

BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Infant, Toddler
and Preschool
Educational Equity For All



May 2020

Discovery farm field trips at cal poly pomona have become a very popular outlet for exploring and learning about agriculture and the food we eat. Unfortunately we cannot currently invite you to our farm but we started thinking that maybe we could prepare some fun and educational materials to bring part of the farm to you.



Lesson 1 – good bugs & bad bugs

We kick things off exploring the creepy crawlers of the world. Learn how to distinguish between good and bad insects known as beneficial and pest species based on their characteristics. In addition, students learn how insects such as honeybees impact agriculture and our lives.

<https://www.cpp.edu/~agriscapes/field-trips-virtual.html>



Resources For Teaching Remotely

Birth - 3 and Early Childhood

Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) and Division for Early Childhood (DEC) resources.

CEC is here to support special education professionals and your ongoing efforts to apply good teaching practices remotely due to precautions surrounding the covid-19 virus. This page is a collection of suggested resources you can use as you determine the best means to provide services to your students and their families. They have been curated for you and will be regularly updated.*

<https://www.cec.sped.org/tools-and-resources/resources-for-teaching-remotely/birth-3-and-early-childhood>

KIDS MASTER SKILLS!



Reaching out in these difficult times!

My name is Lisa Marnell. I am an Occupational Therapist completing my doctorate at Boston University. I create and sell learning resources online, and I am offering several resources FREE (below). Feel welcome to share these with other parents, teachers, and OTs!
SIGN UP ON THIS FORM TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE PACKETS!



Research shows that mastery of fine motor skills in kindergarten is a predictor of reading and math achievement during elementary school (Grissmer et al. 2010). Also, good fine motor skills help children gain confidence and increase independence.

These fine motor posters include:

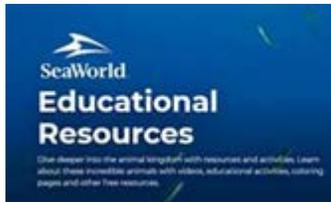
- 1- Tripod (or 3-Jaw Chuck) Grasp
- 2- Bilateral (Two-Handed) Coordination
- 3- Hand Strength
- 4- Tactile Perception
- 5- Shoulder Stability & Core Strength Bonus: The 3 T's: Rules for Using Scissors

<https://www.kidsmasterskills.com/>

EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Explore the animal kingdom with resources and activities.

SeaWorld has a whole set of free activities around all different kinds of animals: Learn even more with hands-on activities covering topics like math, science and vocabulary in the teacher resources. Learn about these incredible animals with videos, educational activities, coloring pages and other free resources.

<https://seaworld.com/educational-resources/>



Morning tubs are often used as students are coming in and settling in for the day. They engage kids while attendance is being taken, homework folders are being opened and checked, and those types of daily tasks.

Morning tubs are great for a couple of reasons.

1. **Building Independence:** Kids are able to work on their own or in small groups at their table to use their bin(s). It encourages them to self-start and learn/play on their own.
2. **Socialization:** Morning tubs give kids a chance to work together in small groups. They get to share pieces, solve problems together, and even just talk, play, and learn for a few minutes with a couple of their tablemates.
3. **Creativity and Play:** Creativity is something we can build and increase by spending time working on it. Morning tubs are a perfect way to introduce a little more play and freedom into learning rather than traditional worksheets or morning work that kept kids busy but did not encourage creativity and play.

<https://planningplaytime.com/may-morning-tubs>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

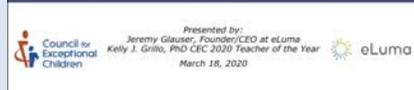
<https://kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk/>

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/new-strategies-special-education-kids-learn-home>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/apr2020/play-child-development-and-relationships>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgO6k8-I4vQ>



Healthy screentime for 21st Century kids!

More than a million kids do yoga, mindfulness and relaxation with Jaime on [the Cosmic Kids YouTube Channel](#).

Parents and teachers report significant improvements in self-regulation, focus and empathy. But the videos are BRILLIANT FUN so kids love doing them!



The easiest way to access Cosmic Kids is to subscribe to our YouTube channel! We put all our videos on there. It's free and always will be.