

# EVERY DAY!

WTK Learning Through Play Series  
December 2022 Vol 2, Issue 6

## DEAR KINDERGARTEN FAMILY,

Welcome to the sixth and final issue of the 2022 WTK Learning Through Play series!

We hope these newsletters and your Welcome to Kindergarten™ resource bag have provided you with ideas on how you can talk, read, create and play every day with your child.

This issue will recap the concepts we've explored together over the last few months and offer you new ideas and activities to bring your learnings together.

We wish you all the best in the remainder of the school year!



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# TALKING AND READING TOGETHER

## WHY IT MATTERS: A RECAP



1. Reading provides children with a wide range of ideas, views and experiences.
2. Children connect with others and share their culture and heritage through listening, speaking and singing.
3. Curiosity and wonder lead children to new discoveries.

## NAME SCRAMBLE

Children learn a lot about letters by using their own name as well as the names of those important to them.

- Help your child pick out the letters that spell their name. Always start with an uppercase letter (e.g., T) and follow with lowercase letters (e.g., h, a, o) spelling out Thao
- Scramble the letters and ask them to unscramble the letters to recreate their name.
- Repeat this with other names that are familiar to your child, for example, siblings, caregivers, pets, etc.



Eric



Kibwe



Rachel



Svanhildur



Ataahua



Yitzhak



Derek



Jyotiraditya



## I SPY...

Play a game of 'I Spy', asking your child to 'spy' objects that start with a certain letter.

Be sure to use things that your child is familiar with, for example: "I spy something that begins with the letter B" (bananas).

# EXPLORING MATH TOGETHER

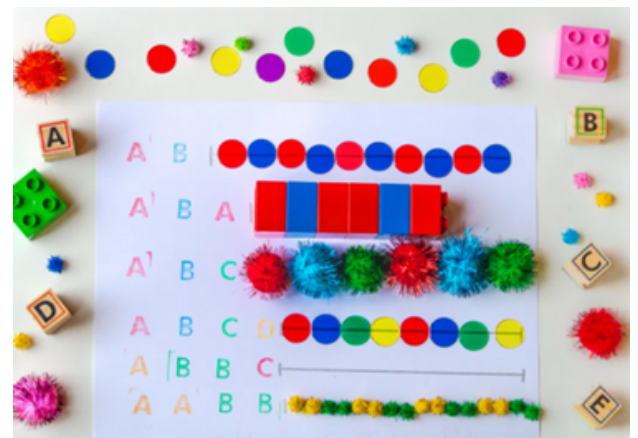
## WHY IT MATTERS: A RECAP



1. Children build science and math skills when they sort, compare, measure, describe and predict.
2. Children build reasoning, spatial understanding, and problem-solving skills through math exploration.
3. Math helps children build confidence and make sense of the world around them.

## PATTERNING

- Look for collections of objects in your house, for example: rocks/gems, clothespins, blocks, cars/trucks, beads, buttons, animal figures, etc..
- Create patterns using these items. For example, make a patterned necklace using beads and string: red bead, blue bead, yellow bead, red bead, ....
- Look for patterns in nature, in the community, and in books. There are patterns in leaves/plants, animal markings, fence designs, windows in buildings, etc.



## THE NUMBER MARCH

Combining music and movement is a fun way to learn and to get some exercise. Enjoy singing and moving to songs like The Number March in [the WTK music folder](#).

- How many ways can you and your child find to move along to music?

# CREATIVE EXPLORATION TOGETHER

## WHY IT MATTERS: A RECAP



1. Children develop independence, problem-solving and thinking skills through creative exploration.
2. Children develop and express their unique personalities through art and movement opportunities.
3. Daily physical activity and creative exploration helps children develop muscle control and coordination.

## SNOW PLAY

There are many ways to explore and create outdoors during winter. Some ideas:

- Use food colouring to paint on the snow and make patterns.
- Explore the snow with your hands by molding and shaping it.
- Observe snowflakes and then create your own using paper and scissors.



## COLLAGE

Collage is a fun art experience using various types of materials such as newspaper, magazines and recycled materials.

- Encourage your child to create art by gluing smaller pieces of torn paper onto a larger piece.
- Use outdoor collections like twigs, petals and leaves to create a nature collage.
- Use your imaginations and have fun creating original art together!



# EXPLORING FEELINGS TOGETHER

## WHY IT MATTERS: A RECAP



1. Children learn to understand and manage their feelings, which helps them feel and show empathy for others, and resolve conflict.
2. Children feel a sense of well-being and belonging through healthy relationships, and a positive personal and cultural identity.
3. Nurturing a sense of well-being supports children as they learn about the world around them.

## CARING COMMUNITY

- Talk about the different ways we care for one another in our family and community.
- Ask your child about some of the nice things they can do at home (for example, by setting the table, making their bed, sharing with their sibling, etc.).
- Praise your child when they care for others (e.g. greeting neighbours, picking up litter, etc.) and encourage them to continue.



## CARING FOR ANIMALS

- Talk and read about your child's favourite animal. Where do they live? What do they eat? How do they sleep? etc.
- Use scissors, glue, crayons, and a variety of recycled materials to create your own animal shelter.

## MORE RESOURCES TO EXPLORE:

[32 Fun Snow Activities for Kids this Winter](#), Hands on as We Grow  
[Indigenous Games for Children](#), Parks and Recreation Ontario  
[18 Simple Movement Activities for Preschoolers](#), Empowered Parents



## APPLE LADYBUG SNACKS

**Making apple ladybugs is a fun way for children to enjoy fruit and prepare their own snack at home.**

Many types of apples are grown throughout Canada and many Canadian families have apple trees nearby or, of course, at a local market or grocery store.

During a neighbourhood walk or at a farmer's market it is fun to share with your child how and when the apple trees blossom, turn into small apples, then continue to grow and ripen throughout the summer.

Examine the seeds together and share how the apple seeds grow into trees, blossom and produce apples. Your child could draw these simple stages: the seed growing into a tree; a tree in blossom; and finally a tree hanging with ripening apples.

How exciting for you and your child to choose an apple to create a ladybug for a healthy fresh snack!

*Yield: 4 servings*

*Preparation Time: 15 minutes*

### **Ingredients:**

2 red apples

¼ cup raisins

1 tbsp peanut butter OR 1 tsp SunButter (sunflower butter) or WOW Butter

8 thin pretzel sticks or 8 thin celery sticks

**Adapted from: [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)**

### **Instructions:**

1. Slice apples in half from top to bottom and scoop out the cores using a knife or melon baller. You may also use an apple corer which you would do first before slicing the apple. Place each half flat side down on a small plate.
2. Using a kitchen knife, dot peanut butter on the back of the apple lady bug, then stick the raisins on the dots to create the ladybug's spots.
3. Repeat the process to make eyes.
4. To make the antennae, stick one end of each pretzel or celery stick into a raisin, then press the other end into the apples.

## TALK

### TALKING AND SINGING BUILD:

- relationships
- memory
- rhythm & rhyme
- belonging
- enjoyment of music
- listening & speaking skills
- an appreciation for cultural stories & oral traditions

## READ

### READING BUILDS:

- vocabulary
- a sense of story
- knowledge
- print, letter & number awareness

## CREATE

### CREATING BUILDS:

- problem-solving skills
- imagination & personal expression
- small & large muscle control and coordination
- measurement, geometry & spatial sense

## PLAY

### PLAYING BUILDS:

- decision-making skills
- cooperation
- physical skills
- curiosity
- self-awareness & regulation
- math concepts & vocabulary
- confidence & well-being
- empathy & understanding



## YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND BEST TEACHER!

- Follow your child's lead as you play and discover together
- Talk and read with your child in your first language
- Help your child to share and take turns
- Encourage your child to make choices and decisions
- Celebrate your child's learning

### ABOUT THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Learning Partnership is a registered Canadian charity that brings together business, educators and partners to design and deliver inclusive innovation education programs focused on K-8 students in publicly-funded schools across Canada. Our programs build the essential skills and competencies needed in tomorrow's leaders, innovators and problem solvers. They enhance provincial curricula, are aligned with Canada's innovation agenda, and are made available to students, parents and educators through the generous support of our education sector partners and funding from corporate, government, foundation and private donors.

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