

THE FAMILY CONNECTION

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HOURS OF OPERATION

MON.-FRI. 8:00-3:00



THE FAMILY CONNECTION

MARCH 2010

WHAT'S UP THIS MONTH:

•Tiny Tot Gym is a great way to get your child active, and it only costs 50 cents per child! For more information contact Lori with the REC Department at 385-1475.

•Picasso once said that "all children are artists". Bring out your child's inner artist with the fun crafts on p. 1

•Need to talk? Amy is doing visits with people who need some support but don't qualify for Stephanie's Healthy Baby program. To schedule a visit, call 385-4090.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fun and easy craft 1

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March into Literacy

As you probably already know, encouraging literacy in the home is a major goal of Family Connection. Here are some statistics I recently found regarding literacy:

* The average student learns about 3,000 words per year in the early school years. That's an average of 8 words per day!

• 14% of all individuals have a learning disability.

• It is estimated that more than \$2 billion is spent each year on students who repeat a grade because they have reading problems.

• Over 50% of NASA employees are dyslexic. They are deliberately sought after because they have superb problem solving skills and excellent 3D and spatial awareness.

• About three in five of America's prison inmates are illiterate.

• There are almost half a million words in our English language—the largest language on earth—but a third of all our writing is made up of only 22 words.

So what do we do with this information? More to come in April's newsletter!

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FUN AND EASY CRAFTS

Here are some fun and easy crafts that will keep you and your child entertained on those days when March is more of a lion than a lamb.

Drawing Dough

Drawing dough is a cross between paint and dough, and is a fun activity for toddlers.

Materials

2/3 cup each of flour, water, and salt

Washable tempera paint

Squeeze bottles

Directions

In a mixing bowl, whisk together the water, flour, and salt. The dough will be just barely pourable. Divide the dough into two bowls, and

stir in a few drops of paint. Pour the dough into squeeze bottles. Cover your child with a smock, put down lots of newspaper, and let your child make his own artistic creation!

Green Stamp

This St. Patrick's Day stamp will have your preschooler looking for items she can stamp, so make sure you let her know where she can use it and where she can't!

Materials

A heart-shaped cookie cutter

Potato, cut in half

Paring knife

Green acrylic paint

A paintbrush

A sheet of paper

Directions

Press the cookie cutter into the cut face of a potato. With the cookie cutter still in place, use the paring knife to cut the potato from the outside of the heart (a parents job). Remove the cookie cutter, dip heart into acrylic paint, and press onto paper. Repeat to make two more leaves, then use the paintbrush to add a stem.





MARCH 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Madres Parent's Class	3 Tiny Tot Gym	4	5	6
7 Chic Chat	8	9 Madres Parent's Class Dad's Class	10 Tiny Tot Gym	11 F.U.T.U.R.E.	12	13
14	15	16 Madres Parent's Class	17 St. Patrick's Day Tiny Tot Gym	18	19	20
21 Chic Chat	22	23 Madres Parent's Class Dad's Class	24 Tiny Tot Gym	25 F.U.T.U.R.E.	26	27
28	29	30 Madres Parent's Class	31 Tiny Tot Gym			

For more information on Partners for a Healthy Toddler (PHT) please see page 4, Tiny Tot Gym see page 1

Class Times

- Parent Class
4:30-5:30pm and 6:00-7:00pm
- Madres
4:30-5:30pm
- Chic Chat
4:00-5:00pm
- Dad's Class
6:00-7:00pm

March 2
4:30-5:30 and 6:00-7:00

Change, Growth, and Letting Go

Yes, this is a repeat from last month! Our snow day in February threw off our schedule. Tonight we are discussing different ways to respond to the people around you, including your children. We will have a special guest help with our activities.

March 9
4:30-5:30 and 6:00-7:00

About Me

How does your personality affect how you relate to the world? Our own Janet Smith has some fun activities that help us learn more about ourselves.

March 16
4:30-5:30 and 6:00-7:00

Family Interaction Night

How much do you know about taking care of babies? Think you are an expert on toddlers? We all get a chance to test our knowledge as we turn the classroom into a giant board game! The winner from each class gets a book and a blanket, perfect for cuddling up together at story time.

March 23
4:30-5:30 and 6:00-7:00

Nurturing as a Lifestyle

We all have the capability within ourselves to be a nurturer, be nurtured, a victim, and a perpetrator. Join us as we discuss how to bring out the nurturer and get the nurturing we deserve, while avoiding being a victim or perpetrator.

March 30
4:30-5:30 and 6:00-7:00

Infant Massage

Massage is such a beneficial thing for babies, and even infants respond positively to a parents' gentle and loving touch. Tonight we learn some techniques to help us make the most of infant massage.