

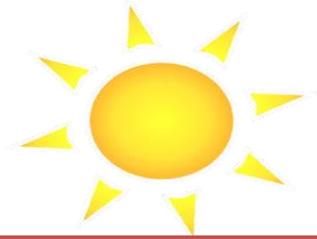


A loving environment for every child

Watch Me Grow

Child Development Center

April Newsletter



Please visit our new Website at www.watchmegrowlv.com
Please add us as a Friend on Facebook and Twitter

Did You Know???

Watch Me Grow is Now Enrolling for:

SPRING BREAK AND SUMMER CAMP

\$100 PER WEEK

INCLUDES MEALS AND FIELD TRIPS

MUST ENROLL BY 4/11/2014

TO LOCK IN THIS SPECIAL RATE

CHILDREN AGES 6 YEARS TO 12 YEARS

Kids say the funniest things.....

At Circle time in the preschool classroom - The teacher asked the children what they did over the weekend. One child responded "We ate at Red Lobster, and guess what I learned..." The teacher said "What did you learn?" The child responded "It's a bad place for lobsters."

Family Engagement/ Parent Education Opportunities

Date:
Time: 6:30-8:30
Location: Watch Me Grow
Presenter:

Date: April 24th
Time: 6:30-8:30
Location: Watch Me Grow
Presenter: Daniel Holmes (Children's Cabinet)

Easter Egg Dyeing Tips:

McCormic Lookbook Recipe's

Tie Dye Eggs

Tip: Place several eggs in a colander in the kitchen sink. Splash eggs with vinegar. Drop yellow food color onto eggs. Gently shake the colander for a few seconds to help the color spread. Let stand 30 seconds. Repeat with 1 or 2 additional food colors. After the final stand time, lightly rinse eggs with water. Drain completely.

Marbleized Eggs

Tip: Mix 1/4 cup boiling water, 1 teaspoon vinegar, 1/8 teaspoon oil and 4 to 8 drops food color in shallow bowl. Repeat for each color. Gently roll egg in mixture for 30 seconds or until egg is desired shade. Transfer the egg to a second color mixture and repeat the process. Allow the egg to dry completely. Wipe away any excess oil with a paper towel. Allow eggs to dry.

Two Toned Eggs

Tip: Dip top half of hard-cooked egg in 1 color and the bottom half in another. Or, dip each half of the egg in the dye for different lengths of time, creating different shades of the same color.

Personalized Eggs

Tip: Write initials, names or draw pictures on the egg with a white or light colored crayon before dying.

Painted Eggs

Tip: Mix 20 drops food color and 1/2 teaspoon vinegar in small container. Paint hard-cooked eggs with a small paintbrush or cotton swab. Go wild with stripes, polka dots and zigzags.

This Month's Curriculum Themes

The April monthly curriculum theme is Bugs, Butterflies and Gardening. Each week, the teachers will focus on a different topic pertaining to the month's theme. The children will learn the differences between an insect and a spider, as well as learn to identify "body" parts of an insect. Classrooms will discuss the life cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Children will also learn about gardening in the spring. One of the most important lessons a young child can learn from gardening is an understanding of where food comes from. Children are more likely to take an interest in trying vegetables they have grown themselves. Each child will partake in planting and caring for their own classroom vegetable garden.

In the bugs and butterflies unit, children will learn new vocabulary words such as habitat, insect, antennae, metamorphosis, and chrysalis.

In the gardening unit, vocabulary will include soil, root, stem, and harvest. They will play games, read stories and sing songs to help them learn more information about the theme.

Daily Parenting Tip

Parenting Magazine

By Michelle Crouch

Make Early Learning Fun....

It may seem too early to start prepping for kindergarten, but little things you can do now will help your child make a smooth transition later. Don't worry—we're not talking drilling facts and figures. Experts say playing with him is the best way to help him learn. "Flashcards and worksheets are going to turn kids this age off," says Kim Hughes, a former preschool and kindergarten teacher of the year and an educational consultant in Wake Forest, NC. That's where these games, matched to the skills kindergarten teachers say are most important, come in. Bonding—and learning—can be a blast!

Fishing for fun: Ages 2 to 4

Help your child make different-color fish out of construction paper, and number each one. Then glue a magnetic strip (available at crafts stores) to each. Make a fishing rod by tying a string to a wood craft stick and attaching a small magnet (also sold at crafts stores) to the end. Then spread the fish out across the carpet, call out a number, and take turns fishing.

Matchbox math: Ages 2 to 5

Number cars with washable marker. Build a simple ramp using wooden blocks and a piece of cardboard, and then pretend to be race announcers as you send the cars down the ramp. He'll practice basic numeral recognition by calling out which car wins. (Introduce engineering by altering the ramp's height to see when the cars go farthest.) Older-kid upgrade: Take it one step further by telling him that the "race rules" require the car with the bigger number to be in one particular lane, or to put multiple cars in order before they race. Don't forget to keep score, another way to build number smarts.

Make your own board game: Ages 4 to 5

The more board games children play, the better they perform on math tasks. But that doesn't have to mean endless rounds of Chutes and Ladders. Instead, make your own game together, suggests Sally Moomaw, Ed.D., a child-development expert at the University of Cincinnati and coauthor of *More Than Counting*. Get a piece of poster board and draw a squiggly line all the way around it. Help your children cut different-color squares out of construction paper, and then glue the squares side by side to cover the squiggly line. Encourage her to use her imagination: Is the squiggly line a snake? A road through a magical kingdom? A race track? Decorate the board accordingly, using markers, glitter, stickers... whatever she likes! Now make action cards in the same colors as the squares. They can be silly: "Take a nap. Miss a turn" or "Set the table. Move forward two." To play, roll a die and move forward that number of spaces. Then pick a card in the color of the square you land on and follow the instructions. "This type of game is especially beneficial because you're working with a number line, a concept that children work with in kindergarten," Moomaw says.

Number match: Ages 3 to 5

Divide 20 index cards into two sets of ten. On the first set, write the numbers 1 to 10 or make numbers your child can trace. Then help him with the second set: Put one sticker on a card to match up with the card that has the number 1, and so on. Lay the cards out face up, and challenge your child to make matches. Once he's got that down, turn the cards over to play a traditional game of memory. You'll both get a right-brain workout, and he'll master counting.

Inspirational quote.....

A child is not a vase to be filled, but a fire to be lit.

• François Rabelais

Please review the monthly center activity calendar. We have a number of special events and activities this month

Spoonful—Courtesy of Disney

Pita Rabbit

What you'll need

- Pita bread
- Peanut butter
- Marshmallow fluff
- Red jam
- Pretzels



How to make it

1. Separate small pita bread into two circles by inserting a butterknife between the layers from the outer edge and then carefully cutting around the circumference. Use one circle for the bunny's face and cut the other into halves for the ears.
2. Arrange the pieces on the plate. Spread with peanut butter and Marshmallow Fluff. With the butter knife, gently swirl a bit of red jam into the marshmallow to create a pink nose. Add two dollops of jam for eyes and pretzel sticks for whiskers.