

APRIL 2022

Family Newsletter

April Book List

Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals

Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet by April Pulley Sayre

The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle
by Alison Inches

The Earth Book by Todd Parr

10 Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh

Earth Day: An Alphabet Book by Gary Kowalski

Why Should I Recycle? by Jen Green
Earth Day Every Day by Lisa Bullard

Fun days to celebrate in April

April

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 10 National Siblings Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 26 National Pretzel Day
- 28 Take Your Son/Daughter to Work Day

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD, EARTH DAY

This April 4-8 we will be celebrating **WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD** at the center. This annual event is intended to draw attention to the youngest learners and the importance of creating a good foundation to set them on a path for success.

Here is a preview of the Week of the Young Child daily themes. Be sure to check our Facebook page this week as well to see how we're celebrating in the center.

- MUSIC MONDAY
- TASTY TUESDAY
- WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY
- ARTSY THURSDAY
- FAMILY FRIDAY

On April 22nd we observe **Earth Day**. Our April book list and "Bringing It Home" on page 2 are full of Earth-loving activities to engage your child at home.

Finally, we'd like to highlight that **TEACHER APPRECIATION week is May 2-6**. Watch for more information to come about how we will be celebrating our amazing educators!

For Grins 

What kind of gardens do bakers grow? (Answer on page 2)



BRINGING IT HOME

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES



INFANTS



Developmental Milestones

PINCER GRASP

By the time, your child is 9 months old they should have mastered their pincer grasp. Pincer grasp is defined as using your index finger and thumb to pick up small objects. Children typically start by using the pads of their fingers to pick up the object and then move to using their fingertips. Some easy ways to begin to develop this technique is by placing small objects in front of your child for them to try to pick up and manipulate. Things like blocks or other small toys and finger foods are a great place to start.



<https://otperspective.com/pincer-grasp-what-when-how/>

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K



Seed Bombs

Using left over blue, green, and white paper, have your child rip them up into small pieces and place each color in a different bowl. With your help, blend each color separately with a small amount of water to make a paste. Let your child take a small amount of each color and a few flower seeds and roll the mixture into a ball. Let dry and when ready, plant and watch your flowers grow.



<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com>



TODDLERS



Mess Free Earth

Place a paper plate inside a large sealable bag. Add a few drops of blue paint and a few drops of green paint. Close the bag, add a piece of tape to make sure it will not open. Let your child move the paint around with their finger to make their own mess free earth. When they are finished take the paper plate out to dry.



<https://www.stillplayingschool.com>

PARENT RESOURCES

Kindergarten Readiness

This is a time of the year that we begin to get a lot of questions about Kindergarten readiness. Below are JUST A FEW benchmarks commonly used to help determine kindergarten readiness, but there are more factors to consider than this short list. If you have questions about kindergarten preparedness, please discuss your child's teacher.

From Scholastic.com, below are a few skills parents can help their children develop at home. For more go to: <https://bit.ly/ScholasticKinder>

- Verbalize Wants and Needs
- Write Their Names
- Handle a Book
- Get Themselves Dressed
- Be Independent in the Bathroom
- Use Scissors, Glue and Crayons
- Identify Some Letters and Letter Sounds
- Count to 10

For Grins Answer: Flour gardens!

