



Helping Hands

Offering a helping hand to School Readiness Providers
A publication from Childcare Resource & Referral



Family Engagement Opportunities

Episcopal Children's Services

Volume 18 Issue 5

November 2023

Get Out There!

Inside this issue:

Cooler weather means outside fun. Here is a great website to look at with your family and have some fun.
<https://www.visitflorida.com/travel-ideas/articles/northeast-florida-best-places-to-visit/>

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Don't Forget Fun in the Home!

Tips for Creating a Supportive Environment for your Child

- Spending time with your children doing enjoyable activities
- Maintaining routines as much as possible – such as bedtime and mealtimes
- Regularly asking your child how they are doing and feeling
- Acknowledging and respecting your child's feelings
- Listening to your child's concerns

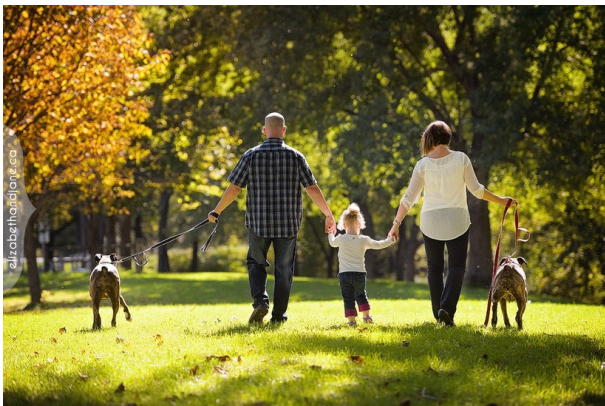
ATTENTION HH READERS...

If you have a question, comment, or concern you would like addressed in an upcoming issue of *Helping Hands*, please send an e-mail to:

Brianna.deosca@ecs4kids.org.

We will do our best to find the answer, post the comment, and address the concern.

Thanks!
Brianna DeOsca



ELC of North Florida Updates

SAVE THE DATE: ELC of N. Florida's Annual Early Educators Conference
Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024
Thrasher Horne Conference Center
283 College Drive
Orange Park, FL 32065
Cost: \$30 Lunch Included
Registration will open January 2nd
CEU's will be provided

This year's keynote speakers will be:
Patty Shukla from Patty's Primary Songs



Visit: pattysprimarysongs.com

Dr. Teri La Ducca



visit: impactearlyed.com

ELC of North Florida Updates

ELC Days a Huge Success at Amazing Grace Crop Maze!

The ELC of N. Florida hosted two very successful field trip days at the Amazing Grace Crop Maze in Lake Asbury. On October 10th and 17th. 20 child care providers and almost 600 vpk students came out to enjoy all the activities on the farm. Children visited with animals in a petting zoo, went on a hayride, walked through the crop maze, jumped on the giant jump pad and much more. The ELC of N. Florida staff and volunteers were on hand providing an extra fun fall craft for the kids and each child received a copy of the book "Down on the Farm" as a free gift. Each school received a bag of assorted Fall books for their classrooms.



Treasure Harbor Preschool VPK



Miss Caldwell and student from Lake Asbury Elementary VPK



Orange Park High School Kampus Kids

Tearing Paper Brianna DeOsca, Education Specialist

Resources: <https://www.theotttoolbox.com/torn-paper-art-awesome-fine-motor/>

Infants learn through touch and exploring through their environment. Tearing paper is a terrific way for infants to work fine motor skills like grasping, hand eye coordination and hand strength. Encouraging fine motor skills can develop important skills such as handwriting, manipulating buttons and zippers, tying shoes, and more. The best part about this activity is there is a variety for the little ones to explore. Look at some of the experiences they could enjoy:

Tear paper into [different size](#) strips

Tear paper at different speeds – slowly, quickly, or to [different types](#) of music

Tear paper that are different weights – construction, copy, cardstock, or napkins

Tear paper into shapes

Tear different textured paper: painted paper, newspaper, old calendars, or paper towels

Here is an activity that can be created with torn paper and can be tweaked to match any theme.

Torn Paper Art

1. Select a variety of paper colors, materials, and textures.
2. Tear a sheet into long strips. This will become the sky of our artwork.
3. Use white paper to create cloud shapes. Tear the paper into shapes.
4. Use green cardstock or other material to create grass. Tear small strips into the paper but not through to the edge. Create a fringe with the paper.
5. Glue the torn paper onto the base page in layers.
6. Use your imagination and have fun!

CLASS Connections:

Facilitated Exploration: Expansion of Infant's Experience

Early Language Support: Teacher Talk, Communication Expansion



Bubble Painting Brianna DeOsca, Education Specialist

Resources: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/bubble-painting/>

Children love bubbles! There are so many uses for bubbles, and they are easy to create/buy. As adults, we sometimes are too focused on the finished product and not the process of the product. Children enjoy the process more often than the result and it makes sense since they love to make messes! Art gives children the creative range to express and explore their feelings because it is theirs. Here is an activity that encourages and supports a child's creativity, their enjoyment of making a mess, and a sense of individuality.

Bubble Painting

YOU WILL NEED:

Bubble Solution (Here is our bubble recipe)
Food Coloring
Bubble Wand
Paper (Cardstock is preferable)
Bowl

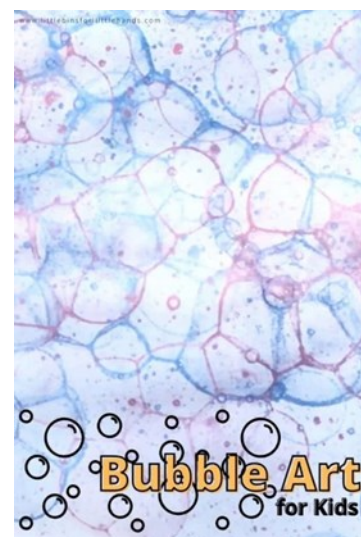
HOW TO BUBBLE PAINT

STEP 1: Pour bubble solution into a shallow bowl.

STEP 2: Add about 10 drops of food coloring and mix!

STEP 3: Use a bubble wand to blow bubbles onto paper! While

cardstock is preferable because it will hold up to the liquid, you can still have lots of fun with plain computer printer paper.



CLASS Connection:

Regard for Child Perspectives: Child focus, flexibility, support of independence.

Facilitation of Learning and Development: Active facilitation, children's active engagement.

Quality of Feedback: Scaffolding, encouragement and affirmation.

Language Modeling: Supporting language use, repetition and extension, self and parallel-talk.

Leaf Wreaths Brianna DeOsca, Education Specialist

Resources: <https://rhythmsofplay.com/10-ways-to-have-fun-outside-with-fall-leaves/>
<https://thimbleandtwig.com/fun-autumn-outdoor-activities-for-kids/>
<https://www.simplydesigning.net/kids-craft-fall-leaf-wreath/>

Cooler weather is finally here and that means it is time to get outside! There are so many activities that can incorporate the outside for all ages. Below are just some ideas:

- Go on a leaf hunt
- Go on a Nature scavenger hunt
- Match the leaves to the tree
- Collect nature items for art projects

Speaking of nature items for art projects, there are so many things that can be made with things you can find in nature. Nature wreaths are a great project to do after a scavenger or leaf hunt. Here is a project that can be made and then hung up in the classroom or at home.

Supplies Needed:

- Paper plate
- Glue
- Scissors
- Colorful leaves
- Ribbon or twine
- Paint (optional)



What to do:

Start by cutting the plate into a ring shape. If desired, at this point you can paint the ring to match your decor before you start applying the leaves. Use glue to attach the leaves. Allow it to dry completely. Add a second layer of leaves if necessary to fill in any gaps or large spaces. Tie on a ribbon or some twine, and these gorgeous fall leaf wreaths are ready for hanging and displaying!

CLASS Connections:

Regard for Student Perspectives: Flexibility and Student Focus, Student Expression

Instructional Learning Format: Effective Facilitation, Student Interest

Concept Development: Creating, Integration and Connections to the Real World

Quality of Feedback: Scaffolding, Prompting Thought Process, and Providing Information

Language Modeling: Open-ended Questions, Self and Parallel Talk and Advance Language.

Instant Pot Applesauce Brianna DeOsca, Education Specialist

Resources: <https://www.pressurecookrecipes.com/instant-pot-applesauce/#recipe>

The first thing that comes to mind when someone hears Autumn is APPLES! In the classroom its okay to break away from the books and explore a new way of learning. Making applesauce has been done in classrooms across the world. What's great about the product of this creation is that it can be used for a filling, spread, or just eat it plain. This recipe also introduces children to new tool with the instant pot and hand blender. Get those kids hands messy and enjoy a sweet treat.

Ingredients for Instant Pot Applesauce:

Your favorite apples (we used Organic Gala Apples because that's what we had)
Cinnamon stick
Nutmeg
Salt
Honey
Water

Tools for Instant Pot Applesauce:

Instant Pot Electric Pressure Cooker
Immersion Hand Blender

Instructions:

1. Pressure Cook Apples: Place cinnamon stick(s), ½ tsp nutmeg, ¼ cup cold water and 3 lbs quartered apples in Instant Pot Pressure Cooker.
2. With Venting Knob in Venting Position, close the lid, then turn Venting Knob to Sealing Position. Pressure Cook at High Pressure for 5 minutes + Natural Release. Open the lid carefully.
3. Blend & Season Applesauce: Remove cinnamon stick(s) and blend the applesauce into desired consistency with an immersion blender. Taste the applesauce and add a pinch of salt. Add honey to taste. Serve applesauce & enjoy!



How to Complete the ASQ-3 Rebecca Huth, Inclusion Specialist

Resource: <https://agesandstages.com/about-asq/how-asq-works/>
<https://agesandstages.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ASQ-3-Scoring-Help.pdf>

The ASQ-3 is a simple, accurate, and effective screener to screen young children to identify milestones and potential at-risk indicators for a developmental delay. Use the tips to help you complete and score the ASQ-3 accurately every time.

Prepare before the screening with these prescreening guidelines:

- Choose administration method (paper copy or online).
- Ensure the selected ASQ-3 questionnaire is age appropriate for that child using the [ASQ Age Calculator](#) (β click).
- Look over questions prior to screening child and assemble needed materials.
- Push back the screening until the child has transitioned and cooperates during the screening.

Scoring Help:

- Check for unanswered items. If responses are missing or you are unsure, contact the family to obtain answers.
- Complete and review responses in the Overall Response section.
- Review the questionnaire for corrections.
- Score each item on the questionnaire (Yes=10, Sometimes=5, Not Yet=0).
- Select "yes" if child performs the item.
- Select "sometimes" if the skill is emerging or is done occasionally.
- Select "not yet" if the child is not yet performing that skill.
- If three or more items are missing, **do not score** the area as results may not be accurate.
- Use the [ASQ Calculator](#) (β click) to make a scoring adjustment.

Scan QR Code for Short Video on Completing and Scoring the ASQ-3



T.E.A.C.H

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Scholarship Program funded by the Florida Office of Early Learning provides scholarships for early childhood teachers and facility/family home directors to work toward earning a degree in early childhood education (Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's), an Infant-Toddler Certificate, Florida Staff Credential, Director Credential, National CDA Assessment, or credential renewals.

Your T.E.A.C.H. scholarship will cover the majority of the cost of tuition and books, a per semester student access stipend, a tiered bonus structure for degree-seeking scholars, and much more!

Contact our office today at 877-FL TEACH (877-358-3224) to see how T.E.A.C.H. can work for you.

<https://teach-fl.org/>

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships



DIVISION OF
Early Learning

LEARN EARLY. LEARN FOR LIFE.



Local Professional Development Opportunities

To register for one of our great training opportunities, please visit our website:

<https://www.ecs4kids.org/programs/regional-training-institute/>

Click on the registration link to see a list of available courses.

Click on a course and follow the directions for registration and payment.

The website provides a list of trainings and descriptions offered

For CDA information and questions, please contact

Danesha Davis, Professional Development Coordinator

904-726-1500 ext.2299

904-310-2105 (cell)

VPK Corner Sarah March, Contract Coordinator

Reminder for Progress Monitoring window 2:

The Progress Monitoring 2 window will be starting in November for most providers. PM2 is a requirement for VPK. Progress Monitoring 2 is the period of time in a VPK class schedule where at least 40% of the instructional hours have been completed and not more than 60% of the instructional hours have been completed.

The progress monitoring dates are updated on the ECS website every Friday. Please make sure you are aware of your facility's Progress monitoring window dates.

Also, any child that is enrolled at your facility during that progress monitoring window needs to be tested during that window. You may test a child as many times as you want within or after the Progress Monitoring dates, however, only the first completed test during the testing window will count. If you have a child that has not been tested, is not able to be tested or failed the practice test more than 3 times per the Non-participation status reasons, please make sure you are marking the child as such in Renaissance.

The Parent Report must be shared with the parents within in 7 days of the date of the test. The signed report and the Star Activity Test report must be kept on file at the providers facility for 5 years. This was confirmed by DEL that these documents are included in the record retention policy.

When running the Star Activity Test Report for your center, please ensure that you are selecting Star Assessment as the Assessment type so it will show the correct information for your classroom(s).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Roushawn Saunders by email at Roushawn.saunders@ecs4kids.org or by phone at 904-726-1500 ext. 2241.



Warm Line 1-800-238-3463

Ext. 2281 (CNBB)

Ext. 2227 (PSJ)



Do you have a concern about the health, development, disability, or special needs of a child? If so, call the Warm Line. The purpose of the warm line is to provide advice to child care personnel concerning strategies, curriculum, and environmental adaptations that allow a child to derive maximum benefit from the child care experience.