

Early Literacy At Home

Green Earth, Clean Earth

April 2021

Dear Families,

Did you know that every year on April 22nd, we celebrate Earth Day? So, this month's kit is all about the Earth and how we can do our part to keep it clean and safe! We have a recipe for "dirt" cups that I'm sure you all will love, and a song about keeping litter in the trash can! Then, we have a recycling versus trash sort for parent and child to work on together to learn that plastics, cardboard, and glass go into recycle, and food waste and broken toys go into the trash! We also have a fun book for you to color to learn about things you can do to keep Earth clean!

Keep exploring the world around you with help from Early Literacy Backpacks at the library! You could check out our "Backyard Discovery" backpack, which contains books, a magnifying glass, and insect puzzle. You could also try our "Butterfly Life Cycle" kit, which contains books, toys, and games that teach the concept of metamorphosis. All 31 Early Literacy Backpacks are available to borrow for two weeks, one bag per family. Call the library for more information at 860-267-6621.

The library's Summer Reading Program will be here before we know it - next month will be our last Early Literacy kit of the school year. Stay tuned for a sneak peek of this year's theme: Tails and Tales, in your May edition of Early Literacy at Home!

Nicole & April
Children's Department

www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org



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PUBLIC LIBRARY

Early Literacy At Home

April: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



"Dirt" Cups!

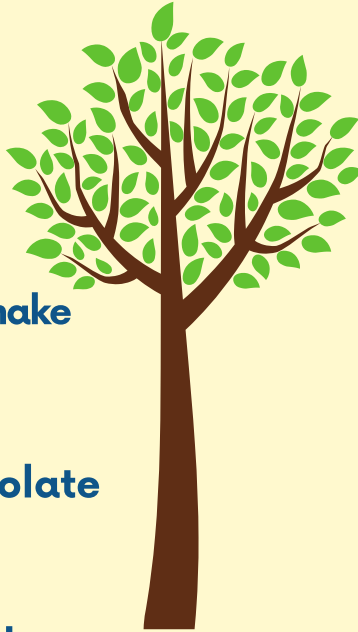
You'll need adult hands to make this tasty treat!

Ingredients

- 1 four-pack Jello chocolate pudding
- 10-12 Oreos
- 1/4 sweetened shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Gummy worms

Instructions

1. In a small bowl, add a 2-3 drops of green coloring to shredded coconut. Mix until well coated and green. Set aside.
2. Add Oreos to a Ziploc bag and smash with mallet until crumbly. Add crumbles to chocolate pudding.
3. Top Oreo crumbles with green coconut. Add a one or two gummy worms to "grass", burying the tail into the Oreo "dirt".



I Put Litter In The Garbage

Can

(to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)

Oh, I put litter in the garbage can,
Garbage can, garbage can.
I put the litter in the garbage can,
I'm not a litter bug.

Let's all put litter where it belongs,
It belongs, it belongs.
Let's all put litter where it belongs,
Don't be a litter bug!



APRIL 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



4 SINGING

Sing a song in a high voice; sing it in a low voice. Sing it slow; sing it fast.

5 COUNTING

Find two items that are similar but different sizes. Talk about big and little.

6 READING

Visit the library (in-person or online) and check out books about Spring.



7 WRITING

Help your child experiment with writing using pencils, crayons, markers, and chalk on different types of paper and cardboard.

1 WRITING

Write your child a small note. Leave it where they will find it. Read it to them with excitement and expression.

2 PLAYING

Play a questioning game. Ask your child, "Where are your toes?"; "Where is your nose?"; "Where are your ears?"

3 TALKING

Talk about Spring and how it is one of the four seasons. What will happen in Spring? What comes after Spring?

11 COUNTING

Cut a piece of toast in half. Say, "Now we have two pieces the same size."

12 READING

Teach letter sounds by playing "I Spy." "I spy with my little eye something that begins with S. Yes! A shoe!"

13 WRITING

Cut a letter of the alphabet out of cardboard. Put the letter under a piece of paper. Have your child color over the letter and watch the letter beneath appear.

14 PLAYING

Play the letter day game. Find things all day that start with the first letter of your child's first name.



15 TALKING

Use new describing words today. Say "enormous" instead of "big." "Wonderful" instead of "great."

16 SINGING

Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" during bath time.



17 COUNTING

Count to 5 as you spin in a circle five times. Count 5 hops. Count five small steps. Count five big steps.

18 READING

Get caught reading a book. Show your child reading is important to you too.

19 WRITING

Make a dot painting with cotton swabs to help develop fine motor skills.



20 PLAYING

Cut out large shapes—a square, a rectangle, a triangle, a circle. Place them on the floor. Take turns telling which shapes to step on.

21 TALKING

Choose a word of the day. Write the word down together. Use the word several times during the course of the day.

22 SINGING

Make up a song about something that is familiar or interesting to your child.

23 COUNTING

Place several objects on a table. Ask which is largest, which is heaviest, which is smallest.

24 READING

Write a few letters down on different pieces of paper. Place them around the room. Help your child find them.

25 WRITING

Create a writing box together. Include paper and crayons. Decorate the outside and leave it within easy reach of your child.

26 PLAYING

Make a tent with sheets and furniture. Pretend you are camping. What do you see? What do you hear?

27 TALKING

Say a favorite rhyme but leave off the last word. Have your child finish the sentence.



28 SINGING

Sing "I Hear Thunder." (Words are on the back. 🐸)

29 COUNTING

Sort blocks by color. Count how many there are of each color.



30 READING

Ask interactive questions while reading together. Where is the dog? Where is the cat?



Talking is one of the best ways for children to learn new words.

Speak to your child often during the day and try to use many different words to express your ideas. Children love to imitate, and they will try to imitate your speech. Chances to chat include while you are getting dressed in the morning, eating breakfast, riding in the car, walking from the car to a store, playing together, doing chores, taking a bath, going to bed, and while saying goodnight. Ask lots of open-ended questions, those that require more than a yes or no answer.



RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY

Rain, Rain,
Go away;
Come again,
Another day;
Little [child's name] wants to play

I HEAR THUNDER

Sing to the tune "Frère Jacques"

I hear thunder, I hear thunder.
(Pound hands gently on floor or lap)

Listen, don't you? Listen, don't you?
(Cup hand to ear)

Pitter, patter raindrops; pitter, patter raindrops;
(Wiggle fingers in falling motion in front of face)

I'm wet through,
(Shake body)

So are you!
(Tickle your child)



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Weather

by Jill McDonald

Dream Big, Little One

by Vashti Harrison

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Cat & Mouse

by Britta Teckentrup

Bear Came Along

by Richard T. Morris



MAY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

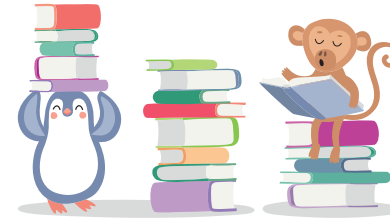
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 WRITING

Practice drawing shapes and letters in a tray of rice.

2 PLAYING

Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Bring a list and check off the things you see.

3 TALKING

Say as many words as you can that rhyme with "May."



4 SINGING

Use a homemade shaker and shake it to the beat of songs.

5 COUNTING

Go for a walk. Take two big steps. Take three large steps. Count how many steps from your door to the sidewalk.

6 READING

Ask your child to "read" to you by telling you their own story based on pictures in a book.

7 WRITING

Make a Mother's Day card and have your child sign their name.



8 PLAYING

Play "Riddle Me."
I'm big, yellow, and hot. What am I? Yes! I am the sun!

9 TALKING

Talk about feelings you felt today. What made you laugh today?

10 SINGING

Sing "The Farmer Plants the Seeds." (Words are on the back. ➡)

11 COUNTING

Sing the "The Ants Go Marching." (Words are on the back. ➡)



12 READING

Draw out a story on 4-5 small pieces of paper. Help your child put the papers in proper sequence to tell the story.

13 WRITING

Playing with play dough strengthens muscles needed for writing. Roll dough into balls, press fingers into the dough, and make shapes.

14 PLAYING

Play a rhyming game, where you choose a word and then come up with as many rhyming words as you can.

Dog, frog, hog, log.

15 TALKING

Look for signs of spring. Go for a walk and talk about what you see.

Point out new grass, birds, first flowers, leaf buds.

16 SINGING

Sing a favorite song. Sing it fast, sing it slow. Sing it loud. Whisper it.

17 COUNTING

Ask questions about what is heavier.

Does an orange or a grape weigh more? Is Mom's jacket or your jacket heavier?

18 READING

Look into your library's summer reading program.



19 WRITING

Draw a large alphabet. Have your child practice finger tracing while you say the letters out loud.

20 PLAYING

Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Look for shapes. How many different shapes can you find?



21 TALKING

Today is Friday. Talk about the days of the week. What will your family do this weekend?

22 SINGING

Play children's songs. Sing and dance together.



23 COUNTING

Draw numbers on the sidewalk with chalk.

24 READING

Have your child tell you a story about pictures they draw.

25 WRITING

Help your child begin to recognize words for a few common objects by labeling them.

Shoe. Table. Door.

26 PLAYING

Set up an obstacle course and give your child directions. Run to the park bench. Jump over the stick. Touch the ground. Come back to me.

27 TALKING

When reading a book today stop before you get to the end and ask your child what they think will happen next.

28 SINGING

*You: ABCDEFG
Child: HIJKLMNOP*

Continue taking turns to finish the alphabet.

29 COUNTING

Count the number of eggs in a carton. Explain that 12 items together is also called a dozen.

30 READING

Come up with rhyming words throughout the day.

31 WRITING

Scribble together on sheets of scrap paper.

Good readers have a large vocabulary.

Knowing lots of words helps children better understand what they read. You can help your children learn lots of words by:

- Having plenty of conversations. Take turns talking. It is important for you to ask questions and listen to what your children say in response.
- Read together! A lot!
- Make connections. Connect what you are reading in books to their lives. "Yes, Grandma has a black cat, too."
- Repetition. Children often love to read the same book over and over. This is a good thing as repeated readings help build vocabulary.



ANTS GO MARCHING

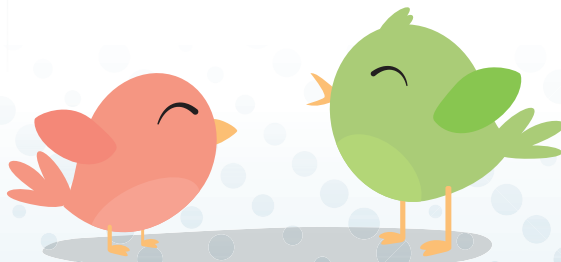
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one,
The little one stops to eat a plum.
And they all go marching down,
To the ground, to get out, of the rain.
BOOM BOOM BOOM

Two by two. Tie its shoe.
Three by three. Climb a tree.
Four by four. Shut the door.
Five by five. Take a dive.
Six by six. Pick up sticks.
Seven by seven. Tie a ribbon.
Eight by Eight. Close the gate.
Nine by Nine. Check the time.
Ten by Ten. Say THE END.

THE FARMER PLANTS THE SEEDS

Sing to the tune "The Farmer in the Dell"

The Farmer plants the seeds,
The Farmer plants the seeds, *(Pretend to plant seeds)*
Hi, ho, the dairy-o,
The farmer plants the seeds.
The sun comes out to shine... *(Make large circle with arms)*
The rain begins to fall...
(Hands flutter up and down)
The seeds begin to grow... *(Stand up tall)*
The farmer picks the crops... *(Pretend to pick crops)*
We all sit down to eat...
(Pretend to eat)



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

We Sang You Home

by Richard Van Camp

Oh No, George!

by Chris Haughton

FOR READERS AGES 3+

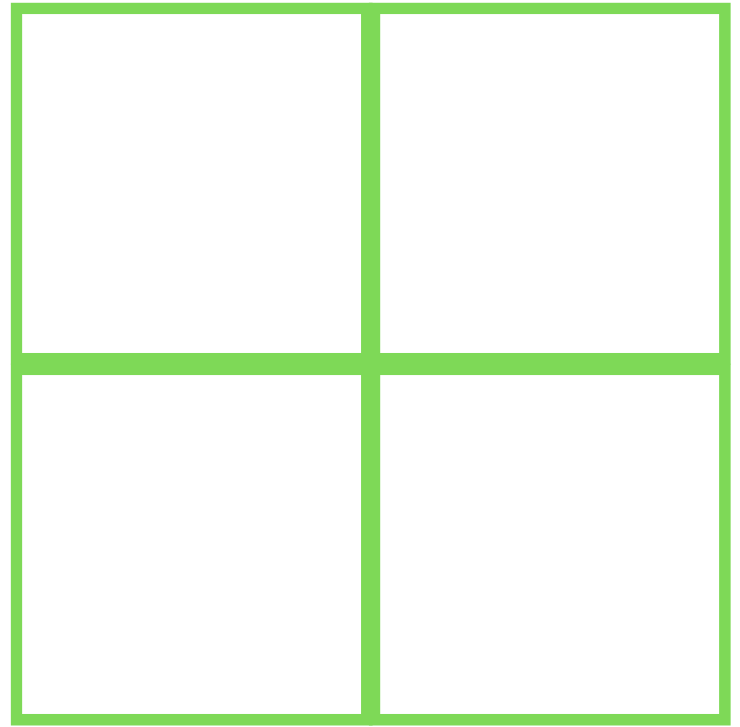
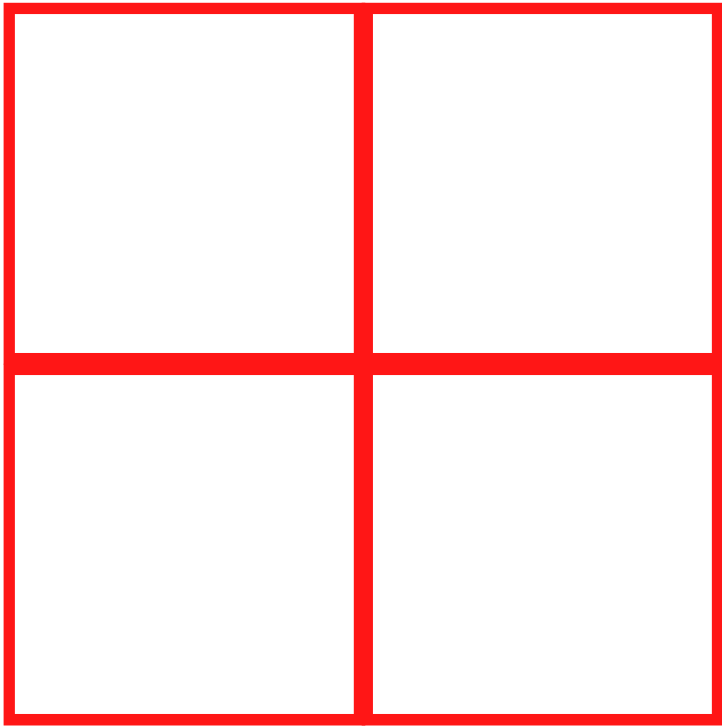
Birdsong

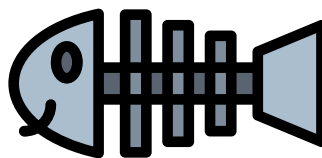
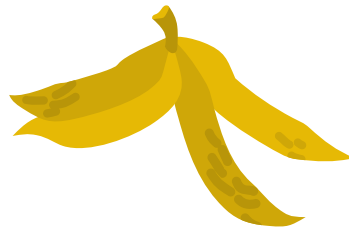
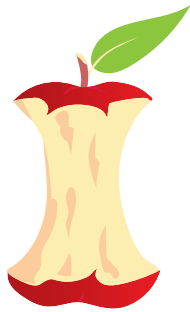
by Julie Flett

The Book Hog

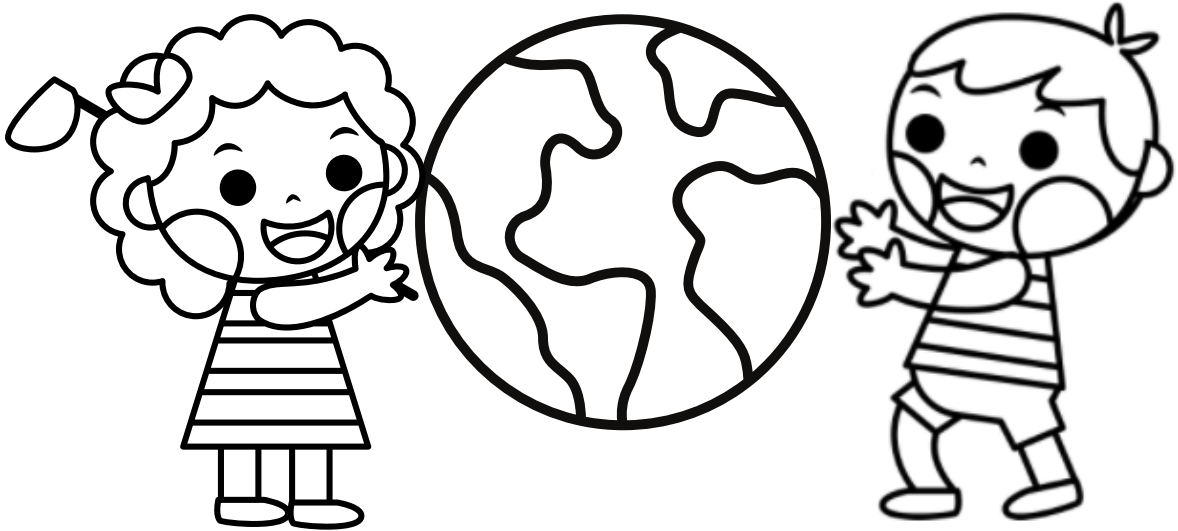
by Greg Pizzoli







We Can Help Planet Earth



We Can Help Planet Earth





We can pick up trash.



We can pick up trash.



We can turn off the lights.



We can turn off the lights.



We can turn off the water.



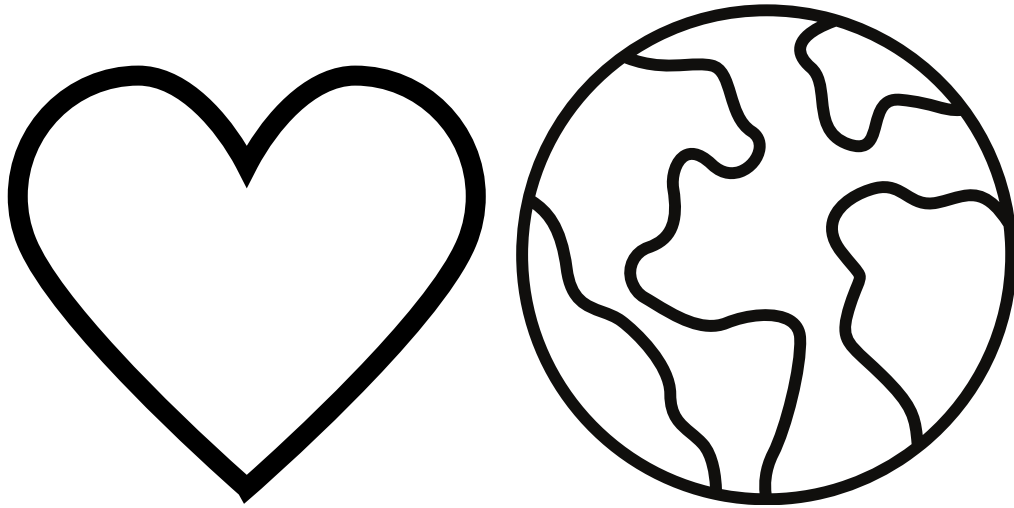
We can turn off the water.



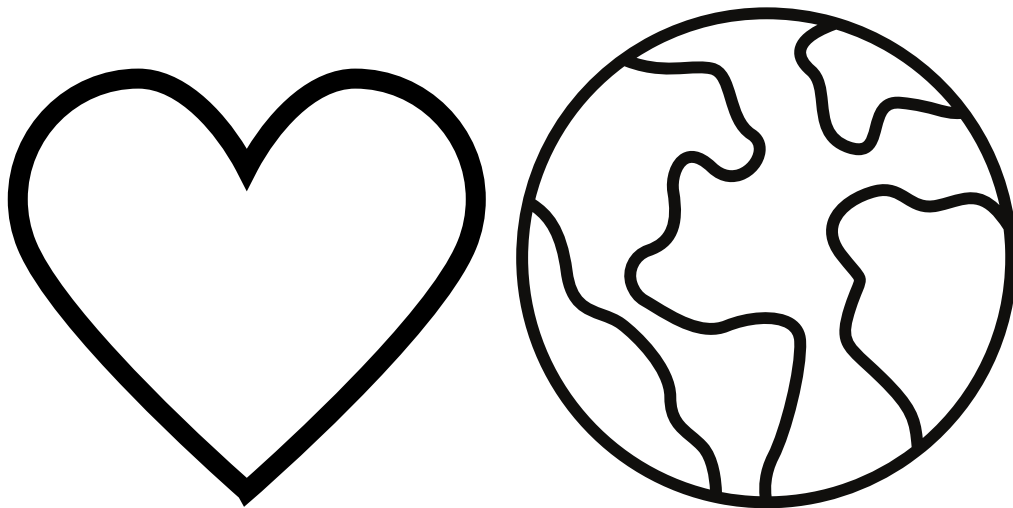
We can recycle plastic, paper,
and glass.



We can recycle plastic, paper,
and glass.



We can show and tell others how
much we love our planet Earth.



We can show and tell others how
much we love our planet Earth.