



Knock
Knock.

Who's
There?

Oil.

Oil who?

Oil see
you
later,
alligator!



Many parents ask us to recommend toys and activities that their young children might enjoy. During this season of giving we always encourage adults to keep safety at the top of their list when considering what type of toys might be best for their children. Remember that it is normal and common for young children to put everything into their mouths. So make sure that toys don't have small or loose parts that could come off and be swallowed by your child, creating a potentially dangerous choking hazard. Avoid very loud toys as they could damage developing hearing. Remove any loose strings, cords or ribbons that a child could get tangled or strangled by. Look for the words non-toxic, when buying art supplies and toys. Of course avoid any toys that have lead-based paint. Even *safe* toys that are smaller than 1 and 3/4 inches in diameter are potentially dangerous. Read the age label recommendation on store bought toys. Once they pass your safety check here are some ideas for age appropriate toys for:

Babies:

- Rattles
- Activity mats
- Soft balls
- Soft blocks for stacking
- Interlocking Links(for securing safe toys to a baby seat, high chair, car seat)
- Floating toys for the bath
- Cloth or board books
- Mirrors (safe, not breakable)
- Cups for staking and nesting
- Activity boxes with different levers, buttons and spinners

Toddlers:

- Board books, flap books, pop up books
- Large piece puzzles (one piece fits into one opening)
- Dolls
- Push Toys
- Blocks and balls of various sizes
- Shape sorters (simple with only 3 different shapes)
- Stuffed animals
- Play version of real items (telephone, vacuum, tool set)

Preschoolers:

- Read along books and books on CD
- Simple jigsaw puzzles that interlock
- Simple board games
- Dress up clothes
- Little toy houses, barns, vehicles
- Toy cars, vehicles, trains, tractors, airplanes, buses
- Sand and water toys for the bath or outside playtime
- Interlocking blocks for construction
- Musical instruments
- Toys/games for matching, sorting shapes, colors, counting, letters
- Toy animals and toy people
- Art supplies
- Riding toys with pedals

What children need most of all is TIME with YOU. They do not need fancy, expensive things that have lights, sounds and battery powered movement. They will be more creative and more in charge of their play when they use their own voices and bodies for the sound and movement that some toys (like dolls, vehicles and animals) might need. Remember that: YOU will always be your young child's favorite TOY!

This school year has already seen many changes to the Parents as Teachers program, as we began using a new curriculum which focuses on the family as a whole rather than primarily on child development, and we thank you for being open to these changes. With this new approach come new guidelines from the Parents as Teachers National Center that we must follow to be a "model affiliate" program. In order to meet these requirements, we are excited to announce that the Jefferson City Public Schools will have a full time Parents as Teachers Coordinator, whose sole focus will be on maintaining and improving the quality of our program. Katie Epema has been a Parent Educator with our district for several years and will continue to serve a small number of families as well as overseeing the daily operations of our Parents as Teachers program. She is excited to work with you and your family in this new capacity and welcomes your suggestions and

NOVEMBER

As days get shorter and weather turns cooler, please keep the following in mind:

Personal safety is an important concern for everyone. To assist your Parent Educator, please leave outdoor lights on after dark and clear ice and snow from entrances.

Parents as Teachers activities follow the Jefferson City Public Schools' guidelines for inclement weather. If school is cancelled due to poor weather conditions, the Drop in and Play center will be closed and any scheduled activities (such as Screenings or Group Connections) will be cancelled. Please watch the news for school closings. Your Parent Educator

Friday Nov. 1: Center closed (no Drop in and Play)

Friday, Nov. 1: Laptime at Missouri River Regional Library, 10:30-11 a.m. in the MRRL storyhour room (upstairs in the children's department). A special time for babies and their caregivers. Music, movement, and socialization. Ages under 2, no reservations needed.

Thursday, Nov. 7th: Hearing and Vision Screening 9:00-12:00 and 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Southwest Early Childhood Center. Amblyopia Screening provided by the Lion's Club will be available as well. Please call Sasha at 659-3026 to get on the screening list today!

Saturday Nov. 9: Little Acorns at Runge Nature Center 10-11 a.m. (ages 3-6 years): Good Day, Good Night! It's light outside and some animals are sleeping. Wear your P.J.s if you'd like and we'll pretend it's nighttime while we learn about nocturnal animals. Shhhhhh. Don't wake them up. Reservations required (call beginning 11/01). 573-526-5544

Saturday, Nov. 9: Holiday open house downtown Jefferson City. A variety of free classes at downtown businesses on the hour from 10-2 p.m. including ornament making at Capitol City Cinema (126 E. High) with Macaroni Kid. More information at www.DowntownJeffersonCity.com/Holidays

Tuesday, Nov. 12: Toddler Time at Runge Nature Center 10-11 a.m. (ages 0-3 years). No reservations required. Enjoy nature with your little one through stories, songs, and animals. Plan to get outside with Runge staff too!

Tuesday, Nov. 12th: Night Drop in and Play (DIP open until 7 p.m.)

Wednesday Nov. 13: Little Acorns at Runge Nature Center, 10-11 a.m. Repeat of 11/9 program (see above for description).

Friday, Nov. 15: Family Movie Night at Missouri River Regional Library, 6-8 pm (doors lock at 6:15). Bring a folding chair, sleeping bag, blanket or pillow and join the fun. Light snacks and drinks provided. This month's movie is Epic (PG).

Saturday, Nov. 16: Story Tree (Storytime) at Runge Nature Center 10-10:30 a.m. All ages. No registration required. Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist - or two - ready to share a favorite nature story with you. This is an informal story time for families with young children.

Monday, Nov. 18: Family Book Bingo at Missouri River Regional Library, 7-8 p.m. in the MRRL art gallery (upstairs).

Thursday, Nov. 21: Little Acorns at Runge Nature Center, 10-11 a.m. Repeat of 11/9 program (see above for description).

Monday, Nov. 25: Due to popular demand, we have added an additional screening night from 4-7 p.m. at Southwest Early Childhood Center. Amblyopia Screening provided by the Lion's Club will be available. Please call Sasha at 659-3026 to get on the screening list today!

Wednesday, Nov. 27th-Friday 29th: Center closed (no Drop in and Play)

Saturday, Nov. 30: Shop friendly, local small businesses throughout the Jefferson City area. An extra holiday treat – hop on a free trolley and ride across town to shop the participating businesses. Santa Claus will be ready to give every good little boy and girl a free gift at the downtown Central Bank location from 10am – 2pm. More information at www.shopsmalljc.com

DECEMBER

Thursday, Dec. 12: Little Acorns at Runge Nature Center 10-11 a.m. (ages 3-6 years): Animal Wrappers: People wrap up in pants, shirts, winter coats, hats, and mittens. What do animals wear? Animals definitely do NOT wear clothing. Find out what they do wear this month. Reservations required (call beginning 12/01). 573-526-5544

Thursday, Dec. 5: Mayor's Christmas tree lighting at the Rotary Park on Bolivar Street at 6 pm.. There will be entertainment, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus at the event.

Friday, Dec. 6: Living Windows in downtown Jefferson City (High Street, from Jefferson to Adams), 6-9 p.m.



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Thursday, Dec. 26: Fa

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***Runge Nature Center**

time, please visit mdc

ONGOIN

Storytime at Barnes a

Wednesdays and Satur

Preschool Storytime a