

Charles County Public Schools Office of Early Childhood Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

Thank you for reading the Early Childhood monthly newsletter! This month includes new activities to help children birth to 5 practice school readiness skills.

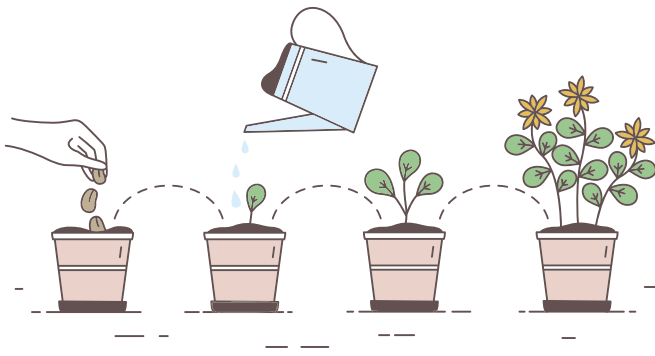
1.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Read an informational text to your child about spring or gardening/planting. After reading, model connecting information from the text to life experiences. Ask your child what they like about spring or what they like to do in spring. Take a walk and talk about how the weather changes from winter to spring. Talk about what you notice in the environment in spring. Talk about how the new plants and flowers they see grow.

Give your child the opportunity to plant a flower seed, take care of it, and watch it grow. Have your child draw a picture of the flower each week to show how it is changing.



Reading Foundational Skills: Phonological Awareness

BLENDING ONSET-RIME

The onset is the initial consonant sound, blend, or digraph. The rime is the following vowel and the consonants after. Learning about onset-rime helps children recognize common patterns in words.

Practice blending or putting together the onset-rime to make a word.

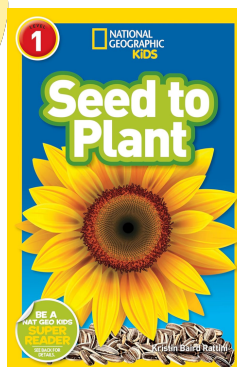
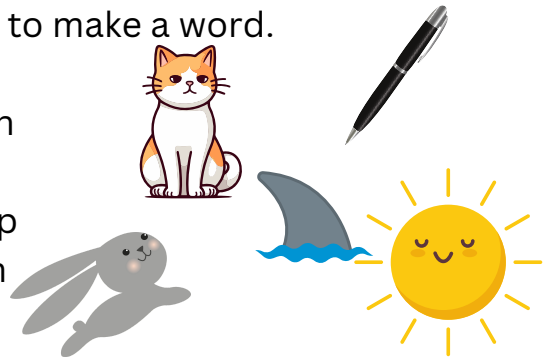
/c/ at= cat

/p/ en= pen

/f/ in= fin

/h/ op= hop

/s/ un= sun



**Book
Spotlight:
National
Geographic
Kids: Seed
to Plant**

2.

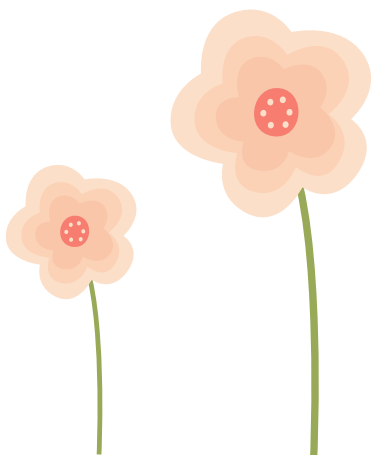
MATH

DESCRIBE AND COMPARE MEASURABLE ATTRIBUTES

Help your child gather two items of different lengths. Line up the two items so they are at the same starting point. Use words such as longer or shorter to compare the length of the two objects.

Throughout your day, find other opportunities to use words that compare measurable attributes such as taller/shorter, heavier/lighter, larger/smaller.

Which flower is shorter?



Which train is longer?



3.

SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS

I can self-regulate by taking three calming breaths.

Practice using your breathing arms!

- Put both of your arms at your sides.
- While taking a deep breath in, bring your arms up over your head.
- Exhale slowly while bringing your arms down to your sides.
- Repeat 3 times.

You can try this one with a friend or family member. Hold hands and take a breath together, bringing both of your hands up over your head!

Breathing Arms



Identifying Emotions



Disappointed

- What makes you disappointed?
- How does your face look when you are disappointed?
- How do you feel when you are disappointed?
- How do you know when others are disappointed?

4.

FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

Using play-doh or clay is a great way to build fine motor development. This activity helps strengthen your child's hand muscles through squeezing, pinching, and pulling movements. Practice creating feelings plates! Give your child a paper plate and a feeling. Have your child recreate this feeling using play-doh.



Need a new playdough recipe? Try this one!

2 tbsp oil
food coloring
1 cup flour
1 cup water
1/2 cup salt
2 tsp cream of tartar

Mix together oil, water and food coloring. Stir in the rest of ingredients. Cook on medium or low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture pulls away from sides of saucepan and forms a ball. This will only take a few minutes. Remove from pan, cool slightly and then gently knead. Will keep soft for a few weeks if stored in a plastic bag.

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

- **April Early Childhood Story Hour-** Join us for a Story Hour at 5 local elementary schools. We will be discussing the farm at Malcolm, JC Parks, Dr. Higdon, Dr. Brown, and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary Schools. Scan the QR code or click this [link](#) to register!
- **Charles County Recreation is hosting a Family Playtime.** The playtime includes organized activities and games for the whole family to participate. Come ready to play! Hosted at Billingsley Elementary on Saturdays from Noon-1:00pm. Please click [here](#) for more information!
- **Morning Story Time @ Waldorf West Library-** The Charles County Public Library is hosting a Morning Story from 10:00-10:30am. Click [here](#) for more information!



SAVE THE DATE!



Save the Date

Charles County Public Schools

Early Learning Launch

April 20, 2024
10:00am-12:00pm
La Plata High School

Application/ Registration Assistance	Community Resource Providers	Free School Resources	School Readiness Activities
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