

Learning Tree Therapy Newsletter

These crafts are not only fun and a great way to engage your child, but they promote skill development in many areas including fine motor, hand strength, bilateral coordination, visual motor, and sequencing skills.

***Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th!**

Let's show our appreciation to the mother's (or caregivers) we know and love with these fun crafts!

Mother's Day Handprint Art Flowers



Materials:

- Non toxic washable paints
- Green paint or green marker
- 1 paintbrush
- 3 sheets of white paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ribbon (optional)

Directions:

1. Have child either paint their hands by using a paintbrush or have them dip their hands in paint.
2. Let child press down his/her hands on white paper (pretty hard) and in one swift motion remove from paper to make the handprints. (2 handprints per sheet of paper, four handprints total)
3. Let the paint dry. Once dry, cut along the handprints.
4. Glue the handprints on the third sheet of paper
5. Draw flower stems with green paint (or marker).
6. Glue bow towards bottom of stem (optional).
7. Write "Happy Mother's Day!" at the bottom of the paper



Popsicle Stick Mother's Day Craft



Materials:

- 6 popsicle sticks
- 19 colored buttons
- Pink paper (optional color)
- Yellow paper (optional color)
- Glue
- Scissors
- 1 marker

Directions:

1. Use 4 popsicle sticks to build a square, and glue them onto the yellow paper.
2. Using the last 2 popsicle sticks to make a pointed roof.
3. Draw a heart small enough to fit inside the square on the pink paper.
4. Write "Mom" inside the heart
5. Cut out the heart, and glue it in the center of the house.
6. Glue on buttons
7. Underneath the house have the child write "Home is where Mom is...Happy Mother's Day!"



MEMORIAL DAY CRAFT

Patriotic Windsock

Materials:

- 1 empty toilet paper roll
- 1 sheet blue construction paper
- 1 sheet red tissue paper
- 1 sheet white tissue paper
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Glue
- Tape
- String
- White marker



Directions:

1. Trim blue construction paper to match length of toilet paper roll.
2. Wrap blue construction paper around toilet paper roll and tape.
3. Cut red and white tissue paper into strips (1 inch wide).
4. Glue ends of tissue paper inside toilet paper roll, alternating colors.
5. Draw stars on toilet paper roll using white marker.
6. On top edge of toilet paper roll (opposite side of tissue papers), hole punch two holes opposite each other.
7. Loop end of string through one hole and tie - repeat with other end of string through second hole.

The weather is getting warmer, summer vacation is around the corner... ease your kiddos through these changes using these strategies for transitioning!

Maintain a routine

Going from a typical school-day structure to days of unplanned play may be confusing to some children. Try to maintain similar elements of their school-day schedule in order to transition them into a more relaxed routine. For example, continue to have your children eat breakfast, wash up, and get dressed and ready for the day, keep lunchtime around the same time as usual, etc. Visual schedules with pictures offer a sense of structure and security for those who may have difficulties transitioning!

Involve your children in making plans

Summer vacation is a time for parents and kids to relax and have some fun! Sit down with your children and have them help you come up with ideas to add to your vacation list. What should we pack for lunch? Should we play in the ocean first, or build sandcastles? This encourages engagement and a sense of control over expectations.

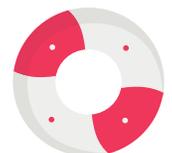
Keep in touch with friends

Try to schedule a play-date (virtual or in-person) with friends or classmates to encourage important social interactions and cooperative play! Meeting at an outdoor park or having a picnic on the beach with familiar faces can be motivational for engagement and participation during these less-structured months.



Dedicate some time to learning

It's important to take some time during the summer to continue practicing lessons learned in school to maintain and build-upon related skills! These skills carry over to functional activities in everyday life and promote executive functioning and continued learning.



6 stages of Social Play Development

1. **Unoccupied Play (Birth - 3 months):** Babies are learning about their bodies. They spend most of their time moving their arms, feet, and legs.
2. **Solitary Play (Birth - 2 years):** During this stage, children enjoy playing on their own and exploring their environment independently.
3. **Spectator/Onlooker Behavior (2 - 2.5 years):** Children are now beginning to watch other children from a distance, but there is no effort to join the play.
4. **Parallel Play (2.5 - 3 years):** Children are playing in closer proximity to one another but are not interacting with one another. They are paying attention to each other during this stage.
5. **Associative Play (3 years):** Children are becoming more interested in one another than they are in toys. They may share materials but are not working together during play.
6. **Co-Operative Play (4 years):** Children are sharing toys and ideas, as well as following rules during play. They are beginning to work together during play.

Play Tips

Offer a variety of play materials. Provide long blocks of time to play (30 - 50 minutes). Allow your child to see the toys when they enter the room.

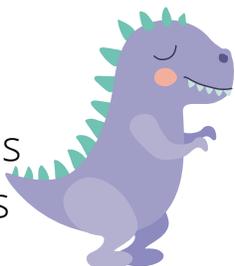
Daily Routines

The best opportunities for learning language are through daily routines. Below is a word list to target language skills during your child's morning routine.



Object words

- Shirt
- Pants
- Pajamas
- Diapers
- Spoon
- Fork



Actions Words

- Stand up
- Sit down
- Give me
- Clean up
- Eat Drink
- Wash



Concept Words

- On
- Off
- Up
- Down
- Mine
- More

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