Family Newsletter

THIS MONTH'S THEME

Pond Life

Pack a picnic and meet us at the pond for a month of learning about frogs, ducks, fish, snails, turtles and more! Become scientists and build a pond habitat. Paint with algae, relax on a lily pad and count dragonflies as you observe pond life from different perspectives.

What animals and insects live in and around the pond? What plants grow there? It's a place teeming with life and activity, and you'll dig in and explore it all!

Look for the daily notes about your child's art projects!

Practice math at home!

Math is all around us from the day we are born. "When was he born?" "How much did they weigh?" "How long was she?" Encourage the children to see the math in their everyday lives by having fun with it at home.

- **Count, count, COUNT!** Count the steps you take, the cars you see on the road, the flags and the animals to help your child connect counting and numbers.
- **Point out numbers in daily activities,** such as phone numbers, numerals on a clock, dates, times, addresses, microwave and television displays, recipes and more.
- **Invite your child to help you measure when following recipes** or working on household projects.
- **Find items around the home to sort,** such as laundry, buttons or books. Use words such as "more" and "less" to compare the piles.
- **Create a homemade hopscotch or tossing game** and invite your child to write the numbers with chalk or on paper to use in the game.
- **Seriate items around the home** by placing them in order from smallest to largest, shortest to tallest or lightest to heaviest.
- **Allow the children to handle, count and play with coins and dollars** to become familiar with monetary units.

When math feels fun and positive, children naturally lean in with curiosity. Share your excitement when you notice numbers and counting throughout your day. Your enthusiasm helps your child see math as something enjoyable to explore.

Pond Life

Topics your child will explore this month:

Life Around the Pond

1 Turtle
2 Snake
3 Tadpole
4 Frog
5 Duck

Pond Plants

6 Submergent Pond Plants
7 Bog Plants
8 Emergent Pond Plants
9 Floating Pond Plants
10 Algae

Life in the Pond

16 Snail
17 Crawfish
18 Lizard
19 Alligator
20 Fish

Pond Insects

11 Dragonfly
12 Mosquito
13 Water Strider
14 Mayfly
15 Backswimmer

Family Activities

RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

In the Small, Small Pond
by Denise Fleming

Over and Under the Pond
by Kate Messner

Pond Circle
by Betsy Franco

Are You a Dragonfly?
by Judy Allen

Fish is Fish
by Leo Lionni

Tadpole

(Sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

Hop around the house with your children as you sing this song about the frog's life cycle:

I'm a little tadpole,
Watch me grow,
First my tail,
Then my back legs show.
When I get all grown up,
see me hop,
All around the pond,
and then I stop.

Pond Outing

If you have a pond or other source of fresh water nearby, explore it with your family. Look for signs of life: insects, plants and animals. You can take a virtual tour of a pond online if you are unable to travel to one, or you can make a mini pond in your own backyard!

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