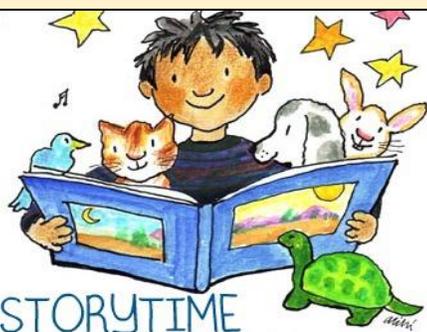


Families for Literacy Program Newsletter

May, 2020



STORYTIME

... at home!

Due to the shelter-in-place-order all storytimes at the library are cancelled until further notice.

We are working on a call-in storytime, but in the meantime take this opportunity and have your own storytime at home:

READ
with us

- Young children need routine. Set aside one or two times a day, the same time every day. Select naturally calm times of the day in a child's routine.
- Short and sweet! Alternate reading with fingerplays, songs, and movement.
- It is ok if children wander off while you are reading. Don't stop reading. They are still hearing the words and your voice.
- Find a cuddly spot, and hold the book so that they can all see the pictures. Whatever works for you and your family!
- ☺ Most importantly: Have fun!

If you approach this short activity with **joy and lightheartedness**, and your children see that you are enjoying yourself and the books, they will join right in. Choose books you like and read with expression and however feels most natural to you. Enjoy this special time with your children, no matter their age!

There are also lots of storytimes on youtube, but no screen can replace **interaction with you!**

Make Hand washing fun! Cute DIY soap: The more your little ones wash their hands the quicker they get to the toy!



CRAFT
with us



What you need:

- Soap scraps, or melt- and-pour soap base (link below)
- small toys
- Essential oil, 2-3 drops (optional) Lavender and/or Tea Tree (both antibacterial) is a good choice
- Food coloring and/or glitter (optional)
- Coffee stirrers or plastic spoon
- Mold (silicone muffin shapes, candy molds, yoghurt- or whipping cream container (anything firm enough to hold the melted soap, yet flexible enough to get the soap out will work))

What you do:

- Heat glycerin or grated (cheese grater) soap scraps in a microwave on high, stirring every 15-second, until it is completely melted. Don't let it get too hot. You can also melt it on the stove, using a heat safe bowl in a saucepan full of simmering water (double boiler). Stir frequently.
- Mix liquid food coloring and/or essential oil into bowl with a coffee stirrer (coloring and essential oils are very strong, so use it sparingly.)
- Pour into molds and place the toy into the soap. For a layered rainbow look, pour small amounts into the molds and let them harden before adding another color layer and the toy.
- Tip: If you put the molds into the refrigerator for about 15 minutes after the poured soap has cooled down, then the soap will "pop" out of the molds a lot easier.



Useful links:

DIY - How to make Toy Soap for Kids or you! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvI3qrT3sms>

Soap molds https://www.amazon.com/s?k=soap+molds+kids&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

Glycerine melt and pour base <https://www.michaels.com/artminds-soap-making-clear-glycerin-soap/10299620.html>

Singing makes everything fun, even hand washing

♥ Sing the **ABC song** or **Happy Birthday**, twice through, once for each hand.

♥ **Hand Washing Song** Tune: "**Row Row Row Your Boat**"

Wash wash wash those germs gently down the drain,
Merrily merrily merrily they won't be seen again.



♥ **Hand Washing Game: Variation on This Little Piggy Went to Market**

This gives adults an opportunity to help a child wash each finger separately. Adapt the lyrics to your lifestyle; if the family eats cheese sticks and not roast beef, then it might go:

This little finger went to market, and this little finger stayed home

This little finger ate cheese sticks, and this little finger had none

And this little finger went "wee wee wee" all the way home.

How to Talk to Your Child about Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Did you know? No masks for children under the age of 2!

● **Don't be afraid to discuss the coronavirus.** Not talking about something can actually make kids worry *more*.

● **Be developmentally appropriate.** Don't volunteer too much information, as this may be overwhelming. Instead, try to answer your child's questions honestly and clearly. It's okay if you can't answer everything; being available to your child is what matters.

● **Take your cues from your child.** Invite your child to tell you anything they may have heard about the coronavirus, and how they feel.

● **Deal with your own anxiety.** Pick a time when you feel calm.

● **Be reassuring and focus on what you're doing to stay safe.** Let your child know that kids seem to have milder symptoms. Remind them that they are taking care of themselves by **washing their hands** with soap and water for 20 seconds (or the length of two "Happy Birthday" songs) when they come in from outside, before they eat, and after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, touching pets or using the bathroom.

Use the tips above to make it more fun!

● **Keep talking.** Tell kids that you will continue to keep them updated as you learn more and

● **Stick to routine.** Structured days with regular mealtimes and bedtimes just like you would during summer vacation are an essential part of keeping kids happy and healthy.

Credit to childmind.org

Can't get books because your library is closed? Lots of digital resources so you don't need to leave home.

Hoopla Kids, kid's books on Libby by Overdrive and of course ABCmouse and Teaching Books.net.

Visit the library website (<http://library.lakecountycal.gov/>), click on *Books and more* and choose *Digital Content: Ebooks, Audiobooks, Music, Magazines, and Video* - or simply use this link:

http://www.lakecountycal.gov/Government/Directory/Lake_County_CA_Library/Books/Downloads.htm.

*Did you know? When facing a **health** crisis, actively cultivating **positive** emotions can **boost** the **immune** system?*



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