



Play and Learn!

Did you know that Craven Smart Start/Child Care Resource and Referral offers monthly "Play and Learn" sessions for young children and their families? Twice a month, members of the CCR&R Lending Library are invited to participate in developmentally appropriate activities with their young children. Play and Learns usually consists of story time, art activities, puzzles and games, snack, and social interaction time. We try to do activities that parents may not always offer at home—such as finger painting and play dough (due to the "mess factor") or cutting with child size scissors.

Our next Play and Learn Sessions are scheduled for

February 19 at 10 am

February 20 at 10 am and 1pm

To register and/or inquire about CCR&R Library Membership, please call Jennifer @ (252) 672-5921.

February Holidays & Observance

- 1-Take Child to Library Day
- 2-Ground Hog Day
- 3-Facebook's Birthday
- 4-Rosa Parks Day
- 5-Weatherperson Day
- 6-National Chop Stick Day
- 7-National Wear Red Day
- 8-Reading Fun Day
(New Bern Mall)
- 9-National Stop Bullying Day
- 10-Umbrella Day
- 11-Make A New Friend Day
- 12-Lincoln's Birthday
- 13-Get Different Name Day
- 14-Valentine's Day
- 15-National Gum Drop Day
- 16-National Almond Day
- 17-President's Day
- 18-Battery Day
- 19- National Chocolate Mint Day
- 20-Cherry Pie Day
- 21-Card Reading Day
- 22-Washington's Birthday
- 23- Tennis Day
- 24-National Cupcake Day
- 25-Quiet Day
- 26-Tell A Fairy tale Day
- 27-National Chili Day
- 28-Tooth Fairy Day
- 29-Leap Day



Mark Your Calendars



Building Brighter Futures Early Childhood Conference Saturday March 29, 2014



Activities and Fun Things to Do with Preschoolers

Article provided by [Care.com](http://www.care.com)

Traditional games are fine to keep preschoolers busy, but even better are activities that will have a lasting educational impact. Use these important learning goals for 3- to 5-year-olds as a basis for playtime.

Pretend play

- **Tea party.** Have the preschooler host a tea party for dolls, stuffed animals, and you. Invite others -- whether siblings or sitters -- to join in on the make-believe play to develop social skills, in addition to imagination.
- **Cooking or store.** If the child has Little Tikes or similar plastic food and play sets at home, encourage her to re-enact familiar scenarios from real life. Or she can use older pots and pans. By driving the action herself, she's learning to develop narratives.

Dress up. Allow her to put on and take off costumes herself, which also teaches hand-eye coordination in addition to creativity and role playing.

Stories and songs

- **Story time.** Read stories often. Ask questions about what objects the preschooler might see in picture books, and encourage the child to ask about any words she doesn't understand. This develops comprehension and vocabulary skills. It also provides important fodder for pretend play.
- **Sing songs.** Build listening, voice, and language skills by singing favorite songs like "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." Adding the hand and body movements also develops hand-eye coordination and memory building.

Foreign languages. Encourage word association and second-language building at this age in a game form. Take a handful of familiar objects such as "ball" or "train" and teach them in Spanish, French, or American Sign Language.

Day trips

- **Take advantage of social and cultural opportunities.** Preschoolers are curious about the world around them. A day trip -- even if it only lasts a couple of hours -- will occupy a preschooler while providing important social and cultural experiences. If you visit local museums and art galleries, point out colors and shapes. "Please touch" museums and exhibits encourage preschoolers to explore with their eyes and hands.
- **Visit a park.** Spending time at a park that is frequented by children of the same age can be a healthy, fun and inexpensive outing.
- **Explore your neighborhood.** Walk around your neighborhood looking for acorns, leaves, bugs or architectural features, which can teach your children to observe the world around them more closely.

Preschoolers are like sponges of social and cultural information. Plan activities that will both entertain and educate them, and you'll both have a great time.

Source: <http://www.childcarelounge.com/parent-articles/preschooler-fun.php>

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!

Lying is a behavior that both parents and caregivers find particularly troublesome. Most children will exaggerate, stretch the truth or downright fib at one point or another. It is helpful to understand that young children often lie for very different reasons than adults do. This understanding will help you prevent and cope with lying and tale telling.

Reasons for Lying

- ◆ To confirm to expected behavior, avoid punishment or receive reward. A young child may realize that a concrete action such as taking a cookie is wrong and yet see no problem with denying the action.
- ◆ To avoid embarrassment and preserve self-esteem.
- ◆ They don't yet understand the difference between fact and fiction. This is very common with younger children. Their fanciful tales may be a reflection of their wishes or simply a bountiful imagination.

Prevent Lying

- ◆ Avoid giving the child the opportunity or reason to lie. This may happen when you confront a child for an action you already know they did. If you catch a child standing beside a broken vase, it is best not to say, "Did you smash my favorite vase?" Try, "I can see you broke my vase, can you tell me how it happened?"
- ◆ Be a good role model and practice what you preach. A young child is not going to understand the fine line between a "white lie" and a fib. Attempt to be honest in all that you say and do.

Reacting to Lying

- ◆ Try not to accelerate the lying with such statements as, "If I find out you lied about this, I am going to put you in time out." Instead encourage discussion by saying, "I don't think that is what happened. I need you to tell me what occurred so we can solve the problem."
- ◆ Be sure to explain to the child in simple terms the importance of honesty. Talk about how it builds trust and social relationships.
- ◆ Acknowledge the child's feelings or the cause of the lie. "I can see you may be embarrassed, but I need to know what happened so we can deal with it together."

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Source: <http://www.childcarelounge.com/parent-articles/liar-liar.php>

Ground Hog Day

What you'll need:

- Brown paint
- Potato
- Paper towels
- Knife (Googly eyes)
- Black marker
- Construction paper (white, green, blue, yellow)
- Stickers (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue stick

How to make your Potato Groundhog's Day Craft

1. Have an adult cut a potato in half lengthwise. Dab the potato onto a few paper towels to remove some of the moisture.
2. Pour some brown paint onto a paper plate and dip one half of the potato in it. We also tried using a paintbrush to apply the paint to the potato, but if you do this you need to really glop it on there.
3. Stamp your potato onto a piece of white construction paper. Dip your finger in the brown paint and add two ears to the top of your potato print. Set the page aside and let it dry.
4. The groundhog (your potato print) is popping out of his hole in this craft, so you need to cut a green piece of construction paper to put on the bottom half of the groundhog/paper. We cut a little dip out of the green paper around the groundhog to make it look more like a hole.
5. Decorate the grass with flowers (stickers, etc.) if you would like.
6. Glue two googly eyes on the groundhog and use the marker to draw on his nose and mouth.
7. Now your child gets to choose which version of the tale they would like to make.
 - Option 1: Phil does not see his shadow and we get an early spring. For this one cut some cloud shapes out of blue paper and glue them to the picture. No sun means no shadow!
 - Option 2: Phil does see his shadow and we have six more weeks of winter. For this one cut a sun shape out of the yellow construction paper and glue it on to the picture. Use your black marker to draw a shadow on the grass around the groundhog.



Source: <http://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/groundhog-day/potato-groundhog-craft.asp>

Activities

Sorting

Cut a "Happy" tooth and "Sad" tooth out. Then, cut pictures from magazines for each tooth. Choosing pictures on what would make the tooth "sad" and what would make the tooth Happy.

There is a short song to go with the activity.

The little sad tooth says, "Sad tooth, sad tooth, full of tooth decay. Sweets and soda pop made me this way.

" The happy tooth says, "Happy tooth, happy tooth shiny and bright, brushing keeps me healthy and white."



Source: <http://mamabeefromthehive.blogspot.com/2011/03/dental-health.html>

Dental Health Month

Make up a paper mouth with white square marks for the teeth. We rolled the dice and added that many teeth. .



For the circle marks. Stamp a marker lid in some black ink. The teeth are mini marshmallows



Source: <http://mamabeefromthehive.blogspot.com/2011/03/dental-health.html>

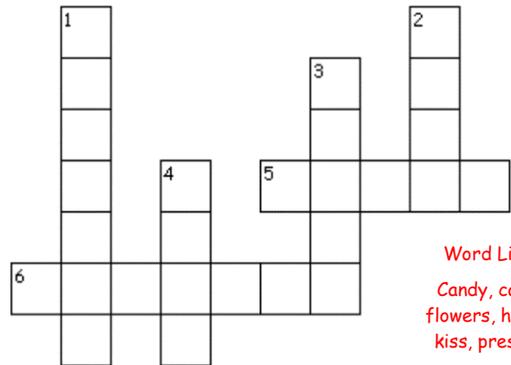
Math Game



Create two cards; number cards and counting cards. With the number cards in order, students are invited to identify the numeral and count out the correct number of candies to place on the counting card beneath

Source: Photo Source: livingmontessorinow.com

Valentine's Day Crossword



Word List:
Candy, card,
flowers, heart,
kiss, present

Across

5.



Down

2.



6.



3.



4.

Down

1.



Source: <http://www.dtk-holidays.com/valentines/m-crossword.htm>



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Mission Statement For CCR&R

To enhance the quality and quantity of child care services in Craven County by providing a wide range of information, referrals, advocacy and training services to families, providers and the community in general.



Are You Needing Help Finding Quality Child Care?

Child Care Resource & Referral is here for you!

FREE

Referrals to fit your child care needs with a licensed, regulated or legally exempt child care programs.

Looking for:

- *Full-time Child Care*
- *Part Time Child Care*
- *Before/After School Care*
- *Part Time Preschools*
 - *Evening Care*
 - *Over Night Care*
 - *Weekend Care*
 - *Drop In Care*
 - *Hourly Care*

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