



Stark County Board of DD Early Intervention Newsletter

December 2020

Christmas Book Countdown



And just like that, the countdown to Christmas begins. Children are getting excited for Santa's arrival and the presents he'll leave them. They are looking through toy catalogs and making their lists of things they want, sending letters to Santa, making a visit to see him at the mall to tell him in person what they wish for. Maybe you have an Elf on the Shelf who reports to Santa if the children are being naughty or nice. And the children ask over and over again, "How many more days until Santa comes?" Older children might be questioning if Santa is even going to be able to come this year because of Covid. Many families count down the days with their children who are anxious for Santa's arrival in one way or another. They might use an Advent calendar, fill Santa's beard with cotton balls, or maybe move an object on the calendar closer to Christmas each day to help their children visualize when the big day is. Here are a few ideas for different ways to count down and start a new Christmas tradition with your family this year using books. The idea is to wrap up 24 books (ideally a Christmas story; however, they don't all need to be Christmas books). You might number the books for the countdown or let your child randomly choose one each night. Place the books under the tree and open one book each night to read together. When the last one is opened on Christmas Eve Santa will be coming! Books are a wonderful gift! They encourage language and build vocabulary plus quality time can be spent together reading a book. "Books are expensive, I can't afford to buy 24

Books," you might be thinking or you might feel like you already have too many to fit on the bookshelf. Don't worry though, here are some ideas to keep it low cost without adding 24 more books and a way to share the gift with others.

- Wrap books you already have to reread and purchase one special new book to read on Christmas Eve. You might want to mark this one "Do not Open until Christmas Eve!"
- Borrow library books to wrap and read together (don't forget to return them)
- Trade books with friends for some "new to you" books to share
- Feeling generous? Want to teach your child about sharing, caring and giving to others? Rewrap your book after you read it together (or pick books from your bookshelf to wrap and give) and leave it on the porch of a friend, family member, a family struggling financially or even someone you don't know who has kids for them to find. Imagine the surprise and delight of finding an unexpected gift on the porch!

Children are only little for such a short time. In a blink of the eye they are grown and gone. Cherish this time making family memories & traditions your children can someday continue with their own children.

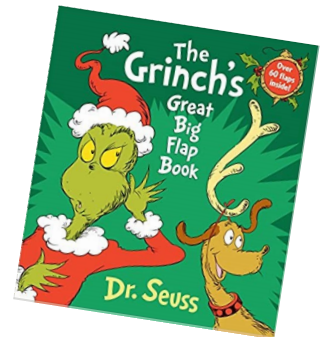


Virtual playgroup information on the next page.

December Virtual Playgroups

We're going to have some GRINCH FUN!!

December 1st @ 10 AM
Storytime with Chris & Paula
"The Grinch's Great Big Flap Book"



Join us for this simple adaptation of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". Grow your heart three sizes and get in on all of the Grinch-mas cheer with this lift-the-flap book.

December 8th @ 10 AM
Craft time with Miss Paula
Grinch Cinnamon Ornaments

This week we are going to be making special handprint Grinch cinnamon ornaments to hang on your tree. We will mix and make the ornaments today then allow them to dry until next week. We will decorate them on December 15th. They make the house smell good and make great gifts too!



You will need:
1 cup applesauce
1 cup Ground Cinnamon
Cookie cutters



December 15th @ 10 AM
Grinch Sensory Play & Ornament Painting

Play in GREEN GRINCH rice. Check out page 4 of the newsletter for directions on how to make it.

You will want to make this ahead of time or your child will have Grinch hands.
We will finish our Grinch ornaments today by painting them and adding facial features.

You will need:
Green, red, & white paint
(yellow paint optional for eyes)
Permanent black marker
Rice
Green food coloring
Rubbing alcohol
Red hearts (can be foam, plastic, or paper)
Household items to play (cup, spoon, funnel, etc.)
(Optional add peppermint extract or essential oil to the rice)



All Things Grinch



Grinch Punch

- 1 gallon bottle Green Berry Rush Hawaiian Punch
- 1 1/2 cups pineapple juice
- 1 bottle Sprite (2 liters)
- Lime sherbet (optional)

Keep all ingredients chilled in the refrigerator. When you are ready to serve, combine the green punch, Sprite, and pineapple juice in a large punchbowl and stir well. For an added touch you can add scoops of lime sherbet to it. Serve immediately and enjoy!

Grinch Slime

Ingredients:

- 5 Oz bottle of Elmer's Clear Glue
- 1/2 Cup Water
- 1/2 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 Tbsp Contact Solution (w/boric acid)
- Green Food Coloring
- Green Glitter (LOTS)
- Red Heart confetti (optional)



Pour the entire contents of the 5 oz bottle of glue into a bowl and add a 1/2 cup warm water and a drop of green food coloring to the glue and mix well. Next, add 1/2 tsp of baking soda and stir again. Mix in LOTS of **green GLITTER** then add in 1 tablespoon of contact solution. The slime will firm up right away, but it will still be sticky, just keep stirring until it starts to form. Now begin kneading the slime until it is no longer sticky and add heart confetti if you wish. When you are done playing with your Grinch Slime store it in an airtight container.

Super Simple Grinch Ornaments

These Grinch ornaments are simple to make. You will need clear Christmas bulbs, your choice of green to fill your ornaments (green paint, green glitter, green pom poms, green feathers, etc.) and permanent markers or paint pens (red, black and yellow) to draw the Grinch face or heart and/or a small foam heart to put inside the bulbs.



Merry
Grinchmas!!

Grinch popcorn

Sweet, salty and delicious -enjoy while watching How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Ingredients:

- 10 Cups of Popped Popcorn
- Salt
- 3 tablespoons Butter
- 3 cups Mini Marshmallows
- Yellow and Blue food coloring
- 1/2 Cup Mini Marshmallows
- M&M Candies - Red



To make Grinch popcorn first pop your popcorn (you will need 10 cups). Salt the popcorn and set the large bowl of popcorn aside. In a medium saucepan melt the butter over medium heat. Next, add mini marshmallows to the pan and stir until melted. Remove the pan from the heat and add yellow food coloring to the marshmallow mixture and a small amount of blue food coloring to get the perfect shade of Grinch Green. Coat the popcorn with the green marshmallow mixture saving a little and pour the popcorn onto a greased cookie sheet. Drizzle the remaining marshmallow mixture over the popcorn then add mini marshmallows and red M&M's while the popcorn is still warm. Allow to cool and serve with Grinch punch.



Here are a few examples of simple Grinch ornaments I found to make with my family for our Grinch themed Christmas tree this year.

Grinch Family Fun Day!

"I don't need anything more for Christmas than this right here. My family," Cindy Lou who said and she's right! Even though we are in the midst of a pandemic, and our usual holiday plans may have had to change this year, why not make the best of it by planning a family fun Grinch Day with Grinch activities, food, games and don't forget the movie!



My Day

9:00 Breakfast with ME!

10:00 Sensory play

11:00 Grinchercise

12:00 Lunch with ME!!

1:00 Catch some ZZZzzz's

3:00 Blast this Christmas music dance party

3:30 Grinch ornaments

5:00 DINNER with ME!!

6:30 Grinch bath and PJ's

7:30 Grinch movie and snacks

Start the day off with green Grinch pancakes. Just add green food coloring to your pancake mix and prepare as you normally would. To make them Grinch pancakes add 2 pieces of sliced banana or clementine oranges for the eyes then use chocolate syrup to add the other facial features (mouth, nose and eyebrows). Add strawberries to make a hat add a dollop of whipped cream to the top of the hat and along the bottom. Add some Max sausage links and Cindy Lou who milk (Strawberry milk) to complete your breakfast.



After breakfast enjoy some sensory play in a bin of Grinch rice. Color your rice green with a little rubbing alcohol and green food coloring or, if you'd like to include the sense of smell to the experience use essential oil instead of rubbing alcohol and green food coloring. Make

ahead of time so the food coloring dries before playing with it or you will also have green Grinch hands.



Pour the green rice into a container or bowl, add some red hearts to the rice mixture (Grinch hearts) and stir them in. You can use foam, plastic, or confetti hearts. Give your child a spoon, funnel and a few small cups and let them play. Perhaps they will try to find all of the hearts and dump them back in through the funnel or fill the cup with rice. How many spoonfuls will it take to fill the cup? Count with your child, talk about full and empty, dump and pour, scoop, etc. In addition to the sensory play they will be learning math skills and language too!

It's time to 'Grinch-ercise'!! Pretend you are the Grinch taking all the gifts. Bend over and pick up items (pretend gifts, toys, bows, balls...) one at a time placing them in your sack (pillowcase). Now carry the sack to your sleigh (laundry basket or box) and put it in the sleigh. Climb in and have Max (another family member) pull the sleigh back up Mount Crumpit (push or pull the basket or box) to your Grinch lair.



Grinch Fun Day continued...

I am sure you have worked up an appetite by now so you should enjoy some lunch. How does roast 'beast' pinwheel sandwiches and Grinch kabobs sound? Delicious, I know! To make the roast 'Beast' pinwheels you will need spinach tortillas, cream cheese, roast beef (or deli meat of choice), spinach leaves and diced red peppers. To make, lay the tortillas flat and spread the softened cream cheese over the tortilla. Next, cover the tortilla with roast beef slices then top with spinach leaves and diced red peppers. Roll the tortilla and wrap it in saran wrap. Place it in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. While the pinwheel is chilling and setting, gather some green grapes, strawberries and a banana. Remove the tops from the strawberries and slice the banana into 1/2-1 inch slices. Now skewer the pieces to make Grinch kabobs (banana, grape, strawberry and top with a mini marshmallow). Remove the pinwheel from the fridge, unwrap it and place toothpicks evenly down the roll. Slice between the toothpicks and serve with the Grinch kabobs on a plate. Be sure to watch young children with the toothpick/kabob sticks or remove them before serving it to your child. Add some chips and Cindy Lou Who milk to complete your lunch.



Your belly is full and you have worn yourselves out with all of the Grinch fun. Grab a few ZZZzz's so you don't miss out on any of the fun!

When you wake up blast joyful and triumphant Christmas music for a Grinch dance party with your family!!



It's time to make some Grinch ornaments. Check out the directions on the All Things Grinch page to make these simple, fun Grinch ornaments. All you need are some clear bulbs, something green to fill them with, red, black and yellow paint or markers.

"And they'll feast, feast, feast, feast. They'll eat their Who-Pudding and rare Who-Roast Beast." Time for dinner, how about some Grinch greens? A Grinch Salad or Grinch Roast, Who Hash and Grinch Green Beans. Don't forget to have Who-pudding (pistachio pudding) for dessert!



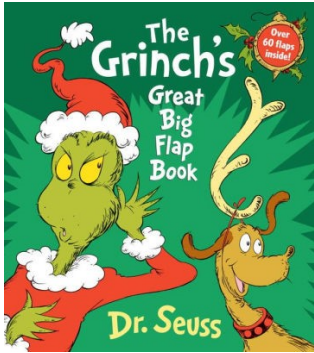
After dinner let's make Grinch slime for more Grinch fun (directions on the All Things Grinch page) then into the bath to continue the fun. Do you have Color Bath Drops? Let's make the water green! How do you make green you ask? Let's mix yellow and blue, that will make green. Now out of the tub and into your PJ's it's time for a family movie night!



Into the living room, get settled in, it's time for the movie. Of course it's, **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** with Grinch popcorn and Grinch punch (recipes on the All Things Grinch page)!

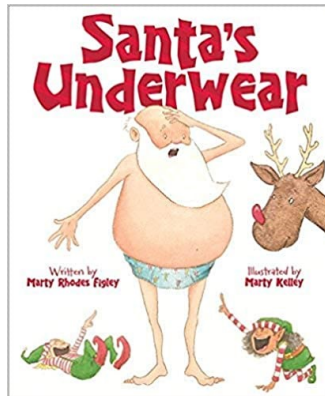
You can't hurt Christmas, Mr. COVID Pandemic because it isn't about the gifts or the contests or the fancy lights. It's about taking advantage of the time you have with your family. And on this day, while your family played and made memories you'll treasure for years to come Mr. COVID Pandemic's heart grew 3 sizes they say.





A board-book version of Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*! This super-simple, sturdy adaptation of the beloved holiday classic is perfect for the youngest Seuss fans. Shortened rhymed text and over sixty Grinchy flaps for little fingers to lift.

It's Christmas Eve and Santa is busy getting gussied up for the big night. But when he goes to put on his warm, cozy (holey, ragged) Christmas underwear, they're nowhere to be found! With undies for every occasion, he tries on the rest of his collection. But nothing is quite right. Just when he's about to give up he find a surprise from his considerate team of reindeer. Ho, ho, ho, Merry Christmas!



BOOKS TO READ IN DECEMBER



Join Little Bear as he prepares for the holidays, all the while giving readers a chance to smell six wonderful scents including apple pie, Christmas tree, hot chocolate, and more! This delectable treat is a perfect way for families to spend the yuletide season.

December

Mr. Grinch

Oh, Mr. Grinch.

Mr. Grinch.

You're so mean.

Furry face and scowling eyes

The meanest I've ever seen!

Oh, Mr. Grinch

Mr. Grinch.

You heart grew and GREW.

Now you are a friend of mine



Christmas Time

See the snowflakes falling.

(Wriggle fingers like dancing snowflakes.)

See the candles glow.

(Hold up index finger like a candle.)

See the wreaths upon the door.

(Form wreath shape with fingers.)



Five Little Bells

Five little bells hanging in a row,

(Hold up five fingers.)

The first one said, "Ring me slow."

(Hold up one finger.)

The second one said, "Ring me fast."

(Hold up two fingers.)

The third one said, "Ring me last."

(Hold up three fingers.)

The forth one said, "I'm like a chime."

(Hold up four fingers.)

The fifth one said,

"Ring us all