

FAMILY FUN

March Sing Along

Everybody Touch Your Head

Margie La Bella

Everybody touch your head.

Now touch your toes.

 Everybody touch your legs. 

Now touch your tummy.

Roll your arms up.

And roll your arms down.

Roll your arms up.

And shake them all around. 

Eyes, lips, shoulders, knees.

Hips, back, neck, ears.

Teeth, hands, tongue, elbows.

Cheeks, chest, chin, ankles.

Activities

Learn to spell words. Pick out two words that your children say everyday. Such as bed or toys. Say the word out loud and ask your children to spell the word out for you.

Draw this shape. Have your children draw the shape that you are going to ask them. For example, how does a circle look like? What about a triangle?  



Copy me. Take out two pieces of paper and two pencils. One for you

and one for your child. Write down a word on your paper and have your child copy what you wrote.

Sound it out. It is great that you are teaching your children how to write. Next step is to teach them how to say the word.

Pick out one word and have them spell it out. Then have them sound it out.



Working Toward Success for Children and Families

March 2015

Teaching Manners

Start with care.

Help your child understand how it feels to care. Manners are learned through emotional experience of caring.

Set a positive example.

Use "please" and "thank you". Talk to your children about how words can make people feel good and respected.

Teach the art of listening.

It is good to know that others are listening to you when you are talking. Tell your children that it is also important to make eye contact with the person speaking to you.

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress:

Domain III: Language and Literacy Development

Children show progress in WRITING when they:

1. Understand that writing is a way of communicating
2. Use scribbles, shapes, pictures, or dictation to represent thoughts or ideas
3. Engage in writing using letter-like symbols to make letters or words
4. Begin to copy or write own name

Family members can facilitate children's WRITING when they:

- Provide writing materials in the home such as paper, pencils, crayons, and markers
- Support young children's interest in scribbles and pretend writing
- Encourage children to participate in activities that involve reading and writing, such as making a grocery list
- Use writing to communicate with others with a card or letter
- Help children recognize own name and allow children to practice writing letters

Using Art Materials Take Practice Too

By Ada Alden, Ed.D. Network Member

Although young children need to follow the basic rules of using paper (not the walls) and putting materials away, a fine strategy is to have paper and writing tools Reachable and Available. A box of paper and drawing supplies is enough. Learning to enjoy pencils, pens, crayons and paints is not about staying in the lines. Children need to learn how to hold pens, markers or crayons. It then takes time to learn and practice what the pens, pencils, crayons and markers can do.

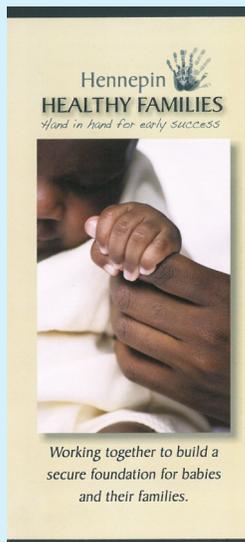
Hang the drawings on the refrigerator: discuss color use and design from the child's perspective. Freedom of expression, use of color to tell a story or to share a feeling, is nurtured in the early years. It is not just about writing letters, names, grocery lists and spelling words...soon, but not yet. Expecting young children to write letters too soon, to draw within the lines too soon, to follow directions with crayons too soon, may result in extinguishing the self discovery using art materials provides.

Targeting young children with alphabet expectations, in my opinion, clouds the self knowledge children can have when experiencing what a pencil, crayon, marker or pen can do. From the creative foundation of using crayons, paints, pens and markers, an enthusiasm for writing thank you notes and "things to do lists" may emerge.

**Northwest
Hennepin Early
Childhood Network,**
a program of the
**Northwest
Hennepin Human
Services Council**

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Hennepin Healthy Families



Call for more
information
612-596-7537

Are you expecting your first baby?
Are you a first-time Mom or Dad with a baby
younger than 3 months of age?

If you answer yes, you can apply for free and
voluntary family home visiting.

A Family Visitor offers support and resources in your home. Here is what you can expect:

- Support during your pregnancy and early years of parenting
- Ideas about how to care for and play with your baby
- Information that will let you know if your baby is growing and developing like other children the same age
- Help to create a safe and caring home for your child

Parent/child activities in our community

Brooklyn Center Community Center ~ Swimming Pool

TGIF Family Fun Float March 6,13,20 & 27 5-8pm

Daily Admission Rates Apply

0-14 & 62 and over: \$4.75 with slide, \$3.75 with out slide

15—61 \$5.75 with slide, \$4.75 without slide

<http://www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org>

Brooklyn Park Community Center — Open Ice Skating

March 3,5,10,12,17,19,24,&31 12-2pm

March 7,14,21,28 2:15-3:45pm

March 1,8,15,22,29 3:30-5pm

Open Skate Rates Apply:

4 and under free with paying Adult, Youth \$3, Families \$11

Skate rental is \$3

<http://www.brooklynpark.org>

Golden Valley Pre-School Playtime (variety of play areas)

March 6,13,20,27 10-11:30 am

\$2 per child admission

<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov>

Maple Grove — Maple Maze (Indoor Playground)

Call 763-494-6500 for current open hours

Admission is charged

<http://www.maplegrovmn.gov>

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