

One-Page Tips

FOR LEARNING
& PLAYING AT HOME

From the Prince George's County Employee's Child Care Center and
The Prince George's County Public Schools Employees' Child Care Center



INFANTS AND TODDLERS EDITION 1

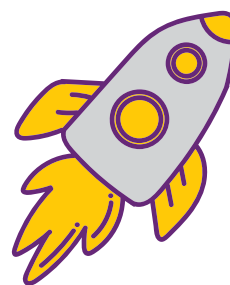
APRIL: TAKING CARE OF OUR EARTH, THE WIDE WORLD OF PLANTS.

APRIL VOCABULARY FOR PRE-SCHOOL: GARDEN, FLORIST, ROOTS, POLLEN, MINERALS, NECTAR, PETALS, BUDS



- **Peek-a-boo** has a reason: toddlers and even young babies love this. When they cannot see you, they think you are gone. But, you are under a blanket or using an afghan to pull over you, then, peek-a-boo, you reappear. The learning is called "Object Permanence Learning" - the fact that people and things still exist when you can not see them. This important development happens at about 8 mo.
- **Zip lock books**, Stack a few ziplock bags together with the zipper side all facing out. Then bind the other side together by punching holes through all layers and using yarn or steel rings to tie all together. Now you have waterproof blank book. Add family photographs into each bag. Add relatives you may not be seeing in person such as grandparents or cousins. Read this with your baby and toddler saying the names of family members, toddlers will want to "read" it by themselves.
- **Classification activities**, toddlers are trying to make sense of their world by constantly classifying the world around them. Use the above idea and make several ziplock books. Print some small on-line pictures in categories and place them in the books. For example one book could all be fruits, another book, all trees, another all emergency vehicles. Not only have you made a picture book but, you have helped your child learn classification which will become a pre-reading skill over the next few years.
- **Listening skills are developed over a lifetime** and hearing small differences is a pre-reading skill as well. Use some empty small containers like margarine tubs or plastic eggs that come apart, put a little dry rice in one, a penny in another, perhaps a few paperclips in a third. **NOW, YOU MUST HOT GLUE THE LIDS TOGETHER Or USE MANY LAYERS OF DUCK TAPE TO KEEP THIS GAME SAFE.** Children can now shake and categorize as parents say "loud, soft, jingle", etc.

- **Surprise Box:** Using several shoeboxes, create surprise boxes for your baby or toddler. A surprise box has things in it that baby may not see all-the-time, For example one has a set of rattles, one has a set of rocking people (like Weebles), one has wooden clothespins. Here is the idea: put these surprise boxes away on a shelf. Baby does NOT see them all, every day. Bring one out that baby may not have seen in a while. This is so much better than baby playing with all his toys all the time Ho-hum boring. But the surprise box - wow here is something newish to explore. A box of plastic spoons in a surprise box - your child will love it. But sanitize and put it away for a few days - "surprise" is the key word -use the other surprise box tomorrow.
- **Bring it up a notch for a toddler**, this is called "constructive learning". For example, a surprise box could contain clothespins and a gallon milk bottle, which a toddler will use differently than a baby. Of course, they will fill the bottle with the clothespins (because they love special reasoning) but a parent has cut a "door" in the back of the milk jug (cut three sides and leave it attached to the bottle). Now the clothespins have another way out - through the door. Do it again.



**DON'T FORGET
YOU CAN REPEAT
ACTIVITIES YOU
ENJOY. THINKING OF
YOU, MORE ONE
PAGE TIPS TO COME.**