



Mary's Monthly Memo

A Little Father's Day History

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About 4,000 years ago a young boy named Elmusu wished his Babylonian father good health and a long life by carving a Father's Day message on a card made out of clay. No one knows what happened to Elmesu or his father, but the tradition of having a special day honoring fathers has continued through the years in countries across the world.

Father's Day is celebrated popularly on 3rd Sunday in June in many parts of the world. The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Having been raised by her father, Henry Jackson Smart, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.

In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. President Nixon, in 1972, established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June. So Father's Day was born as a token of love and gratitude that a daughter cherishes for her beloved father.

"It doesn't matter who my father was, it matters who I remember he was."

~Anne Sexton~



Technical Assistance

With the summer months in full swing, and the children out of school, I hope you can take some time these next couple of months and reflect on this past year. Think about how satisfied you were with your program last year and think about new and exciting ways to improve it this coming year.

This month I will be busy inputting your LAP assessments and SR contracts. So, I may not make any site visits in June. I will also be attending the Family Child Care Home Association Conference June 23—25th. If you need me please don't hesitate to call.

A few of you have asked me for some summer ideas for your school-agers. I am putting together a packet of ideas. If you would like a copy please let me know.

Florida State Standard Domain of the Month

Cognitive Development and General Knowledge

Cognitive Development refers to the skills and strategies that children use to explore and learn about their worlds and to solve challenges and problems. General Knowledge is the collection of information that children gain through interaction with adults, other children, and materials. Children's surroundings and interactions with others play an important role in this development. In safe and supporting environments, children can carry through with their natural desire to act on the world around them.

The cognitive development of infants and toddlers has three components:

Exploration and discovery are ways that young children learn about their worlds by first using their senses and reflexes.

Concept and memory involve learning the relationships between objects and experiences. Young infants understand and respond primarily to people and objects in their immediate environment. Older infants have more specific memories which facilitate their ability to label objects and people and to relate them to new experiences.

As infants and toddlers seek out strategies for meeting their immediate needs, *problem-solving and creative expression* emerge. Toddlers are able to identify challenges and obstacles in their environments; consider steps for responding based on previous experience; test out those steps, and consider new steps when the first attempts are not successful.

Crafts with Children (appropriate for school-age children)

A Pad for Dad



Materials

- Three sheets of plain letter-size paper
- Hole punch

Instructions

1. Cut three sheets of plain letter-size paper in half lengthwise. Fold the two sets of three sheets in half. Working on one set at a time, punch two holes $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in from the fold and the side.
2. Cut two pieces of thin cardboard the same size as the folded white paper, then trim about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch from the short ends. Cut a $4\frac{1}{4}$ - by 11-inch piece from a brown paper bag, then use glue stick to adhere it to the two cardboard pieces, leaving a small gap between them, as shown. Punch four holes $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in from the gap and the side.
3. Fold the brown paper cover around the two sets of white paper. Feed a loop of a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rubber band through each hole, and slide a small stick through the loops. Attach newspaper letters to the cover with glue stick.

Literacy Corner

This month's literacy focus is on "Dads".

- *How About a Kiss for Me?* by Todd Tarpley This little boy likes to kiss everyone especially his dad! Laugh out loud rhyme
- *A Father's Day Thank You* by Janet Nolan An adorable story about a cub who has the perfect present for his dad.
- *The Daddy Goose Treasury* by Vivian French Old Mother Goose may know all the rhymes, but it's daddy goose that knows the stories! Find out how the cow jumped over the moon, how Humpty Dumpty was put back together, and whether Little Miss Muffet is really scared of spiders.
- *If My Dad Were A Dog* by Annabel Tellis A dog to love and dad on a leash! What kid wouldn't relish the chance to snap a leash on Dad, bark out the commands for a change, then spend the rest of the day playing with him in the park?
- *My Daddy and Me* by Karen Hill Who lifts me up to watch the parade marching by? Celebrate all the special ways daddy takes care of you...

Upcoming Trainings

Keep checking our website for more great training workshops after the fiscal year starts in July!

Cooking with Kids

Pop's Personalized Pretzels

Ingredients

- 1-pound loaf frozen white bread dough
- 4 cups warm water
- 1 1/2 tablespoons baking soda
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water
- Coarse salt (Morton coarse kosher salt worked best for us)
- 2 tablespoons melted butter (optional)



HONEY-MUSTARD DIP

- 1/4 cup yellow mustard
- 1 1/2 tablespoons honey

Instructions

1. Thaw the bread dough according to the package directions but do not let it rise. Heat the oven to 450°. The dough will be easier to roll if it is at or near room temperature. Using a sharp knife (a parent's job), divide the dough into 8 pieces. Roll each piece into an 18-inch rope on a dry, un-floured surface. If the dough is very elastic and difficult to shape, roll it as best you can, set it aside for 10 minutes, and then try again. Shape the dough into letters, pinching seams tightly.
2. In a large bowl, mix together the 4 cups of warm water and the baking soda. In a small bowl, whisk together the egg and 1 tablespoon of water. Lightly spray a baking sheet (2 if needed) with nonstick spray and set aside.
3. Carefully dip the dough letters into the baking soda and water mixture and place them on the prepared baking sheet(s). Brush them with the whisked egg and sprinkle with salt. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes or until dark brown. Brush the pretzels with melted butter, if desired. Makes about 8 letters. Serve warm with honey-mustard dip.
4. To make the dip, stir together the honey and mustard in a small bowl. Keep the sauce refrigerated until it's needed.



VERY IMPORTANT

***Remember to check the
DCF and ELC-FG 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



June

1st—All ELAP/LAP assessments are due

6th—Provider Satisfaction Surveys due to LaShone Surrency

19th—Father’s Day

20th—Last day to complete 2011/2012 contract renewal paperwork

23—25th—FFCCHA Conference in Clearwater Beach

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