

St. Joe's News

March



Upcoming Events:

- March 2nd—Dr. Seuss' Birthday
Pajama Day or wear your St. Joe's shirt!
- March 11th—Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 14th—March 21st—St. Joe's Book Fair
- March 21st—St. Joe's Academic Showcase/
Parent Appreciation Dinner 4:30—6:30
- March 22nd—Staff Development Day—11:00 AM dismissal
- March 23rd—Staff Development Day—No School
- March 30th—Good Friday—No School

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Pre-K News

I hope everyone enjoyed their time off during Winter Break. We have had some nice weather and the children are excited to go out and play.

Thank you to those parents that sent in a treat for our little Valentine's party. We had a great variety and many healthy options. The students enjoyed everything!

Please make sure you watch the calendar that I send home for important dates and events that will be coming up for the upcoming months. There are days in March and April, that we *do not* have school.

The students have been learning how to play the game Trouble. This game helps them identify some colors and numbers to six, counting orally, taking turns, and good sportsmanship. You can pick up the cheaper, themed version of this game at a variety of stores. Plus, you will have a lot of fun as a family!

Our class has been reading a lot of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Reading with them daily is so important. Not only do they enjoy it, but they learn a lot from you as a role model. Don't be afraid to use different voices or become theatrical, because the children absolutely love the variation!!! At this age, it doesn't matter how you think you sound, they think you are AMAZING!

~Ms. Decosse

Mrs. Leahy's and Ms. Walbridge's Kindergarten Classes

We are working very hard to build our reading skills to prepare us for First grade. We are reading many leveled books, both fiction and non-fiction. We are continuing to blend and segment words. Please continue to practice sight words and read at home with your child.

We are continuing to focus on the topic weather and how the seasons are different. We will discuss the different types of weather and how we can be safe in bad weather.

In Math, we have been using ten frames to make and take apart numbers 11 to 20. We will continue to work with addition and subtraction number sentences.

We look forward to Academic Showcase on March 21. The children really enjoyed showcasing their work for you to see.

There will be a half day of school (11:00 dismissal) on Thursday, March 22 and no school on Friday, March 23 due to Superintendent Days. Thank you for all that you do!



First Grade News from Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. LaBare

Hooray for Dr. Seuss! We begin the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss and all of his fantastical characters on March 2nd.



In Reading, we have been working hard to practice our “good reading strategies” and how we can look ahead for tricky words. We have been looking at word parts or little words in longer sentences to help us with these tricky words. This helps to build word recognition. As always, your support and practice at home is appreciated.



In Math, students are working on many skills to increase their addition/subtraction facts and number sense. Making up fun math questions with your child is an interesting way to practice math by keeping it light and fun.



March 21st, St. Joseph's Elementary School will host an Academic Showcase Night. Please mark this date on your calendar to come in and see our fantastic first grade work. Also, on **April 18th**, students will be dismissed early for requested Report Card conferences.



The first grade teachers would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

Second Grade News from Mr. Wheeler and Mrs. Wheeler

The students have been busy in second grade. They learned how all children around the world have similarities and differences. Students explored folktales and learned how they can help us to understand nature. Students have also been reading poetry and learning about the exciting things in nature. Students have learned about visualization, that as they read they can visualize the characters, settings, and events. This is a strategy that can help them to better understand the story. In spelling, students have worked with or, ore, oar, ar, eer, ere, ear, are, air, ear, and ere blends. In writing, students have used graphic organizers to choose a main idea and then write supporting details. Then, they use the graphic organizer to create a paragraph.

In math, students subtracted three digit numbers with regrouping. They've learned to start in the ones place. We worked with Base Ten Blocks to build a foundation for regrouping. Students learned that 1 ten can be regrouped as 10 ones and 1 hundred can be regrouped as 10 tens. They learned to subtract across zero too. In our last chapter, students learned about arrays, repeated addition, even numbers, and odd numbers.

Students have been learning about different land forms. They created foldables that give a definition for each landform. They have also drawn pictures of each type of landform. The students really enjoyed creating volcanoes using soda bottles, vinegar, baking soda, soap, and food coloring.

We've been learning lots of interesting information in our Scholastic News articles. Students have learned about the life of George Washington and Ruby Bridges. We discussed the importance of each of these historical figures. Students also learned about predators and prey. They discovered the importance of camouflage for both.

Please continue to read and practice math facts with your child. We appreciate all you do at home to promote your child's academic success!



Third Grade News from Miss Gordon and Miss Gravel's Classes

* I can't wait for spring because I can jump on my nana's trampoline. -Carson King

* I can't wait for spring because I get to swim in the pool, read under the tree, and get a tree house that you can sleep in in the summer. -Sylvia Leandro

*I can't wait for spring because I like to go outside without my coat. -Izzy Ducatte

*I can't wait for spring because I get to go fishing and camping. My favorite thing about spring is swimming. -Ethan Allen-Hall

*I can't wait for spring because I love helping my mom with planting the garden again! Also, because I love to go underneath a tree and read or draw. -Irie Letham

*I can't wait for spring because of Easter and April Fool's Day. I also like to hear birds chirp and I like to go outside without a coat. -Zadalyne Snyder

*I can't wait for spring because I get to go to Florida and rent a 3 story house. It has a Wii and a pool and there is a beach right next to it. -Luke Scott

*I can't wait for spring because I get to go turkey hunting. -Liam Harte

*I can't wait for spring because I will get to go in my grandma's pool. I'm going to like spring because we are going to hook up tree swings at our house. -Ben McKee

*I can't wait for spring because I can jump on my trampoline. -Thomas Cota

*I can't wait for spring because of sports and fishing. -Brayson Thomas

*I can't wait for spring because I can go to my grandma's pool and I can ride my bike. I can ride my horse more. -Brooke Greenwood

*Alyvia Preve- I am excited for spring because the roads will be good and not snowy. I am also excited for my basketball games . There is no school. I can spend time with my cousins. I can pick roses for my mom.

*Alexander Smithey- I am excited for spring because i get to build a boat.

*Jake Riley- I cannot wait for blist ball and kickball down the street.

*Hunter Dumas- I am excited for spring because I can do sports.

*Ashton Patnode- I'm happy for spring because you get to wear shorts and you get to play kickball.

*Jacob Gale- I am excited for spring because get outside more.

*Marley Perry- I am excited for spring because of spring vacation!

*Kai Massaro- I am excited for spring because I get to play in the puddles!

*Wilson Sanger- I am excited for spring because we get to go outside.

*Hailee Brand- I am excited for spring play.

*Anastazia Pearson- I am excited for spring because my sister and brother are coming up.

*Cooper Hungerford- I am excited for spring because of spring break.

*Mark Santamore- I am excited for spring because I can ride my dirt bike and play kickball.



Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Fournier's Classes

In P.E. we learned scooter safety in order to play Scooter Hockey, Hungry Hippo and Scooter Sled.

In reading we learned how to summarize a story using Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then. We also used a table to figure out the Main Idea and Key Details in a story.

In writing we are working on having sentences with SWAG. This means it starts with a capital, is written neatly, has a space between words and given punctuation.

In Art we are learning dimension. This means a figure looks like it is popping out, rather than being flat. We started making 3-D and 2-D homes.

In Music we are learning a new song on our recorders and playing Jazz.

In Math we are working on fractions with mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have to turn the mixed number into an improper fraction and then back into a mixed number.

In Science we learned about vibrations by talking through a cup.

In Social Studies we are learning about Native Americans. We learned a wigwam is a home. We also learned that Native means is belonging to by birth.

In Library, Mrs. Wheeler taught us to play library basketball. We also learned about the Dewey Decimal System to locate books in the library.



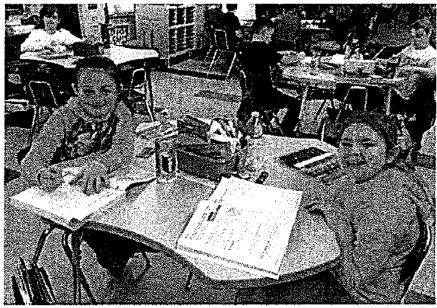
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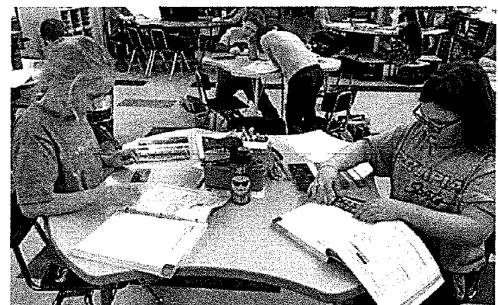
5th Grade Happenings

In Math we have been discussing how fractions and decimals are similar and we have been learning how to add and subtract fractions. We know that we must have

common denominators before we can add or subtract. In order to find the least common denominator we discovered that we can list multiples to find what is common. We can then multiply both the numerator and denominator by a number to get equivalent fractions. We also learned that we can use a multiplication chart as a tool to show us equivalent fractions.



Students have also been introduced to a new educational website called Moby Max! Moby Max identifies areas where your child excels and what skills are “missing”. It then gives targeted instruction to fill the gaps. Students are able to practice different areas (math skills, math facts, reading, vocabulary, science, social studies, etc) both at home & in the classroom. An informational letter has already been sent home.



we recently read about the Ancient Inca Empire and how they studied the sun to develop a calendar. We will begin reviewing test-taking skills and strategies in preparation for the state test, over the next few weeks. The NYS ELA Assessment will take place the week of April 10th. Students will take the assessment on computers again this year so we will also focus on computer literacy skills that will enhance student success on the assessment.

In ELA students have been reading different Nonfiction texts and building an understanding of how experiences can lead to new discoveries, and likewise how studying the past helps us understand the things we use today. This unit ties in perfectly with our science unit, Spaceship Earth: Sun, Stars and Space, as

Counselors Corners with Mrs. McGibbon

Hello Spring! With the end of the year quickly approaching it is important to look toward the future and begin to or continue to set goals for yourself. Setting goals for yourself will allow you to feel a sense of accomplishment once you have reached your goal! Your goals can be short term or long term goals. Maybe you want to set a goal for the upcoming State tests, a homework goal, or a kindness goal. Parents/Guardians can help their student set goals that are realistic by using the SMART Goal template below. What is a SMART goal? A SMART goal is:

S-Specific
M-Measurable
A-Attainable
R-Relevant
T-Time-Bound

My SMART GOAL

I want to _____

by _____

So I will _____

what I have learned

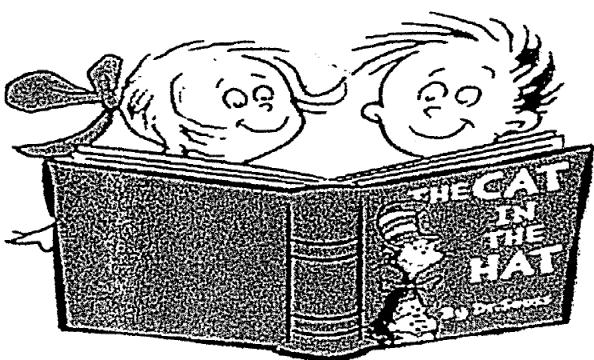
to meet my goal.

Literacy Corner with Mrs. Eldridge, Mrs. McClain and Mrs. Marlow

BUILDING A READER AT HOME

Explore Books! Give your child an opportunity to explore books. Visiting a library or bookstore gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.	Read, Read, Read! Make sure to read for at least 30 minutes per day! Children can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.	Ask Questions! <ul style="list-style-type: none">PredictionsCharactersMain IdeaProblemSolutionRetell StoryGenreMoral	Make it Fun! <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reading shouldn't be a chore.Intentionally read with your child/discuss books but also research topics and do book activities together.	Be an Example! <ul style="list-style-type: none">Children learn by example, so let your child see you read whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.
Pick Good Fit Books! A book that is a good match for your child should meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Purpose for reading<ul style="list-style-type: none">InterestCan they understand what they are reading?<ul style="list-style-type: none">Can they retell the story?Do they know most of the words?	For Beginning Readers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Point out and read words in natural settings – stores, streets, etc.Memorize sight wordsVisualize the story in your headAsk questions before, during, and after <p>Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your child. Instead, ask them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sound out the wordBreak the word into partsTry a different vowel sound (long/short)Use illustrations for cluesSkip the word, re-read sentence, and go back – what word would make sense?	For Advanced Readers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversationRead with expressionExplore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of contents, etc.) along with other genres as wellCompare and contrast booksDiscuss connections to literatureThink of new titles for booksExplore multiple books from the same author		

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Helpful Tips from Miss Parker—Home School Coordinator

TIPS TO STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL



1. Your child's backpack

Chances are you'll learn about most school news and functions through newsletters and notes your child brings home in her backpack.

When your child gets home from school, ask your child to empty their backpack — at least a few times a week — so you can sort through any papers meant for you.

Try reading through them with your child. That way, you can talk about all the things going on at school. This will help you remember important events — and let your child know that you are interested in what goes on at school.



2. The School Website

Log onto www.malonecsd.org to be up to date with important events and days off.

Log onto school tool to see your child's up to date classroom progress. You can see incomplete assignments and test scores. Using school tool can help you see which subjects you can work on with your child at home.

3. The Monthly Newsletter

Teachers and staff take a lot of time to create an informational monthly newsletter. The newsletter may include special dates, assignments, field trips, and current or future subjects they are learning in class.

Please feel free to contact me at 518-483-7806 if there is anything I can do for you or your child.

Erika Parker

Home School Coordinator/Parent Facilitator

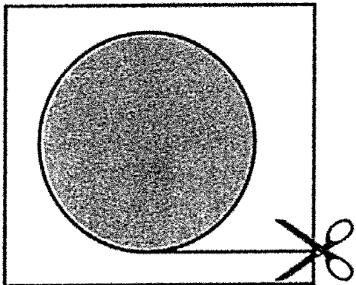
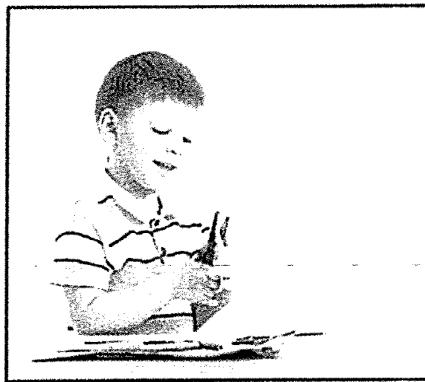
OT with Ms. Vivlamore

5 Ways to Make Using Scissors Easier

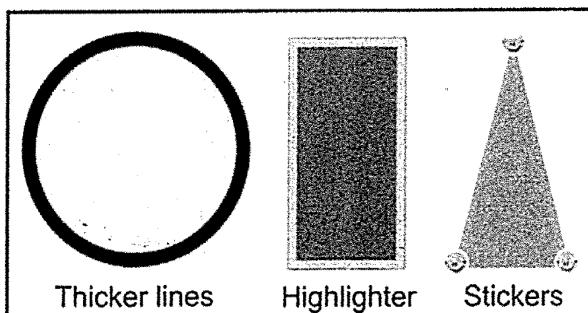
Here are 5 ways to help children learn how to use scissors and to make cutting a little bit easier.

1. Use thicker paper when cutting. Recycled mail, greeting cards or playing cards are fun and easier to cut up than regular paper. Make it functional and the children can cut up junk mail to recycle it. Cut up greeting cards to make a simple puzzle.

2. Use smaller paper. Start out with paper that is not very wide. Index cards are nice because they are small and made out of thicker paper.



3. Draw a line from the edge of the paper to the object being cut out. If a child needs to cut something out in the middle of a paper draw a straight line from the edge of the paper to the object for the child to cut along.



4. Make the line that needs to be cut stand out more. You can thicken the line with a black marker, highlight the line or put stickers along the line to provide extra visual cues of where to cut.

5. Different scissors. Standard scissors may not be the best choice for every child. There are many different types of scissors available and different ways to cut if a child can not use scissors. Ask an occupational therapist for suggestions.

St. Joes Physical Education Newsletter for March 2018

K-2: Students finished up a scooters unit where they learned how to safely ride on scooters in the gymnasium. The students engaged in a variety of scooter activities that helped build their legs, arms, and ab muscles. The unit students are currently engaged in is a volleying and striking unit. The students will be learning how to volley a ball with their hands using balloons and soft foam balls. Students will also be learning how to pass a soccer ball and how to dribble a soccer ball. Students will engage in various volleying and striking activities to improve their skill levels.

3rd-5th: Students just finished up a scooter unit in which they engaged in variety of scooter activities that focused on teamwork. Students engaged in activities such as scooter sleds where they learned how to build a scooter sled and worked-together to push the sled down the gymnasium to collect objects for their team. Students also engaged in scooter hockey and other scooter activities during the scooter unit. The students are currently engaged in a volleyball unit were they will learn how to correctly set, bump, and serve a volleyball. They will learn about some basic rules of volleyball and play a modified version of volleyball called newcomb ball. They will also learn about teamwork and positive communication in the volleyball unit.

St. Joes Run Club:

I wanted to share with you about the opportunity for your students to engage in physical activity before their school day starts. In run club students are able to walk, jog, or run laps around the gymnasium at St. Joes for 10 minutes. It is for students in 2nd-5th grade from 7:52-8:02 in the morning. 4th and 5th graders started already but your child may join at anytime by having a parent or guardian sign a permission slip. The 2nd-3rd grades will start on March 5th. If your son or daughter is interested have them talk to their Physical Education Teacher, Mr. Powers.



Speech News with Mrs. Leduc

IDEAS FOR LANGUAGE AT HOME—LANGUAGE THROUGH ROLE-PLAYING

Children's favorite storybooks provide a great opportunity for developing and practicing a variety of speech and language skills. Make role-playing fun by adding creative props (i.e., masks, costumes, settings, etc.) and acting out the stories.

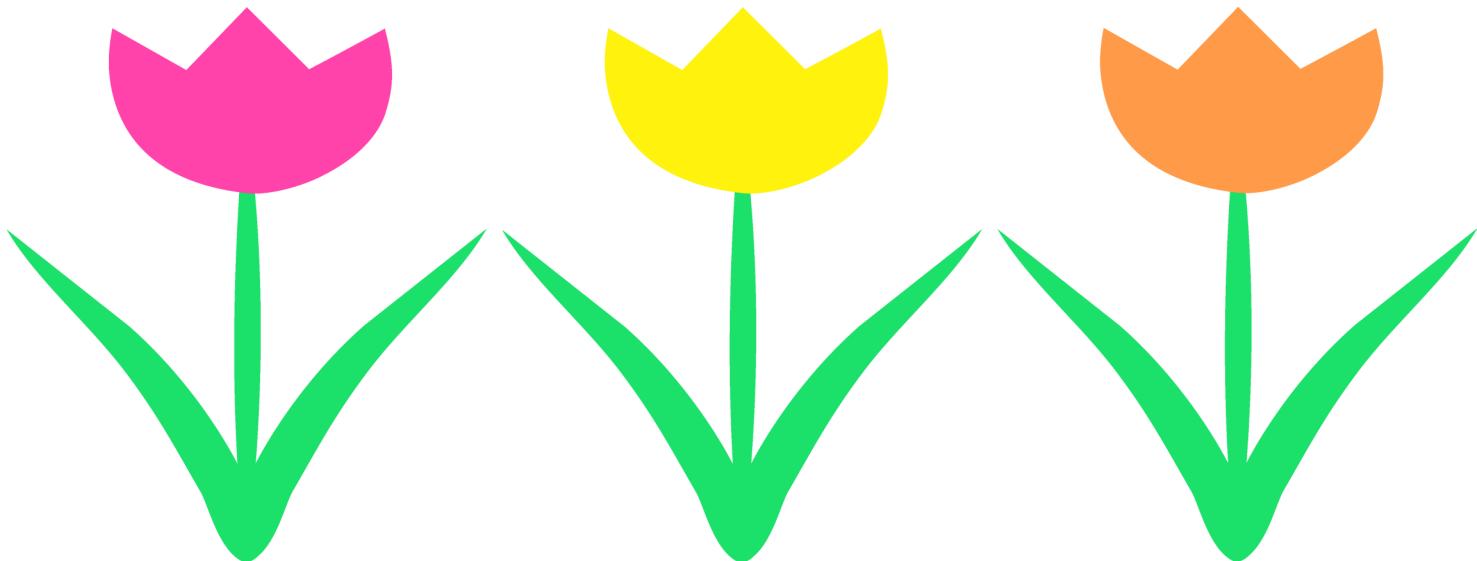
HOW DO I USE ROLE PLAYING TO BUILD LANGUAGE SKILLS?

There are many ways to use storybooks to build language skills. Careful selection of the book helps to incorporate more language skills. Some areas to target include:

REQUESTING—Assign roles so that the child must request information, objects and actions. For example, using the storybook, the Three Little Pigs, let the child play the role of the wolf and you play a pig. Manipulate the environment with cardboard boxes designed to look like each of the three houses. The “wolf” must request action by saying “Little pig, little pig, please let me in.” Also, leave necessary items out of the scene, allowing the child to request an object. (For example, don’t have all three of the houses.)

COMPARING—Do visual comparisons such as likes and differences (size, color, type, age, gender, ethnicity, etc.) Depending on the story, you may even do more in depth comparisons such as emotional characteristics. (good, bad, happy, sad etc..)

VOCABULARY BUILDING—Do extension activities where you disassociate the child from the character. For example, if the child was the “wolf” in Little Red Riding Hood, you could talk about wolves (habitat, characteristics, compare/contrast with a pet, etc.)



Nutrition Nuggets™

Food and Fitness for a Healthy Child

March

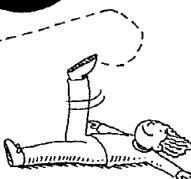


BEST BITES

Alphabet exercise

For a fun exercise, have

your child lie on her back and use her legs to "draw" the alphabet in the air. She could form uppercase letters, take a break, and then do the lowercase alphabet. To give her arms a workout, she can stand up, hold her arms straight out, and move them around to make the letters.



Drink think

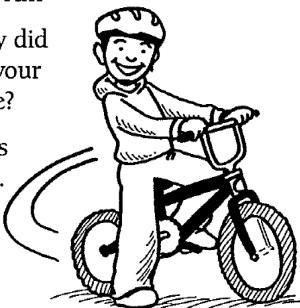
Get your youngster thinking about what he drinks with this idea. Each day, have him write down the drinks he has and how much (1 glass milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ can soda). Younger children could draw pictures of each one. Encourage him to have mostly milk and water—and tell him he can use his daily lists to see how he's doing!

DID YOU KNOW?

The healthiest foods tend to be placed around the perimeter of a grocery store. This is where you'll find fresh foods, such as fruits, vegetables, meats, fish, eggs, and milk. Try to shop from the perimeter first, and then fill in with the canned, packaged, and bagged items that you need from the center aisles.

Just for fun

Dad: Why did you ride your bike twice?



Ben: I was re-cycling.

St. Joseph's Elementary School
Stephanie LaPlant, RN School Nurse

I'm a cook!

There are many benefits to having a youngster who cooks. He gains an important life skill, and you get to spend time together in the kitchen. Plus, he's likely to be a healthier eater, because homemade meals tend to be more nutritious. Help your child enjoy cooking with these ideas.

Play a starring role. If Grandma is coming for dinner, put him in charge of a dish. He will feel proud when you say, "Isn't this meatloaf delicious? Evan made it all by himself!" *Tip:* Teach him how to make one of your family's favorite foods so it can become "his" contribution for get-togethers or holiday meals.

Use the tools. Give your youngster a children's cookbook, and let him put his name in it. You can tell him that chefs make notes on their recipes, and he could do the same. He might write, "Great recipe" next to one he liked, or "Use strawberries instead" if he didn't like the

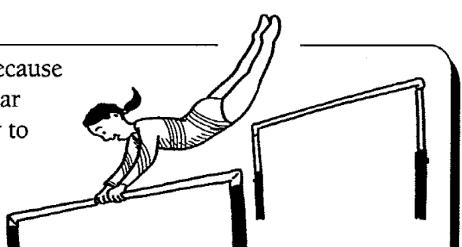


blueberries in a dish. Also, consider getting him his own apron, cookie cutters, or other "cook's tools"—and let him keep his things in a special bin or drawer.

Be creative. Tell your child that a recipe is a guide. The fun in cooking can be personalizing the ingredients or coming up with his own creations. Encourage him to follow his tastes (and try not to cringe if they're not yours). And remember, it doesn't have to be perfect—if the cucumber slices are all different sizes, they will still taste good. If your child is comfortable in the kitchen, he'll be more likely to cook now and when he's older. ●

Relevant facts

Telling your child to eat something because it's "healthy" can backfire—she may hear "healthy" and think "yuck." Instead, try to relate the food to something she cares about. For example, you might say:



- "I know you love to solve brain-teasers. Guess what? Eating fish is good for your brain. Which piece of salmon do you want?"
- "Nuts give you energy to play hard. How about taking trail mix for your snack tomorrow—you'll have lots of energy at recess time!"
- "I see you're excited about going to gymnastics today! This spinach salad has extra calcium to help your bones grow strong so you can swing on the uneven bars. How much would you like?" ●

Frisbee games

Tossing a Frisbee is not only fun, it's a good way for your child to get more physical activity. Suggest these games.

Catch

Stand a few feet apart, and toss a Frisbee to your child. She catches it, takes a big step back, and tosses it to you. With each catch, the person moves back a step. Soon you'll be tossing farther and farther and running to catch the disc.



Q & A Should I coach?

Q: I love baseball. Should I sign up to coach my son's baseball team?

A: Volunteering is a wonderful way to show your child that you support his physical activity. You will also fill a need in your community—in fact, sports groups often have trouble getting enough coaches. And you can get tremendous satisfaction from helping a group of children.



But deciding to coach is a big decision, as it will affect your relationship with your son on and off the field. Ask yourself a few questions, such as, "How will I separate my role as parent and coach?" "How will my child respond when I pay attention to his teammates?" and "How will I react if my son doesn't play well?" It's also a good idea to talk to your youngster about how he would feel if you coached.

Finally, make a list of the pros and cons to help you come to the right decision for you and your family. ♦

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote healthy nutrition and physical activity for their children.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
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www.rfeonline.com

Nutrition Nuggets™ is reviewed by a registered dietitian. Consult a physician before beginning any major change in diet or exercise.

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ACTIVITY CORNER

Spice it up

How can your youngster take a tour of the world and learn about a healthy way to add flavor to food? By exploring spices and herbs! Try these steps:

1. Put out spice jars. For each one, have your child read the name, look inside, and smell the spice. Does it remind her of a food she eats? For example, oregano might smell like pizza, or curry might make her think of Indian food. Together, look at the label to see where the spice is grown (or search for the information online).
2. Help your youngster make a spice guide. She can put dots of glue on construction paper and sprinkle a spice on each one. Have her write the name underneath and list dishes to use it in. Hint: She can find recommendations on the label or in cookbooks.
3. When you're making dinner, ask your child to pick spices to add. Let her taste the food before and after—what does she notice? ♦

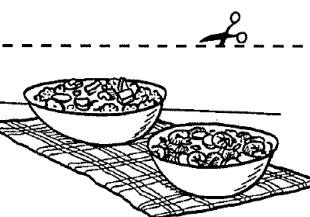
IN THE KITCHEN

No-cook dinners

Sometimes you just don't feel like cooking. On those nights, try one of these main-course salads that involve assembling—but no oven or stove.

Shrimp-bulgur salad

1. Put 1½ cups bulgur in a bowl, and cover with warm water. Let stand for about 2 hours, until the bulgur is tender. Drain.
2. Whisk ½ cup olive oil with the juice of 1 lemon and 3 tbsp. chopped dill. Add the bulgur, along with 1 lb. cooked shrimp (available from a grocery store or fish market), 3 cups fresh spinach, and 2 tbsp. chopped almonds. Season with salt and pepper.



Chicken-apple slaw

1. Shred the meat from a rotisserie chicken.

2. Toss with:

- 1 cup broccoli slaw
- 1 diced apple (cored)
- 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced
- 1 can water chestnut slices (drained)
- ¼ cup low-fat ranch dressing

3. Using an ice cream scoop, put a portion on a bed of lettuce.

Variation: Use canned tuna (packed in water) instead of chicken. ♦

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Owen Rousseau	Erin Butchino
George Thomas	Ashton Patnode
Thomas Cota Jr.	Lily-Ann Legacy
Olivia Bruso	Mia Franklin
Quinn Godin	Parker Beach
Fredrick Peck	Makenna Chevrier
John Jarvis	Joseph Jarvis
Saphire Golden	Tanner Andrews
Sophie Eells	Cooper Hungerford
Carter Johnston	Owen Wiederman
Alyvia Preve	Lillyan Miller
Logan McArdle	Aurora Santamore
Arianna Santamore	Bonnie McKee
Ms. Vivlamore	Mrs. Andrews
Mrs. McGibbon	Mrs. Kelley

