

Opening the Gift

The Great Outdoors

Vol. 17 No. 9

May 2013

Sunflower by Miela Ford

Summer by Tanya Thayer

Puddles by Jonathan London

A Closer Look by Mary McCarthy

Questions, Questions by Marcus Pfister

Ten Flashing Fireflies by Philemon Sturges

When Daddy Took Us Camping by Julie Brillhart

Step Gently Out by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder

Right Outside My Window by Mary Ann Hoberman

Summer Is Summer by Phillis and David Gershator

Yes, Lets by Galen Goodwin Longstreth & Maris Wicks

Nursery Rhyme: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Songs & Fingerplays to Share:



CD: "This Little Light of Mine" from *Songs of Our World* by Raffi



Reach for the Stars

Bend and stretch, reach for the stars
(Bend low and stretch high
as rhyme indicates)

Here comes Jupiter, there goes Mars.
Bend and stretch, reach for the sky,
Stand on tiptoe, oh, so high!



Little Owl

(Tune: "Jingle Bells")

Little owl, little owl
High up in the tree.
Little owl, little owl
Winks his eyes at me.
Hooting loud, hooting soft,
Hooting all night long.
I just love that little owl
And love his hooting song.

The Four Seasons

Lead children in singing this song
while pantomiming each verse.
(tune: "London Bridge")

In the fall, the leaves fall down,
Leaves fall down, leaves fall down.
In the fall, the leaves fall down.
I love seasons!

In the winter, brrr, it's cold!
Brrr, it's cold! Brrr, it's cold!
In the winter, brrrr, it's cold!
I love seasons!

In the spring, the flowers bloom,
Flowers bloom, flowers bloom!
In the spring, the flowers bloom.
I love seasons!

In the summer, it is hot!
/h/, /h/, hot! /h/, /h/, hot!
In the summer, it is hot!
I love seasons!

Mailbox Magazine, Preschool Edition June/July '13

I Dig, Dig, Dig

I dig, dig, dig,
(pretend to dig)

And I plant some seeds.
(stoop down and plant seeds.)

I rake, rake, rake,
(pretend to rake.)

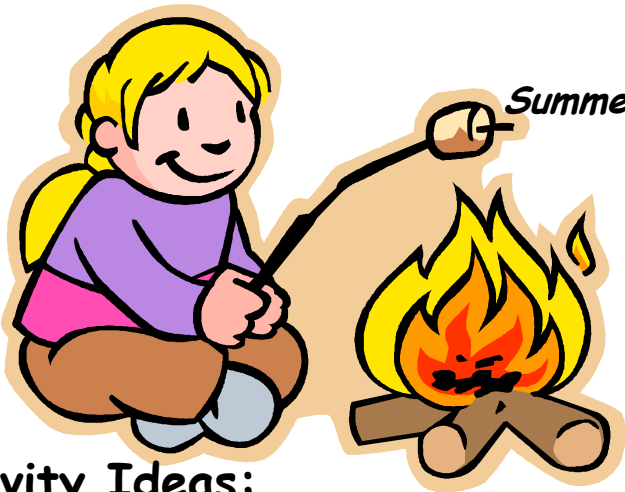
And I pull some weeds.
(pull up weeds.)

I wait and watch
(stoop down and watch ground intently)

And soon I know
(nod head)

My garden sprouts
(raise hands from ground as if sprouting.)
And starts to GROW!





More Books to Share:

Summer Days and Nights by Wong Herbert Yee

When We Go Camping by Margriet Ruurs

Pond Walk by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

No One But You by Douglas Wood

Sunflower House by Eve Bunting

Quiet Night by Marilyn Singer

Summer Beat by Betsy Franco

Canoe Days by Gary Paulsen

Activity Ideas:

Sand Dough: In a small saucepan, mix together 2 c. play sand, 2 c. cornstarch, 2 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar, 1 1/2 c. water and enough coconut extract to give it a pleasing scent. Cook on low heat until a ball forms. Remove the dough and let it cool before kneading. In your play dough center, provide plastic ice cube trays and knives. A child presses chunks of dough into the ice cube tray, exploring the texture and sniffing the scent while working. Plastic knives are used to remove the sandy blocks which are used to build a coconut-scented sand castle. For added fun, provide toy figures and seashells!



Marshmallow Painting: Children express themselves through art with this unique painting tool! Gather pans of paint in campfire-related colors. For each pan, push a large marshmallow onto a stick. A child holds the stick and dips the marshmallow in the paint. Then he drags and bounces the marshmallow over a sheet of paper. He repeats the process with other paint colors and tools.

Mailbox Magazine, Preschool Edition June/July 2013 (remind the children that these marshmallows are not for eating!)

Sticks & Stones: For a great take-along snack, help children mix together broken mini-pretzel sticks, chow mein noodles, Kix cereal, yogurt covered raisins and mini chocolate chips.



Book of the Month

Eco-friendly Crafting With Kids: 35 Step-by-Step Projects for Preschool Kids and Adults to Create Together
by Kate Lilley

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Quirky, colorful, and fun projects for preschool kids and their parents to make together. Small children love crafting and creating, and it's educational as well as enjoyable - crafting can help develop fine motor skills and teaches children to follow instructions and work alongside someone else. Activities encourage young and old to be resourceful and use recycled items or what's around them for creative play. Parents and kids alike will love the 35 bold, colorful projects featured in the

book, divided into sections that include Music, Nature, Recycle, Paper and Card, Sewing and Threading, and Science. The final section contains a list of 50 quick boredom busters that harassed parents can pull out of the bag in an emergency!

Road to Reading Tip:



Read to Me, Please! It has been a pleasure to share storytime with the children in daycare this year! I hope you will continue to nurture your child's love of books and visit your library often! Our Summer Reading Program is popular with all ages, and, especially for pre-readers, we offer "Read to Me, Please!" Parents, grandparents, siblings and caregivers are encouraged to read to children Birth—Pre-K; after sharing 25 books, the child is awarded a certificate and other surprises! Mark your calendar and visit your local branch of the Harford County Public Library to sign up for the Summer Reading Program beginning June 10th.

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?! Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, at 410 638-3151, ext. 2279.

e-mail: chase@hcplonline.org



Access • Information • Service
Anytime • Anywhere



Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.



EARLY LITERACY EXTRA! BOOK KNOWLEDGE

Help your child assemble nursery rhyme coloring pages into a book, reminding them that all the pages need to face in the correct direction. Take the book with you on trips and encourage your child point to the words while reciting the rhymes.

The **Early Literacy** section of HCPL's website has a wealth of ideas and activities and includes a selection of Opening the Gift newsletters and coloring pages.