

Rosemead



May 2017

Promoting Literacy

Every time you read a book, write a note, sort the laundry, or recount the day's happenings, you are using skills that young children need to learn to read and write. Here are some activities you can do with your child to foster literacy development.

Learning New Words

Name Games: Play simple naming games with your child. You can ask, "What is this?" or "Where are you going?" when you go to the grocery store, on a walk, driving in the car.

Everyday Words: Talk to your child as you do every day tasks such as sorting the laundry or thinking about what to cook. For example, "Here is the dark cloths, here is the light cloths."

Read: Read and reread books about topics that interest your child. Learn the names of animals, plants, vehicles, and establishments in your community.

Field Trips: Take you child on short trips, such as the florist shop or the park. Talk about what you see along the way and what you see when you get there. When you get home have your child draw a picture of something they saw. Write a caption under the picture.

Job Talk: Go to a familiar place and look for people who work there. What jobs do they do? What tools do they use?

Listening for Letters and Sounds

Nursery Rhymes: Read, sing, and say nursery rhymes. Help you child learn the rhymes. Point out the parts that rhyme.

Beginning Sounds: Point out "*ways*" words begin or end. Compare words that start with the same sound, for example, taco and truck. Ask, "Can you here the t in tacos and truck?" or "Do tacos and truck beginning the same way?"

Rhyming Riddles: Make up riddles and guessing games using words that rhyme or start with the same sounds. For example, What kind of cake would a snake make? He could make a lake cake.

Beginning Writing

Shopping Lists: Write shopping lists and to-do lists while sitting next to your child. Supply your child with paper and pencil so they can make their own list.

Make Words: Make magnetic letters available and play with them on surfaces such as the refrigerator. Spell simple words for your child and have you child create them with the magnetic letters.

Picture Menus: With you child, cut out pictures of food and paste them on paper to make a menu. You could make one for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Have your child "read" the menu.

Garden Updates

All the gardens have been planted; flowers and vegetables are blooming. Stop by and see how well our gardens are growing. Teachers are asking for donations of vegetable and flower seeds, and are looking for volunteers to help maintain the gardens.

May's Theme: Dinosaurs

The study of dinosaurs fosters curiosity and a thirst for learning for preschool students. Children can't help but leap into a pattern of scientific inquiry when they look at these monstrous creatures. The study of dinosaurs explores several preschool life science themes (the needs of living things, meat eaters vs plant eaters, theories of extinction) as well as earth science themes (volcanoes, climate change). The study of dinosaurs incorporates many science and sensory activities.

The study of dinosaurs is a great opportunity to incorporate math the concepts of measurement and scale. Students will be engaged as they discover how "big" and "small" some of these beasts were.

The study of dinosaurs helps promote vocabulary development as students search for new words to express how big these creatures were. Children start to use words like "huge," "enormous" and "gigantic". They may also start to develop vocabulary like "extinct", "paleontologist", "ferocious" and "fossilized". Children also start to memorize the names of dinosaurs, names that often have roots in Latin-base words which will transfer into knowledge of Latin-base roots in later years.

Exploring the world of dinosaurs opens up the creative minds of students. We have never seen them, we only have ideas about how they looked, invite students to draw their own conclusions about how these creatures looked and sounded.

Dinosaur Song (*Sung to I'm a Little Teapot*)

I'm a mean old dinosaur
Big and Tall
Here is my tail, here is my claw

When I get hungry
I just growl
Look out kids, I'm on the prowl



Protect your Child against Insect Bites

When spring reappears, so do the insects. Insect bites can hurt, cause allergic reactions, or be poisonous. Here are some tips to protect your child(ren) from insect bites.

Tip One: Don't dress your child like a flower, or smelling like a rose. Insects are drawn to bright colors, perfumes, and fragrances. Avoid wearing pinks, orange, and reds. Don't apply perfume, scented lotions, or bubble bath before an outdoor outing.

Tip Two: Cover exposed areas of skin with insect repellent (look for products that are approved for use on children). Apply the repellent to your hands, then rub your hands on your child's face and hands. Avoid the eyes, and reapply if outdoors for extended periods of time.

Tip Three: When walking in tall grasses and wooded areas, wear long sleeved shirts that are tucked in, long pants, and boots with socks tucked into your pants.

Tip Four: During an outing in the woods, check children for ticks often. Wear light colored clothing that allows ticks to be spotted easily. Recheck when you get home. If you see a tick on your child remove it with tweezers immediately. Grasp the tick near the head, close to the skin, and pull firmly until the tick releases from the skin. Cleanse the area with alcohol.

If your Child is Bitten:

Even with precautions bites still happen. If your child is bitten apply a cold compress to the area right away. Benadryl can help decrease the itching. Sometimes bites can lead to infection, should this happen the infection needs to be evaluated and if necessary, treated promptly.

Stories about Dinosaurs

1. [The Good Dinosaur](#)
2. [Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs!](#)
3. [Danny and the Dinosaur](#)
4. [Dinosaur Roar:](#)

Local Resources

- American Red Cross- 430 Madeline Dr., Pasadena, CA 91105 (626)-799-0841
www.redcrossla.org/sangabrielpomonavalley. The American Red Cross provides help for those in need during a disaster, as well as providing the community with information on disaster prevention and much more.
- San Gabriel Valley Boy Scouts of America-3450 E. Sierra Madre, Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107(626)-[351-8815www.sgvcbosa.org](http://www.sgvcbosa.org) The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 5 - Parent Meeting
- ◆ May 8th-19th 2nd parent-teacher conferences
- ◆ May 12th PAC Meeting
- ◆ May 26th - 1/2 day programs- No School
- ◆ May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday - No School
- ◆ June 2 Parent Meeting



