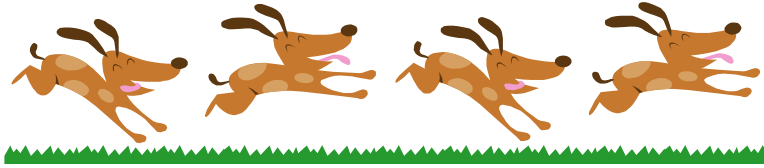


Doggone Fun!



Reading aloud, singing, doing fingerplays and engaging young children in conversation are all ways that parents and caregivers lay the foundation for young children to become successful readers and writers. The following activities were created to promote literacy with young children through hands-on, real-life experiences that will stimulate learning.

Have fun and “Grow a Reader!”

CREATE YOUR OWN DOG!

(an activity to exercise the imagination)

Encourage children to imagine the perfect dog they would like to have as a pet. Have the child describe the dog. What would the dog look like? What would the child name the dog? Is it a he or she? Does she have special tricks? Favorite foods?

Create a birth certificate with space for your child to draw a picture of his/her imaginary pet!

Date of birth:

Full Name:

Weight:

Fur Color:

Eye Color:

Belongs To:

Invite children to use the dog leash to take an imaginary dog for a walk! Write a story about your dog’s adventures on the walk.

CHOW DOWN

Wouldn't it be fun to eat like a puppy?

- Put a favorite dry cereal in one bowl, milk in another and lap up breakfast!
- Use bone-shaped cookie cutter to make favorite cookies, biscuits or to cut toast into "doggy snacks."

I HAVE A DOG HIS NAME IS RAGS!

I have a dog his name is Rags.

He eats so much his tummy sags.

(Place both hands on your stomach like it's big and full.)

His ears flip flop

(Place both hands by your own ears and on "flip" bend one hand over and on "flop" bend the other hand over.)

And his tail wig wags.

(Hold up both index fingers; on "wig" move right finger down to the left and on "wags" move left finger down to the right.)

And when he walks he goes zig zag.

(Slide hips to one side and the other.)



EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR FAVORITE DOG

Do you think dogs like music?

Play selections from any CD or try "Songs to Make Dogs Happy."

- Do you think dogs really like these sounds?
- Do they like some songs more than others?
- Do you like this music for dogs?
- Dogs sometimes learn by imitation. Some people think dogs can be trained to sing. How would you train a dog to sing?

COOKIES FOR CRITTERS*

(Snack biscuits for dogs are simple to make!)

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups uncooked oats (oats can be ground in blender)
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup of broth (or water)
- ½ cup flour

Directions:

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Using your hands, form small pieces of dough into thin, flat biscuits.
3. Use your imagination to create different shapes, or use bone shaped cookie cutter.
4. Set the oven to 350 degrees.
5. While the oven is heating, arrange biscuits on an oiled baking sheet.
6. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes.
7. Once they're cool enough to handle, store the biscuits in plastic bags.

*All cooking activities require adult supervision.

THIS IS PUPPY'S DOGHOUSE

(fingerplay)

This is puppy's doghouse, (hands form peak over head)

This is puppy's bed; (hands out in front, palms up)

This is puppy's pan of milk, (cup hands together like a bowl)

Where he can be fed. (make licking motion)

This is puppy's collar. (encircle neck with fingers)

His name is on it, too. (nod)

Take a stick and throw it! (throwing motion)

He'll bring it back to you. (rapidly pat leg with hand)



OBEDIENCE SCHOOL GAME

Based on Simon Says, preface commands to children with "the trainer says...."

Use appropriate dog tricks or behaviors such as: lie down, beg for a treat, roll over, speak (woof), scratch your ear, wag your tail, show your tongue and pant.

KIBBLE TRAIL MIX

(a snack for people to eat!)

Create your own fun kibble snack.

- ◆ Put one cup of any of the following ingredients into a bowl with a large spoon for stirring and scooping.
- ◆ Give each child his or her own zip-lock sandwich bag and let them scoop themselves a snack.
 - Pretzels
 - Sunflower seeds
 - Dried apples
 - Almonds
 - Banana chips
 - Cheerios
 - Raisins
 - Graham cracker pieces
 - Coconut
 - Crispix cereal
 - Chex cereal



MAKE YOUR OWN LEASH FOR AN IMAGINARY DOG

- Materials:** heavy paper or craft foam
scissors
markers
tape or stapler
glue
small beads, feathers, jewels, or yarn (optional)
Wire coat hanger
(electrical wire from a hardware store also works well)

1. Cut paper or foam into a collar size strip.
2. Encourage children to decorate with markers and other art materials.
3. Tape or staple the two ends of the strip to make the collar shape.
4. Bend wire to hold the collar on one end of the wire and make a handle on the other end.

Bring books to life with these simple ideas that highlight early literacy skills.

Bark George
By Jules Feiffer

Presentation Notes: George has lost his bark and instead is making some very strange sounds! Have fun pointing out the humorous illustrations while reading and using lots of expression. Have children guess what animal is going to come out of George next and discuss what they think happens at the end when George says “hello.”

Skills Featured: Print Motivation; Narrative

Dog’s Colorful Day
By Emma Dodd

Presentation Notes: This delightful concept book is perfect for sharing! Have children count the dots with you and prompt them to give color names throughout the story. Point out sound words like “splat” and “splish” and encourage children to say them with you.

Skills Featured: Vocabulary; Print Awareness

Harry the Dirty Dog
By Gene Zion

Presentation Notes: This charming story about a dog who doesn’t want to take a bath is ideal for reinforcing narrative skills. Encourage children to talk about the cause and effect of the events in the story. How did Harry turn from a white dog to a black dog? Why didn’t the family recognize their own dog?

Skills Featured: Narrative; Print Motivation

Dogs by Gail Gibbons

Presentation Notes: Non-fiction books like this help add to information that children already know about a topic and introduce new vocabulary. Before reading, ask the children what facts they already know about dogs. Instead of reading straight through like a picture book, choose a few pages at a time to share and point out the labels in the illustrations when responding to questions from the children.

Skills Featured: Vocabulary, Print Awareness

Good Dog, Carl by Alexandra Day

Presentation Notes: Wordless picture books like this one are wonderful for developing narrative skills! Have the children tell you the story as you show the illustrations on each page. Ask the children if they think Carl is a good babysitter and if they think this story is true.

Skills Featured: Narrative

Whistle for Willie By Ezra Jack Keats

Presentation Notes: Peter wants to learn how to whistle for his dog, but learning something new sometimes takes a while. Use this opportunity to talk to the children about a time when they tried something new. This is also a wonderful story full of W words! Point out the W's in the title and see if they notice any other W words.

Skills Featured: Letter Knowledge; Narrative

MORE GREAT BOOKS

The Poky Little Puppy by Janette Sebring Lowrey and Gustaf Tenggren

“**Clifford**” books by Norman Bridwell

“**Spot**” books by Eric Hill

Saying Goodbye to Lulu by Corinne Demas and Ard Hoyt

Move Over Rover by Karen Beaumont