



Preschool Parent Press

A publication brought to you by ECAC, the exceptional children's assistance center

November 2007

Welcome! It has been more than two years since our last edition of PRESCHOOL PARENT PRESS was published. We heard from many parents and teachers that they loved and missed this publication and back by popular demand is the first in the new edition.



Teaching your child preschool skills can be simple, rewarding, and most of all FUN for both of you! The PRESCHOOL PARENT PRESS will provide interesting and interactive ways to spend time with and teach your child. Each issue will be filled with information about effective educational practices for young children and help you to become a more active partner in your child's education.

Helping Your Child to Learn Through Daily Activities...

Parents want their children to have the best possible start in life. Naturally occurring lessons, called *incidental teaching*, involve one-to-one conversations by a parent, family member or teacher with a child during typical daily routines or activities. Prompting and praising your child during activities will promote learning and help to build your child's self-esteem.



The simple primary colors of yellow, green and red can be taught by pointing out the colors on a stoplight and talking about each color and what it means. With a little prompting, the drive to child care, school or the grocery store can offer wonderful learning opportunities for your child.

Counting/Math



While your child is getting dressed, count out loud: 1 second, 2 seconds and so on to find out how long it takes him to get dressed. When he hears the numbers as you count, it will teach him to count and begin to

help him understand a sense of time.

Colors/Shapes/Matching

While your child is dressing ask her to match colors, shapes, and objects on their clothes. You could say "Let's wear green today," or "Can you find the shirt with the cow on it?" As her skills build you can ask her to look for patterns on clothing such as, "Find your shirt with blue and green stripes or the sweater with red diamonds on it."



Time/Schedule

To help your children understand sequence of events, discuss events of the day. First we eat breakfast, then you go to daycare or preschool, and this afternoon we will go to the playground. Develop a picture schedule with the events for that day. Have your child check off each activity or errand as it is completed. These ideas will help children find structure in their day and feel more secure.

Weather

In the morning read the thermometer and listen to the weather forecast together. Ask your child what clothes they should wear that day. This will help make a connection to the weather and temperature. Compare the indoor and outdoor weather and talk about clothing for inside versus outside.



Sources: Early Childhood - Where Learning Begins, <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/EarlyMath/index.html>



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Funding for this publication is provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Office of School Readiness / Exceptional Children Division.



Leaf People

Help your child glue a leaf on a piece of paper, draw legs, arms, and a head to create a person. Help your child to name the leaf people

Torn Paper Tree

Your children can make a torn paper tree with brown paper for the trunk and red, orange and yellow paper for the leaves. Help them tear the pieces of paper into any shape they want and glue them on.

Apple Printing

Cut an apple in half laterally, separating the top from the bottom. You should be able to see the "star" that the core forms in the apple. Put some red or green non-toxic paint in a shallow container, (a pie tin works well) and show your child how to dip the apple in the paint and press onto a piece of paper creating an apple print.

Autumn Collage

Take your child on a nature walk. Give her a Ziploc bag for collecting leaves, twigs, acorns, etc. Take your time and talk about everything that you see. This is a great time for your child to learn about colors, shapes, animals, seasons and plants. When you get home help your child to glue all of the things they found onto a piece of paper and make a collage.



Thanks to the following resources:

Preschool Children/Story Hour - Children's Community Services Dept. Flint Public Library, Flint Michigan
Autumn, Acorns Activity Pages - www.123child.com

Trees Activity

Elm trees stretch and stretch so wide, (extend arms outward at side) their limbs reach out on every side. (stretch)

Pine trees stretch and stretch so high, (extend arms upward) they nearly reach up to the sky. (stretch)

Willows droop and droop so low, (bend and let arms hang loosely) their branches sweep the ground so low. (fingers sweep ground.)

What your child will learn:

- Language skills
- Motor skills
- Memory/thinking skills
- Following directions



Sing & Learn

Apple Seed Song

(sung to Eensy Weensy Spider)

Once a little apple seed
Was planted in the ground.
Down came the raindrops
Falling all around
Out came the bright sun
As bright as bright could be
and the little apple seed
Grew up to be an apple tree.



Leaves Song

(sung to Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Leaves, leaves, falling down,
Falling on the ground
Red and orange,
Yellow and brown
Falling on the ground.



ecac is committed to improving the lives and education of ALL children and we are delighted to bring you the Preschool Parent Press. For more information please contact us at 1-800-962-6817.

You can access the Preschool Parent Press on the ecac website at: www.ecac-parentcenter.org