

CCR&R Parent/Provider Newsletter-May2015



Grandma Says The Diversity Around Us

Articles found on pages 1-2, 4-5 are courtesy of "Growing Together"-newsletter for parents of preschool children.

You've seen all the statistics. Numbers of traditionally structured families decrease every year. Racial/ethnic minorities account for over 30 percent of students across America.

Immigrant populations are rising, and comprise about one-fourth of children younger than age six.

America today, no matter where you are raising your children, is a complex tapestry full of variations, colors, and backgrounds. Part of preparing your children for life as this twenty-first century progresses is ensuring their comfort with an respect for such diversity.

Exposing young children to cultural differences and similarities, and modeling appreciation and acceptance of diversity enable children to grow up without developing the kind of prejudices and biases that are largely the result of fear and lack of experience.

In addition, recognizing the wonderful variations among individuals only helps children appreciate and celebrate this great world.

Multicultural picture book experiences help children develop positive feelings toward all people everywhere. I want to suggest some good books for you and your children to enjoy. (Page 2)

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Grandma Says-Recommended Book List on Diversity

Hairs, by *Sandra Cisneros*-a young girl describes the different types of hair each family member has

Family, by *Isabell Monk*-a family celebrates their special dishes and family customs

Luka's Quilt, by *Georgia Guback*-the family tradition of quilt making opens a discussion about living with extended family

Jingle Dancer, by *Cynthia Smith*-a Native American girl learns traditions passed from one generation to another

Mama Panya's Pancakes, by *Kelly Cunnane*-a Kenyan child and mother go to market to buy items for making pancakes, emphasizing community and types of food

The Name Jar, by *Yangsook Choi*-a Korean child who moves to America is laughed at for her unusual name, with a happy outcome and nice perspective on unique names

Grandfather Counts, by *Andrea Cheng*-a grandfather comes to live with his daughter's family, and his granddaughter and he teach each other to count in English and Chinese

The Ugly Vegetables, by *Grace Lin*-a family grows Chinese vegetables and makes a wonderful soup to share with the neighbors

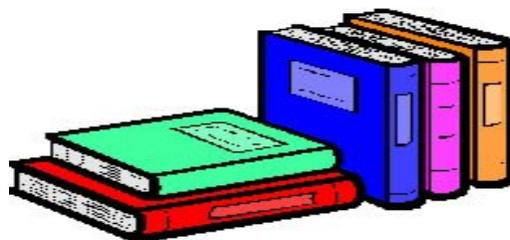
In the Snow, by *Huy Voun Lee*-a little boy and his mother go for a walk, and she teaches him Chinese characters by drawing them in the snow

Taxi, Taxi, by *Cari Best*-a little girl who lives with her mother is picked up by her Papi on Sundays, showing different family structures

Cleversticks, by *Bernard Ashley*-a child starting Kindergarten discovers there are things that he cannot do, but he can show his classmates how to use chopsticks

I Love My Hair, by *Natasha Tarpley*-a young African American girl describes the ritual she and her mother go through to care for her hair

These, and others that your children's librarian can recommend, will help you and your children to explore together the wonderful world of differences and sameness that binds us all.





where great stories begin™

REACH OUT AND READ'S SPRING IN BLOOM READING LIST

BOARD BOOKS

0-2 YEARS

- A Nest in Springtime** by Belle Yang
- It's Spring!** by Samantha Berger
- Are You My Baby?** by Kathleen Rizzi
- Butterfly Colors and Counting** by Jerry Pallotta
- Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit** by Ill Sung Na

PICTURE BOOKS

3-5 YEARS

- The Tiny Seed** by Eric Carle
- From Seed to Plant** by Gail Gibbons
- Spring is Here!** by Will Hillenbrand
- Spring Blossoms** by Carole Gerber
- Counting in the Garden** by Emily Hruby

BEGINNING READER SERIES

5-8 YEARS

- Mole Catches the Sky** by Ellen Tarlow
- The Flower Alphabet Book** by Jerry Pallotta
- In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb** by Marion Dane Bauer
- A Garden for Groundhog** by Lorna Balian
- And Then It's Spring** by Julie Fogliano

CHAPTER BOOK SERIES

7-10 YEARS

- The Fenway Foul Up** by David A. Kelly
- Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure** by Thea Stilton
- Sugaring Time** by Kathryn Lasky
- Baseball Is...** by Louise Borden
- Miss Happiness and Miss Flower** by Rumer Godden



IT'S DOCTOR-RECOMMENDED!

TIPS FOR ENCOURAGING READERS

Borrow spring-themed books about animals, flowers, holidays, and weather from your local library.

Bring your books outside! Read together at your local park or in your backyard.

Make up poems together - the sillier the better.

At a local nursery, read the names of the flowers together.

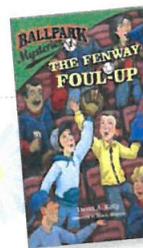
Create cards with flowers, butterflies, baseballs, and other spring decorations. Send them to relatives and friends.



BOOKS FOR FUN

8-12 YEARS

- Maniac Magee** by Jerry Spinelli
- The Boy Who Saved Baseball** by John H. Ritter
- A Child's Garden of Verses** illustrated by Brian Wildsmith
- Over the Wall** by John H. Ritter
- Blue Willow** by Doris Gates



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Organizing Time

Young children organize time on the basis of important events which are repeated. Some events like a birthday or holiday occur only once a year. Grocery shopping occurs more often, while eating takes place three or four times daily. The regularity of these events helps children acquire an internal clock about when things will happen. Preschoolers can participate in some planning for future events. Such planning will teach two related time concepts:

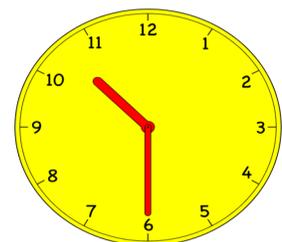
1. The past, present, and future are separated by time.
2. There is a need sometimes to delay gratification of one's expectations and desires.

Some children have difficulty organizing events in time. Activities to promote good time organization at the preschool level can be incorporated into daily events such as dressing, using songs and rhymes, or helping with a daily chore. Routine activities of daily living, such as dressing or bathing, involve the sequencing of events in time. Children who dress themselves may occasionally put on shoes before socks. Or they omit underpants because they have not followed the correct sequential order.

Discovery of an omission or error is a learning experience. Equally valuable is the planning, in advance, of what clothes to put on and in what order. For example, you tell your child to select what he would like to wear tomorrow. Then, he places these items in a row on the bed: what comes first, what comes next, what follows this, and so on.

Songs that have a theme that is repeated have always been popular with young children, and have stories that have a line that reoccur. ("Little pig, little pig, let me in!") "The farmer in the Dell" is an example. The story unfolds in a sequence, while there is a constant, the farmer, who makes the decisions about whom to "take."

Rhyming and rhythms have the same role—to teach about events in time. The Dr. Seuss books, for example, often don't make a lot of sense to a young child. But he likes the sounds and the beats which occur in patterns through time.



Let's Do Math

Math is a very important part of life. We use math to set an alarm clock, buy groceries, keep score or time at a game, wallpaper a room, or wrap a present. We all need math in the world of computers and electronic communication. It is important to encourage children to think of themselves as mathematicians who can reason and solve problems.

Here are some things you can do to encourage your children:

- ◆ **Show your children that you like numbers.** Play number games and think of math problems as puzzles to be solved.
- ◆ **From the time your child is very young, count everything.** When you empty a grocery bag, count the number of apples. Count the number of stairs in your home.
- ◆ **Put things in groups.** When you do laundry, separate items of clothing: all the socks in one pile, shirts in another, and pants in another. Divide the socks by colors and count the number of each. Draw pictures and graphs of clothes in the laundry: 4 red socks, 10 blue socks, 12 white socks.
- ◆ **Help your child do math** in their heads with lots of small numbers.

Ask questions: "If you have four cups and I need seven altogether, how many more do I need?"

Congratulations Providers

Increasing Stars



Kelli's Kids

*Increased to 3 Stars

Mot Mots

*Increased to 4 Stars





Currently Available

North Carolina Professional Development Bonus Award

Did you know that Craven Smart Start/ CCR&R offers professional development trainings to help 4 or 5 star licensed centers and homes meet the eligibility requirements for the award and earn a one-time bonus incentive?

The following trainings are now being offered in May and June on our Quarterly Training Calendar:

Choosing and Using a Curriculum and Instructional Assessment .5 CEU

Monday, May 11 **AND** Thursday, May 14 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Introduction to Cultural Competence: Awareness .5 CEU

Thursday, June 11 **AND** Thursday, June 18 6:30pm - 9:00pm

NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development .5 CEU

Wednesday, June 17 **AND** Wednesday, June 24 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Please contact Craven Smart Start /Child Care Resource & Referral to learn more about the **NC Professional Development Award** eligibility requirements.

You may also access training information by contacting CCR&R or visit our website and training calendar at <http://www.cravensmartstart.org/calendar/>.

Child Care Resource & Referral

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New Bern, NC 28560
Phone: 252-672-5921
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E-mail: sheila@cravensmartstart.com

For training calendars & special events, check out our website or Facebook!

Child Care Resource and Referral is here for you. FREE referrals to fit your child care needs with a licensed, regulated, or legally exempt child care program.

Looking for:

- *Full-Time/Part-Time Care
- *Before/ After School Care
- *Part-Time Preschool
- *Weekend Care
- *Drop-In Care
- *Hourly Care



Play & Learn Kindermusik ABC & Me (Music Time, Art Activity, & Snack for Toddlers, Preschool Children, and their Parents)

THEME: DOWN ON THE GROUND

MAY 18, 2015 (9:00 AM)

Havelock Elementary School

201 Cunningham Blvd.

Havelock, NC 28532

MAY 21, 2015 (10:00 AM & 1:00 PM)

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

2111-F Neuse Blvd.

New Bern, NC 28560

