



Families

Understanding

Needs

EARLY ACTION PAYS OFF TODAY AND TOMORROW

Just as in business, investing early in our workforce pipeline ensures the best outcomes. Research shows that proper nutrition and health, a safe and nurturing home environment, and access to high-quality learning in the earliest years of life are integral to helping today's children prepare for school and workforce success.

Giving young children a good start reduces immediate health problems, as well as grade retention and special education costs in the first few years of school.

In addition, because early childhood spending tends to be local, and child care and pre-K professionals generally spend rather than save most of their earnings, states generate roughly two dollars in local spending for each federal child care dollar spent.

One study found that an investment of just \$6,692 in pre-K for disadvantaged children yielded a lifetime return of up to \$69,937 – an Return Of Investment of greater than 10:1.

Research on disadvantaged children shows that those who participate in early childhood development programs.

- Attain greater high school graduation rates and education levels, earn higher lifetime salary and pay more in taxes.

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- Are more likely to own their own homes and have savings accounts and less likely to rely on public assistance.
- Commit fewer crimes, generating substantial savings in incarceration costs and other areas.

The foundation of skills required to grow a team-capable, job-ready workforce is built in the earliest years of life – between birth and age 5 – yet we do not give our young children the early supports they need to get there.

(www.partnershipforsuccess.org)



Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities offers Trainings to assist families and professionals. Also available are WEBINAR OR AUDIO Trainings via your computer and/or phone. For a complete list, times and details of OCECD trainings or to schedule one, visit our website at www.ocecd.org or call 800-374-2806. **Also, new this fall is OCECD's Nutrition and the IEP book.**

BOOK REVIEWS

SPRING SONG

By Barbara Seuling

Spring is here, and animals know it's time to wake up, explore and play! Bears emerge from their dens, rabbits leave their burrows to hop through clover-filled meadows and butterflies emerge from their cocoons.

In Spring Song, the beautiful painted illustrations invite children to emerge from their wintertime hideaways and join in nature's celebration of springtime glory. Ages 2-5 years (although older children will love the paintings).

WILL YOU COME BACK FOR ME?

By Ann Tompert

Four year old Suki is worried about being left in day care for the first time until her mother reassures her that she loves her and will always return for her.

This is a great book for parents and preschool age children to help prepare your child for when you go back to work.

FEEL THE WIND

By Arthur Dorros

Have you ever felt the wind tickle your face or heard it whistle through your window? Did you know that some wind travels faster than a car? Feel the Wind explains what causes wind and the cause and affects of wind.

Feel the Wind is part of the Stage 2 Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series. The Stage 1 books explain simple science concepts for preschoolers and kindergarteners. The Stage 2 books explore more challenging concepts for

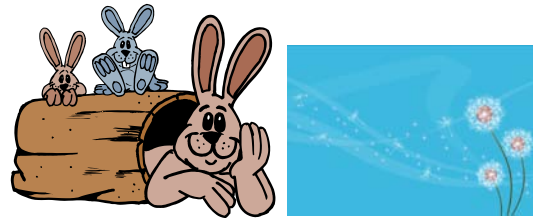
children in the primary grades. Both stages help satisfy children's curiosity about how the world works.

Ages 5 thru 9

GRAND-O-GRAMS

By Marianne Richmond

This book is for all you long distance grandparents out there. Any season is a reason to be in touch with your grandchildren! Use these 40 fun postcards (they tear out easily) to say hello, send a hug, or to remind them how much you love them. You may even inspire a return letter!



JUST FOR FUN

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar that he was carrying in his pocket melted.

Despite the white, fluffy appearance of the fur of a Polar Bear, it actually has black skin.

Cats use their whiskers to check whether a space that they are about to enter through, is too small for them to fit through or not.

Everyone's tongue print is different.

And the human brain is 80% water, so make sure you drink plenty of water! (www.buzzle.com/articles/fun-facts-for-kids.html)



FAMILY FUN

Summer Parent Tips

10 Things You Can Do to Keep Your Child Ahead this Summer

1. Read Together – Books, Newspapers, Comics, and Magazines.
2. Eat Together and talk about your day – ask questions!
3. Go to a Museum – take the whole family for a day full of fun!
4. Explore Nature – go to the park and talk about what you see.
5. Teach Your Child a New Skill – sewing, cooking, making change, repairing the car, planting, painting, and playing music.
6. Watch a Documentary or Educational Program on TV together and discuss it – History Channel, Discovery, PBS works.
7. Allow Your Child to Help – whether it is giving the cashier the right amount of money to pay or asking for directions, these skills help your child become healthy & resilient adults.
8. Ask Your Child to Keep a Journal, it builds writing skills!
9. Share information about Your Culture and Family History with your child – this builds self-esteem and knowledge.

10. Visit a College Campus – it's free and there are usually tours, art shows, plays and sports events that will appeal to the whole family!

(www.familyeducation.com)

“Are We There Yet?”

To prevent backseat boredom and whining, make the voyage part of the fun for your kids, says Emily Kaufman, author of *The Travel Mom's Ultimate*

Book of Family Travel (Broadway).

Here's how to avoid a cranky carload of passengers.

- Give your kids guidebooks to the area and let them suggest where to stop. Having control over travel decisions – and a destination to look forward to – minimizes complaining and breaks up the trip into more manageable chunks.
- Pack sports equipment. Stop at parks or playgrounds for impromptu games.
- “Boredom bags” are a must, says Kaufman. She recommends hanging cosmetic bags in the back seat or using backpacks or freezer bags. Fill with Mad Lib, books, paper, writing instruments, cards and games. Save a few unique surprises for when the going gets rough.
- Let everyone in the car take turns being the D.J. Each family member should bring a mix CD or playlist.
- A book on tape will keep the family entertained.
- Bring along a few cookie sheets to use as lap tables for drawing or writing, as well as for magnet games.

On the Road FUN

You don't have to spend loads of money to have lots of good times.

1. Call the local visitors center to find out what the residents are up to. From a turtle race to a lobster night, there's bound to be something happening.

2. Invest in a National Parks Pass if you plan to visit a few of them. An annual fee of \$50 admits your entire family.

(www.nationalparks.org)

3. If you're staying in a big city, the Go Card grants admission to many major attractions (www.gocardusa.com).

Additional Resources:

Travelforkids.com: Family-friendly attractions and dining options.

Momsminivan.com: Travel games and ideas for the whole family.
(Are We There Yet and On the Road FUN were taken from familycircle.com)

FAMILY PROJECT

Find Out More About Wind

You can make your own weather vane like this . . .

1. You will need:

- 1 pencil with eraser
- 1 pin
- 1 straw
- 1 piece of thick paper

2. Cut two squares the same size from the piece of paper. Cut a triangle from one square.
3. Staple the triangle on one end of the straw, and the square on the other end.
4. Balance the straw on your finger. Mark the balancing point with your pen. Then push the pin through the straw at the balancing point.
5. Push the pin into the eraser of the pencil. Push the pencil into the ground. Be careful to keep the pencil straight up and down.
6. Ask a grown-up for help placing markers around the pencil at north, south, east and west.

When the wind blows, your weather vane will point in the direction the wind is blowing from.
(Feel the Wind, Arthur Dorros)

Edible Jewels

They're FUN to make and to eat! Thread some of your favorite treats onto a string of licorice. *Hint: With parent supervision use a toothpick to make a hole if necessary and watch the size of the treats as may pose a choking hazard.*

Jewels to string:

- Lifesavers
- Cereal
- Mini marshmallows
- Raisins
- Fruit snacks
- Gum drops
- Jelly beans

Standards Link: Math/Data Analysis: Identify and extend simple patterns.
(KidScoop.com)

FUN WEBSITES

www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth April is Child Abuse Prevention month and the Child Welfare Information Gateway has published a collection of resources on their 2011 National Child Abuse Prevention Website.

www.earlyliteracylearning.org/ta_cellcasts1.php The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) has released CELLcasts for parents. CELLcasts are audio/video versions of CELL practice guides which are available to view online or download. *Sights and Sounds* for example teaches parents how to expose their infants to multiple listening opportunities.

CELL is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Research to Practice Division and is a major initiative of the Center for Evidence-Based Practices at the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute.

www.woodbinehouse.com a source for books on disabilities for parents, children, teachers and professionals. The Go to the Dentist prepares children for a visit to the dentist: having their teeth counted, dental tools, and a new toothbrush at the end! There are two other books in the series.

www.ecmhc.org/relaxation.html is a resource on Stress and Relaxation for Early Childhood Providers and Parents provided by the Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (CECMHC). Stress can impact the quality of care young children receive. When caregivers are too stressed, it is difficult for them to offer the praise, nurture and structure that children need.

MEDICAL/SAFETY

Spring-cleaning: Five top areas of hidden home hazards that need your attention:

1. Magnets

The tiny magnets so common in toys, building sets and jewelry can cause injury to children if swallowed. Magnets can get trapped in the body if swallowed. These can then pinch or twist the intestines, causing holes, blockages, infection and possibly death if not treated promptly. When cleaning, watch carefully for loose magnets and magnetic pieces. Keep toys containing these away from children younger than 6 years.

2. Recalled products

Check the US Consumer Product Safety (CPSC) website www.cpsc.gov for recalled products. Make sure to remove these from your home.

3. Tip-overs.

Furniture, TVs and stoves can tip over and crush young children. Children are

killed or seriously injured when they climb on, fall against or pull themselves up on TV stands, bookshelves, dressers, desks, etc. Do not place TVs on top of furniture or place toys, remote controls or other tempting objects on top of unstable furniture. Anchor any insecure furniture to the wall or floor with anti-tip brackets.

4. Windows and coverings.

When spring comes, it's tempting to open the windows to air out rooms. Children are injured or killed when falling from windows. Do not put furniture under windows and don't rely on window screens to keep children in.

Cords from drapes and blinds can strangle children. Parents should use cordless blinds or keep cords and chains permanently out of children's reach. Cut looped cords and add a safety tassel. Never place a child's crib or bed within reach of window blinds or drapes.

5. Pool and spa drains.

The suction from a pool drain can be so powerful it can hold an adult under water. Most accidents, however, involve children. Missing or broken drain covers are a major reason children are trapped. If you have a pool or spa, consider installing safety vacuum release system (SVRS), which detects if a drain is blocked and shuts off the pool pump or interrupts water circulation to prevent a child from getting trapped on the drain. (Growing Together Dayton Children's News for Families)

Poison Prevention

Medication, household cleaners and even a leaky gas furnace can be serious poisoning risks to your kids.

Things that are convenient for us, like keeping vitamins by the sink, can be

deadly if your child can get to them too. Keeping potentially dangerous substances out of little hands is a sure way to prevent unintentional poisoning. For resources (fact sheets, safety tips, videos, downloads and useful websites) go to www.usa.safekids.org.

Poison Safety for Kids

In the United States, a child dies every 3 or 4 days because of poisoning. Poisoning cases involving children take place every 30 seconds, and 9 out of 10 of them happen in someone's home. Many household items can be poisonous if you try to drink them, and kids can be poisoned by grown-up medicine if they take it without an adult present. Poison safety for kids means kids knowing what to stay away from and grown-ups taking proper precautions.

For more information on poison safety that's in a child friendly format go to www.ehow.com and type Poison Safety for Kids in the search box.

New Ohio Booster Seat Law

As of April 7, 2010, Ohio's revised child restraint law requires the following:

- Children less than 4 years old or 40 pounds must use a child safety seat.
- **New: Children less than 8 years old, unless they are at least 4 feet, 9 inches tall must use a booster seat.**
- Children ages 8-15 must use a child safety seat or safety belt.

Why isn't the seat belt enough? Seat belts were designed for adults and can leave a child at risk of serious injury in a motor vehicle crash.

- Booster seats raise a child up so the shoulder belt fits correctly, by lying over the middle of the shoulder and the center of the

chest – the strongest parts of a child's body.

- Using a booster seat with a seat belt instead of using a seat belt alone for a child this age reduces the risk of injury in a crash by 59 percent.

Why is the law important? Most Ohio children are still not in booster seats.

- Motor vehicle traffic remains the leading cause of death for Ohio children aged 4 to 7 years.
- In 2007, Ohio's booster seat use rate for children aged 4 to 8 years was only 18 percent, one of the lowest in the country.

What's the best booster to buy?

The Injury Prevention Program does not endorse any particular child safety or booster seat. The following resources may be of help in selecting a booster seat.

- American Academy of Pediatrics Family Car Seat Guide (Boosters) Web site has a buyers guide with information on available seats:
www.aap.org/family/Carseatguide.htm#BoosterSeats
- 2008 NHTSA Ease of Use Ratings for Booster Seats:
www.nhtsa.gov/portal/nhtsa_eou/info.jsp?type=booster

When should my child move from a booster seat to a seat belt?

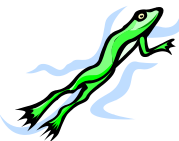
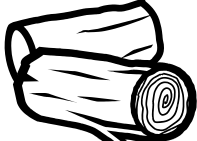
A booster seat is designed to place a child higher on the vehicle seat so that the lap/shoulder belt fits correctly.



Information on proper fitting can be found at www.carseat.org.
(www.odh.ohio.gov)






ACTIVITY PAGE

Read the sentence filling in the word for the picture and choosing the correct word (in parenthesis) that finishes the sentence.

1. The  jumped (over or under) the .

2. The  has the  (off or on) his lap.

3. The  are on the (top or bottom) of the .

4. The  is pointing to the (left or right).

Answers:

1. The frog jumped over the logs.
2. The boy has the book on his lap.
3. The leaves are on the top of the tree.
4. The arrow is pointing to the right.

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