. Heat on the stove

until thick. Remove from heat and wait for it to cool. Pour the mixture into sandwich-size Ziploc bags, filling each one halfway. Scatter drops of different food coloring into each bag, and have the kids squish the bags to turn the mixture different colors.





**VERY IMPORTANT**

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

Mary Gamble,  
*Program Specialist*  
 1104 SW Main Blvd.  
 Lake City, FL 32025  
 Desk: (386) 961-0127  
 Cell: (386) 623-5398  
 Fax: (386) 628-9327  
 E-mail: mgamble@elc-fg.org

[www.elc-fg.org](http://www.elc-fg.org)



**March 2011**

13th Daylight Savings Time Starts

17th St. Patrick's Day

20th First Day of Spring

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

