



Stark County Board of DD Early Intervention Newsletter

March 2021

Join us this month for Leprechaun Fun! **Virtual Playgroup** Every Tuesday @ 10AM

March 2nd Story time with Chris & Paula *Itsy Bitsy Leprechaun*



Join us for story-time, followed by a fun color-sorting activity. The story is a fun twist on the nursery rhyme the *Itsy Bitsy Spider*. Join us to find out what the Itsy Bitsy Leprechaun is up to then, we will sort whatever colorful items you have on hand (ideas...colorful cereal, candies, or toys)



March 9th Sensory Play with Miss Chris *Rainbow in a Bag*

Today we are going to explore mixing colors with a NO- MESS rainbow finger paint in a Ziplock bag activity. If you don't have paint there is a simple no-cook homemade paint recipe on pg. 2 in the March Family Fun activities to use.

March 16th St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt & Egg Shaker Activity



Today we are going on a scavenger hunt! We will be looking for a pot, a coin, a hat, a shamrock, a toy person, and something rainbow colored. Afterwards, we will practice listening, to see how to shake our eggs (fast, slow, high ,low...).



March 23rd Fruit Rainbow Snack

Another fun way to sort colors! Let's make this colorful and yummy snack to enjoy together. You will need 3-4 colors of fruit and a plate. We will make a rainbow by lining up one color of fruit over another.



March 30th Craft time with Miss Paula *Shamrock Marble Painting*

Today we will paint with marbles (or anything round). You will need paint, something round to roll through the paint and a box, Pringles can, or rectangular container, and a piece of paper. There is a shamrock template included with the newsletter if you choose to use it.



March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

During National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month meet five children and adults who get support from Stark DD. We believe that to raise awareness you need to get to know the person and their story. Our first ambassador, Kylan Barnes. With the help of family, **Stark County Early Intervention, and Stark DD Early Intervention staff** is not letting anything hold him back.. Read Kylan's story at <https://starkdd.org/.../2021/03/Kylan-Barnes-My-Story.pdf>



Put on your orange...any hue will do! Don't forget your mask...they count too! Then post a selfie...or send us your photos to share on Stark DD social media.

**#DDAwareness2021 #KnowMeStark
#WeAreHere**

While many of our typical social gatherings can't take place this year, we have a variety of safe, fun ways for you to participate in the conversation. Check our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StarkDD) for ideas and resources related to the daily prompts and see what others are doing in our community. **#DDAwareness2021**

Typically one of our annual activities is our mall walk but due to the current pandemic we are instead taking a virtual walk through the community. To participate in our virtual walk take a selfie of yourself or family out in the community wearing orange. Use our poster found in this newsletter to show your support and use the hashtag

#WeAreHere

On our social media platforms people will guess where you are. The top 10 people with the most correct guesses on social media will win a DD Awareness T-shirt.



Pictures can be emailed all month long to :
ehmerc@starkdd.org or parramorel@starkdd.org
to be posted on our social media pages.

You can find the children's **31 Days of Advocacy Activities** calendar in this newsletter; try to do the daily activities with your child.

March Family Fun!!

Homemade Finger Paint

You will need:

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- Food coloring
- Bowls and spoons



Put water into a large bowl. Slowly add the flour, while your child stirs it. Once it's all mixed together, divide it into smaller bowls and add food coloring.

Rainbow in a Bag!



- Finger paint (recipe above)
- Large resealable plastic Ziplock bag
- Cardstock (trim to fit in Ziplock)
- tape

Place the piece of cardstock inside of the Ziplock bag. Add a heaped teaspoon of paint into the zip bag by holding the plastic away and try to place the paint along the bottom of the bag. Continue adding different colors of paint until you have all your colors lined up along the bottom. Seal the bag and tape the plastic bag down on the table to keep your Ziplock bag in place. Now it is time to play!



Show your child how to start pushing the paint across the canvass bit by bit to create their rainbows. Then, they will be able to make drawings and patterns using their fingers to create squiggles, shapes, and lines in the paint. Since this is a contained item you could leave it on the table for the day for your child to come back to doodle on it.



Rainbow Egg Shakers



Egg shakers are exactly what they sound like: instruments shaped like eggs that are played by shaking! They make a lot of different kinds of sounds. Egg shakers are great for showing steady beat, volume, and speed in music, following directions and making music. You can create your own egg shakers by filling plastic Easter eggs with different items such as rice, beans, coins, etc. Different items create different sounds. Be sure to tape your eggs closed to prevent them from opening and spilling. Use the song *We Shake Our Eggs Together* on the next page to make music and practice listening skills and direction following.

Fruit Rainbow Snack

To make this delicious and nutritious snack you will use 3-4 different colors of fruit. The fruit can be diced, sliced, or even left whole. Arrange the different colors of fruit on the plate in any order you choose. If you want to add clouds you can use banana slices, marshmallows, or even fruit dip. This tasty rainbow is sure to please the little leprechauns in your house.



Color Sorting and Matching Activities



You will need:

items to sort

(colored cereals or candies, plastic eggs, toys such as blocks or beads, etc.)

something to sort onto/into

(containers, colored mats, circles or sheets of construction paper, etc.)

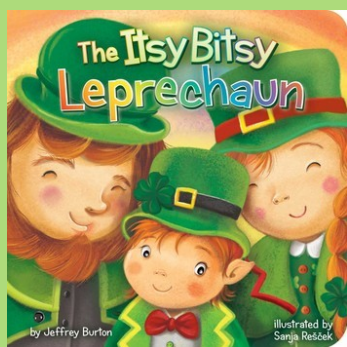
Sorting objects is an important early math skill. Color matching, sorting and recognizing and choosing colors when asked for them are the simplest forms of learning colors. Naming colors (saying "red" when asked what color is this?) happens a little later. When doing this activity with a young child start with only **two contrasting colors** (example- use just red and yellow since they are very different; do not use blue and green since they are close in color). Once your child can sort 2 colors you can begin to add in more colors. To play, demonstrate putting the red item onto the red paper or into a container with other red items then, let your child try it giving them guidance as needed. As your child looks for the colors they need to match they are visually scanning which is an important skill needed later for math and reading. You can add language skills too by talking to your child about the color, shape, where to place it, etc.

Hunting for Gold Coins and Easter Eggs

Children love hiding and finding items and St. Patrick's Day and Easter offer opportunities to practice these skills in a fun way. Hide gold coins or colored eggs around the house for your child to find. Start out by placing the items where your child can easily see them. As they get better at finding them begin to make them harder to find. Let your child hide them for you to find too!

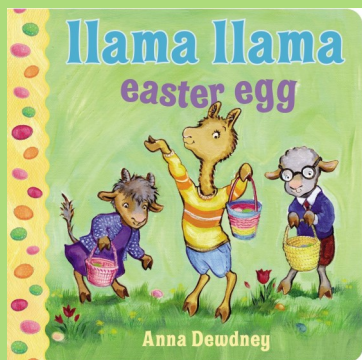


BOOKS TO READ IN MARCH



A magical St. Patrick's Day twist on the popular nursery rhyme "The Itsy Bitsy Spider!" The itsy bitsy leprechaun is ready for a St. Patrick's Day adventure as he searches for a lucky four-leaf clover.

From a St. Patrick's Day parade, a lucky shamrock, and a funny leprechaun to St. Patrick's Day costumes, an Irish dancing outfit, and a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, *Baby's First St. Patrick's Day* features all the familiar favorites.



In *Llama Llama Easter Egg*, the Easter Bunny brings lots of treats for Llama Llama: jelly beans, colorful eggs, and a fluffy surprise!

If your toddler loves lift-the-flap books, *We're Going on An Egg Hunt* is a winner. Follow the bunnies on their egg hunt while practicing basic counting skills.



READ WITH YOUR CHILD DAILY!

March Songs and Fingerplays

This Little Leprechaun

This little leprechaun slid down the rainbow,
(Point to thumb.)

This little leprechaun stayed home.
(Point to index finger.)

This little leprechaun picked a shamrock,
(Point to middle finger.)

This little leprechaun found some gold.
(Point to ring finger.)



This little leprechaun cried,
"See if you can catch me,"
(Point to little finger.)

As he ran home.
(Wiggle little finger.)

I'm a Little Shamrock

Sung to: "I'm a little teapot"

I'm a little shamrock see my leaves.
Count my three petals if you please.
If you give me water and lots of sun,
I'll bring you good luck and lots of fun.



Easter Bunny Chant

Funny little bunny
Sat on a stump
Flicked his floppy little ears
And then he gave a jump!

We Shake Our Eggs Together

(To the tune of: The More We Get Together)

Fill plastic eggs with rice or something similar then, tape them closed to use with this activity.

We shake our eggs together,
together, together,
We shake our eggs together,
we do it like this.



Continue singing substituting the following phrases or add your own...

- We shake our eggs up high
- We shake our eggs down low
- We shake them in the middle
- We shake our eggs so slowly
- We shake our eggs so fast
- We shake them to the right/left.



31 DAYS OF Advocacy ACTIVITIES

1. HUG YOUR CHILD TODAY

2. WEAR ORANGE FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY (POST A PICTURE)

3. READ A BOOK ABOUT SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY.

4. IF YOUR CHILD HAS A TOUGH TIME WITH "CHOICES" COME UP WITH SAFE SITUATIONS TO PRACTICE THIS

5. TELL A FRIEND SOMETHING AWESOME YOUR CHILD DID!

8. ASK YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR DAY

9. TAKE A DRIVE DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH YOUR CHILD

6. WRITE A SPECIAL NOTE TO YOUR CHILD

7. HAVE A VIRTUAL PLAY DATE WITH A FRIEND

13. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS

10. MAKE A CARD FOR SOMEONE TO BRIGHTEN THEIR DAY

11. HAVE A VIRTUAL GAME DATE WITH A FAMILY MEMBER

12. CELEBRATE WITH YOUR CHILD WHEN HE/SHE REACHES A GOAL

14. DRAW A FAMILY PHOTO

15. MAKE A SNACK OR LUNCH TOGETHER

16. HAVE A SCAVENGER HUNT OUT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

17. TAKE A COMPLIMENT AND PASS IT ON

18. SHOW YOUR CHILD HOW TO BE A GOOD FRIEND

19. DO ONE ACTIVITY THAT HELPS YOUR CHILD "DE-STRESS"

21. MAKE A LIST OF YOUR CHILD'S STRENGTHS AND SHARE IT WITH ONE PERSON

22. VIDEO YOUR CHILD (SINGING, PLAYING...) AND SHARE YOUR CHILD'S TALENTS WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THEM.

20. TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT A TIME THEY DIDN'T GIVE UP

23. RESEARCH ONE SUPPORT GROUP

24. DEMONSTRATE FOR YOUR CHILD HOW TO ASK FOR HELP FROM A FAMILY MEMBER OR A FRIEND

25. EAT A HEALTHY BREAKFAST TOGETHER AND TALK ABOUT "FUELING OUR BODIES"

26. TAKE A SELFIE TOGETHER; SEND IT TO A FRIEND

28. SPEND A DAY AT A PARK TOGETHER

29. TELL YOUR CHILD ABOUT A TIME YOU DIDN'T GIVE UP

27. FIND YOUR CHILD'S PASSION AND DO SOMETHING WITH IT

30. PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE. HAVE YOUR CHILD HELP YOU WITH ONE HOUSEHOLD CHORE.

31. FIND MORE WAYS TO CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AND ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD ON OUR LIFETIME NAVIGATION TOOL STARKDONAV.ORG



Know Me. Know My Story.
Know Stark DD.

MARCH IS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Our Mission: Supporting choices and creating opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.

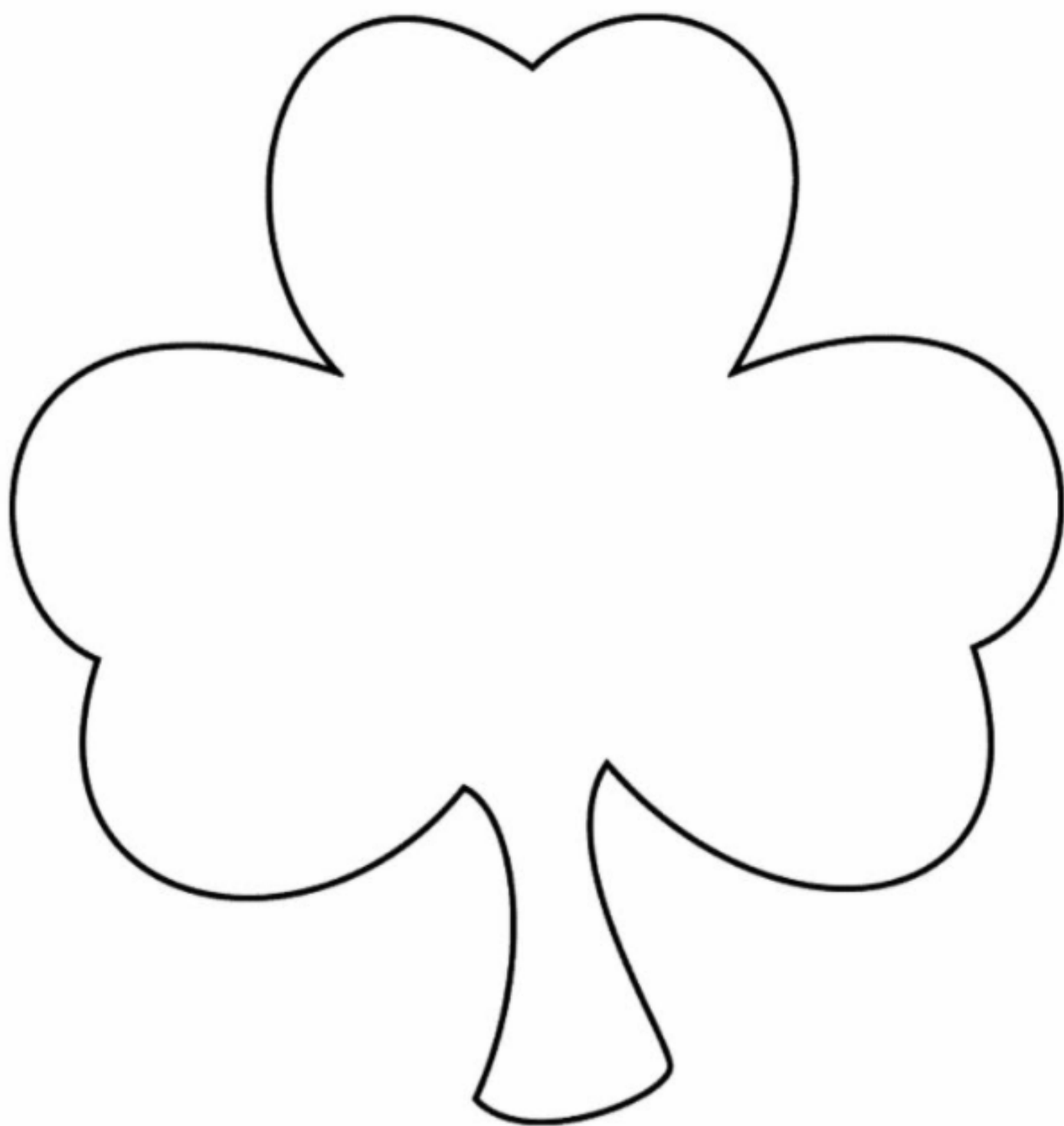


#WeAreHere

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These can be used for the scavenger hunt activity on March 16th or use similar items you have at home. For example...any pot, coin, or hat etc. you have at home will work for this activity or print these pictures out to hide for your child to find.

