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| **At-Home Ideas for the Week of April 20-24**  *If you have questions about this week’s activities, please email Mrs. Carol.* |
| **Monday (Earth Day Activities)**  **Literacy:** Read the book **I Love the Earth** by Todd Parr. Follow the YouTube link below. You can turn off the sound and read the book together with your child, or watch the video with the sound: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT8Tl7VBZ5Q>  Ask questions about how your child can help to take care of the earth after reading it.  **Science/STEM:** Plant the sunflower seeds Ms. Carol sent to you in the mail. You may get some soil from the yard, or potting soil if you have it, and put some in a plastic cup. Place the seeds on the dirt and push the seeds a little into the soil. Put a little water in cup and place in SUNNY window. If you want, you can place the seeds on a wet paper towel and place in a baggie (with paper towel) and zip it shut, and tape it onto a sunny window to sprout (to plant at a later date). Record when you planted the seeds or placed the seeds in the baggie to track how long it takes to sprout the sunflower seeds.  **Math:**  Keep track of the date you planted the seeds and count the days until the seeds sprout. Record the number of days until sprouting.  **Art:** Use recycled materials to make a sculpture or collage. Or, gather natural items from your yard (small sticks, stones, leaves, etc.) and make a collage by gluing on cardstock.  **Gross Motor:** Dance to the “Banana Boogie” song on YouTube. Copy the dance moves you see in the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOT29Urisp4>  **At-Home Helper:** Earth Day is this week. While brushing your teeth for two minutes be sure to turn off the water. You will be helping the earth by conserving water. |
| **Tuesday**  **Literacy:** Read or tell your child a familiar fairy tale (e.g., The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears) and have them act it out or help you tell the story if they know it.  **Math:** Use directional terms and positional words (behind, in front of, above, below, up, down, near, far, under, over, between, forward, backward, etc.) to give directions to your child for simple activities within your home. Example: place the washcloth in between the towels and socks.  **Science/STEM:** You will need a lamp or flashlight, a piece of paper, a pencil and some small toys. Have your child place the toys on the paper and use the light to create shadows of the toys. Your child can draw along the outline of the shadows.  **Art**: Have your child draw a self-portrait or a family portrait to mail to a special family member or friend. Encourage your child to write his or her name, and any other desired words to describe or label the picture. Put the finished portrait in an envelope and mail to the special person.  **Gross Motor:** Put on fun music and have a dance party! |
| **Wednesday**  **Literacy:** Write motivational quotes for child to copy and place around the house. Examples: Be brave, Dream big, Be kind, and Smile often.  **Science/STEM:**  Ice Melting Experiment: How do different materials affect how fast ice melts? You will need 4 small bowls, 4 ice cubes, and 2 tablespoons of each of these materials: salt, flour (or cornmeal), and water. Place one ice cube in each small bowl. Place a different material in each of three bowls, leaving the fourth bowl without any material (just the ice cube). Observe the bowls over time. Which ice cube melts the fastest? Which one melts the slowest?  **Art**: Make family puppets and act out some fun events of your family being all together (playing a game, a holiday, vacation, camping, trip to the park, a visit from grandparents, etc.). Gather paper lunch bags, markers, crayons, construction paper, scissors, string or yarn and other recycled materials. On the bottom of the bag, draw eyes (or add buttons for eyes), and draw the nose. The mouth can be formed by the fold on the bag. Decorate. Place hand in bag and have a puppet show with the family.  **Gross Motor:** Call out animals and have your child stomp like an elephant, stretch like a giraffe, roar like a lion, swing like a monkey, flap like a bird.  **At Home Helper:** Have child empty all the small trash cans in the house. |
| **Thursday**  **Literacy:** Read the positive nursery rhyme from the **I Love You Rituals** book: “A Wonderful Woman Who Lived in a Shoe”.  Follow the instructions for the actions that accompany the rhyme. Like all I Love You Rituals, this is designed to create connection between you and your child, and a sense of security for your child. This activity can be very reassuring and comforting. A copy of the nursery rhyme has been emailed to you along with this activity plan.  **Math:** Have your child count the number of family members in your house and write out the numbers for each member (1,2,3…) to complete the task. You could include grandparents and cousins in your family to incorporate more numbers for your child to write.  **Science/STEM**: Cleaning pennies with ketchup: gather dirty pennies, small cups, ketchup, water, and 2 or more additional solutions (examples, vinegar, coke, mustard, mayo, juice, etc.). Pour a small amount of each solution you choose into a cup. Be sure to include one cup with water and one cup with ketchup. Take a few minutes to examine the solutions: What do they look like? How do they smell? Don’t be afraid to use all your senses. Place one penny into each cup, flipping it around some. Let the penny soak for about five minutes. Carefully remove each penny from its solution, rinse and remove excess with a paper towel. Which penny is the cleanest? The dirtiest? Which solution worked best to clean the pennies?  **Art:** Have parent cut out the cup part of an egg carton, cutting curves along the edge of the cup to form flower petals. Have child paint the egg cup and glue a button or small bead in the center of it. Create a flower stem with a pipe cleaner or by drawing and/or cutting a stem out of paper. Child can create a flower bouquet to place in the window for neighbors to see.  **Gross Motor:** Write some of the activities that your child performs daily on small pieces of paper (brushing hair, getting dressed, eating, running, walking up stairs). Place the papers in a hat or container. The child then pulls out a paper and you read it while they perform the action. If you have more than one child, this can be played like the old game of charades. |
| **Friday**  **Literacy:** Fun Friday. Take a basket of books outside and place a blanket on the ground. Bring out stuffed animals and place them around you in a circle and read to them.  **Math:**  Count how many stuffed animals or dolls they have in their story circle. Write the number.  **Science/STEM:**  Make a bubble beard while taking a bath. Nothing can top this bathtub activity for laughs and fun. Rub hand soap generously on one side of a very wet washcloth. Hold the washcloth to your mouth with the soapy side away from you. Blow gently through the washcloth. As you blow a magnificent bubble beard will begin to grow on the washcloth.  **Art/Cooking/Sensory:** Gather pebbles while on a walk. Make playdough recipe (I cup of water, half cup of salt, mix together, put in microwave for 1 minute, place these items in large bowl adding 3 tablespoons of oil, add food coloring if desired, and flour up to 3 cups, one cup at a time, having child stir the ingredients while counting.) Use the small pebbles to create faces or designs on playdough.  **Gross Motor:**  Do yoga poses found on YouTube with yoga by Jaime. (Cosmic Kid--Peter Cottontail and the Tickly Monkeys): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEp9euhuu2E>  **At-Home Helper:** Sweep up the floor to help keep your house clean. |