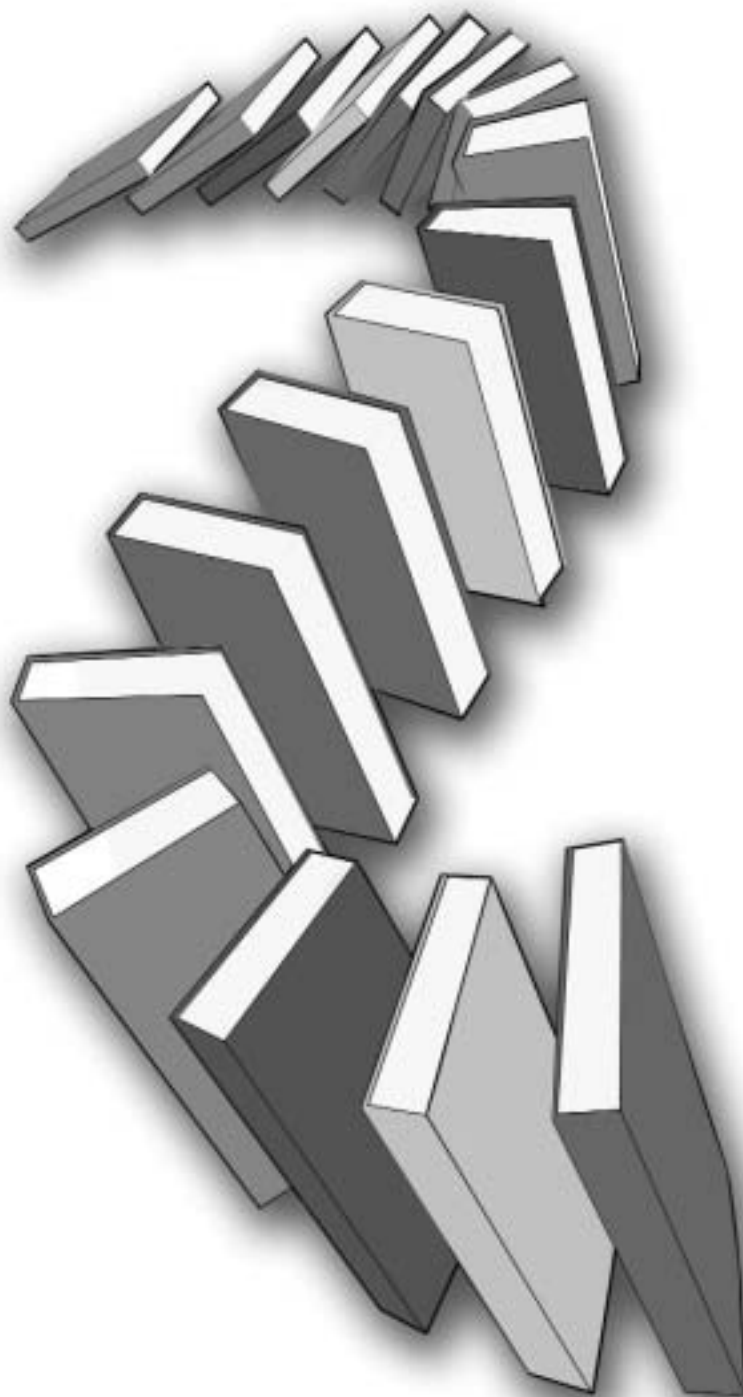


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**READING &
ACTIVITIES
CALENDAR**

Illinois State Library Literacy Office

CALNDAR OF READING & ACTIVITIES



It is important that all Illinoisans possess the literacy skills necessary to achieve their full potential. Literacy means more than just being able to read. It means being able to understand, being able to put your words in writing and being able to communicate with others in various ways.

The Illinois State Library's Calendar of Reading & Activities emphasizes all types of literacy skills. This calendar can help you create a foundation of literacy leading to great thoughts, dreams and lasting memories for you and your family.

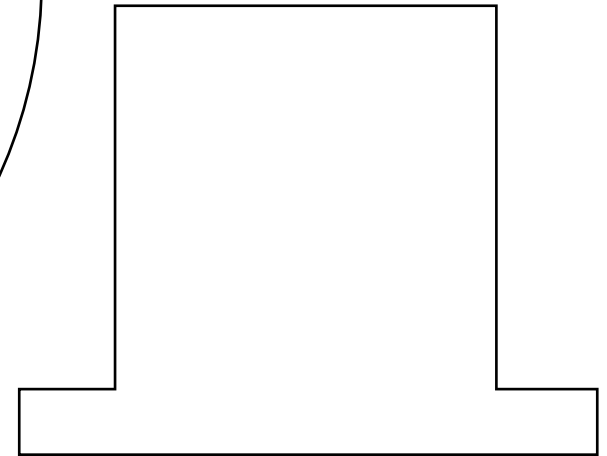
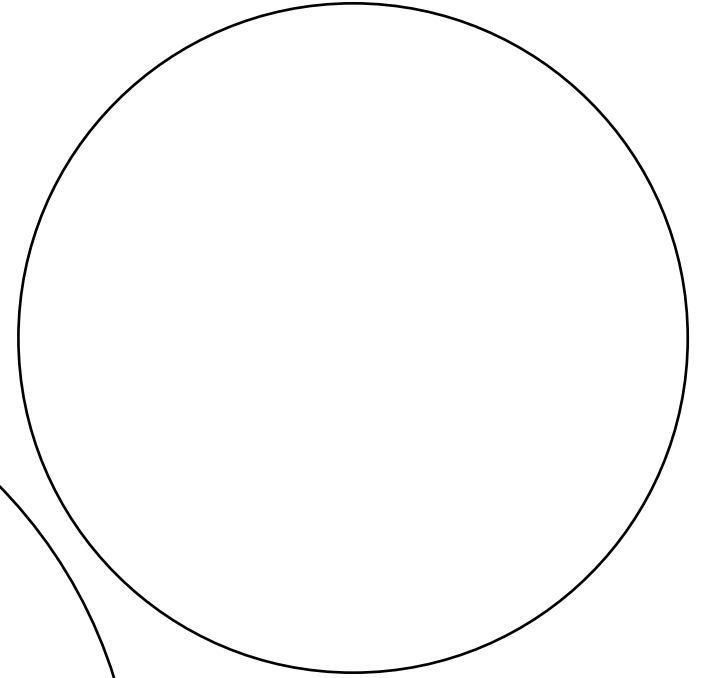
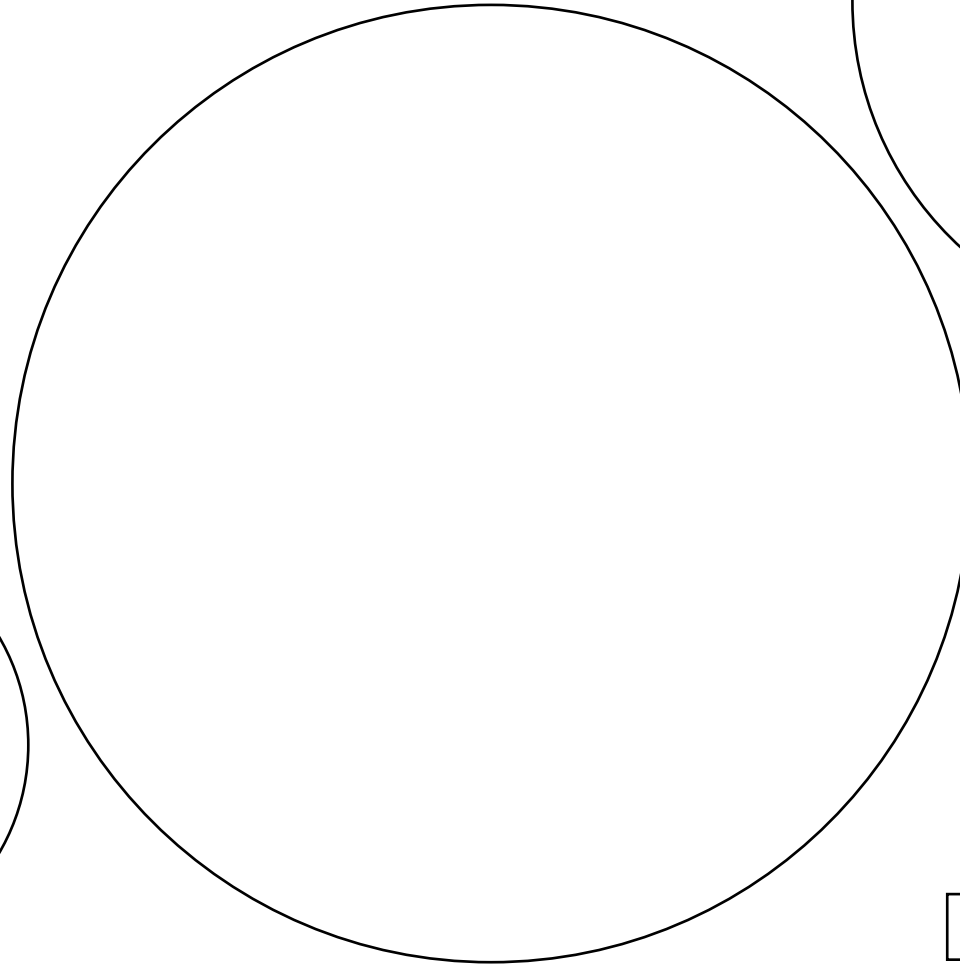
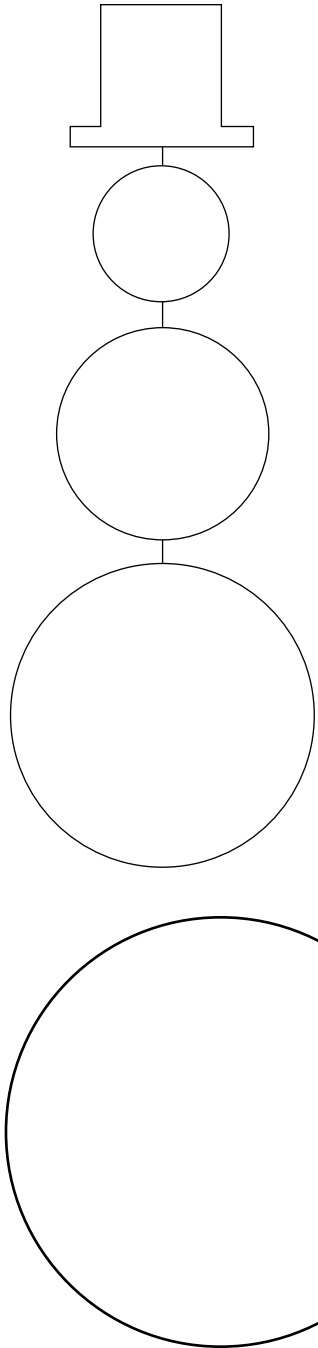
Included is suggested reading materials for young children through young adults. In addition, there are activities and games for everyone to enjoy.

The Illinois State Library Literacy Office has developed this calendar for you to use year after year. The days and dates do not match any one year. The calendar is designed to be copied and used by your family and friends. Together, we can help all citizens obtain the skills they need to be active, productive members of our community.

SNOWMAN MOBILE

**Cut out these pattern pieces
from construction paper
and assemble with string.**

Have child draw a face and buttons.



JANUARY

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

A & F

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Talk about the letter A.			Visit the library. Check out <i>Happy New Year!</i> , by Emery Bernhard.	
	Read <i>America A Patriotic Primer</i> , by Lynne Cheney			Look in the newspaper or a magazine for pictures or words that start with A.		Start a letter book and save all the pictures and words you cut out and glue them on paper.
Help make a snack; clean and cut up an apple and dip in peanut butter.		Take a walk outside and find a tree to adopt; take a picture or draw a picture of the tree and write what the tree looks like. Start a tree journal.	Make a snowman mobile. (see sample)		Visit the library and read <i>All You Need for a Snowman</i> , by Alice Schertle.	
	Read <i>Let's Get Ready for Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Welcome Books: Celebrations)</i> , by Lloyd G. Douglas.			Visit the library and check out <i>Animals in Winter</i> , by Henrietta Bancroft.		Make snow cones (see recipe).
Measure your feet. Trace your child's feet and your feet on paper and let them color the tracings.		Talk about the letter F, and look for things that contain the letter F. Remember to get words and pictures for your book.				

RECOMMENDED READING

Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King
 Author: Jean Marzollo
 "The book told about someone (Martin Luther King, Jr.) who helped his community and made history."
 —Edgar, age 8, Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley

The Exiles (ages 9-12)
 Author: Hilary McKay

A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories (ages 9-12)
 Author: Richard Peck

January Special Days
 New Year's Day
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Pudgie little snowman

A pudgie little snowman
 Had a carrot nose
 Along came a bunny
 And what do you suppose
 That hungry little bunny
 Looking for some lunch
 Ate the little snowman's
 nose
 Nibble, Nibble, Crunch!!!
 From: The St. Clair County Adult
 and Family Education Newsletter
 January/February 2003

Snow Cones

- Crushed ice
- Fruit juice
- Cups

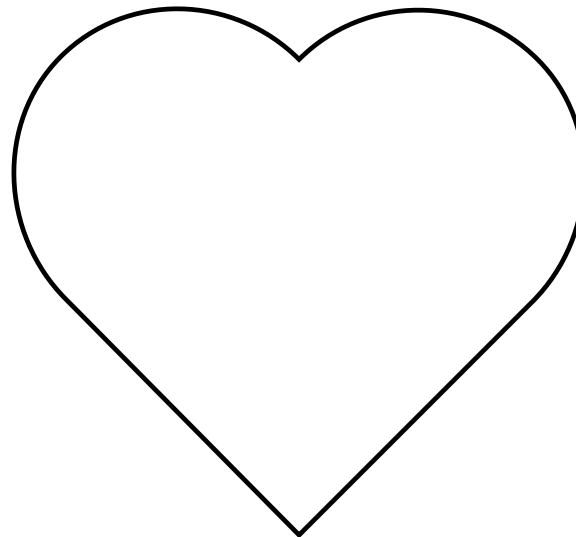
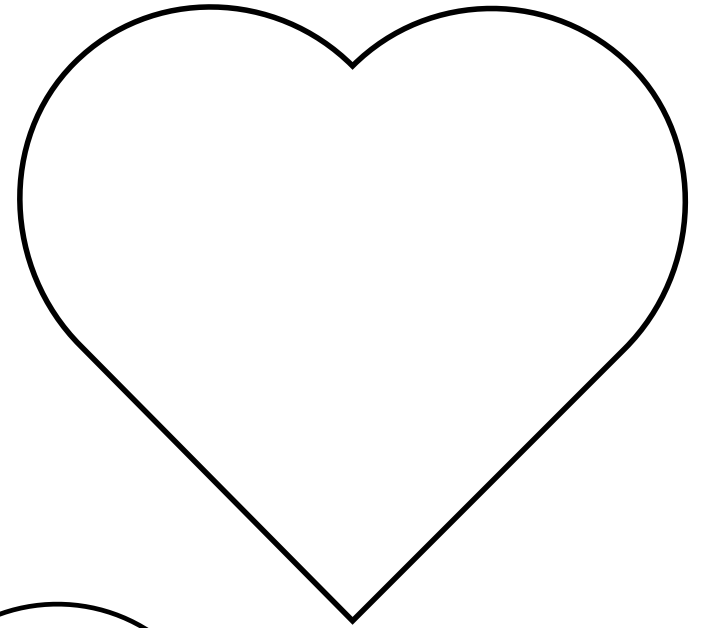
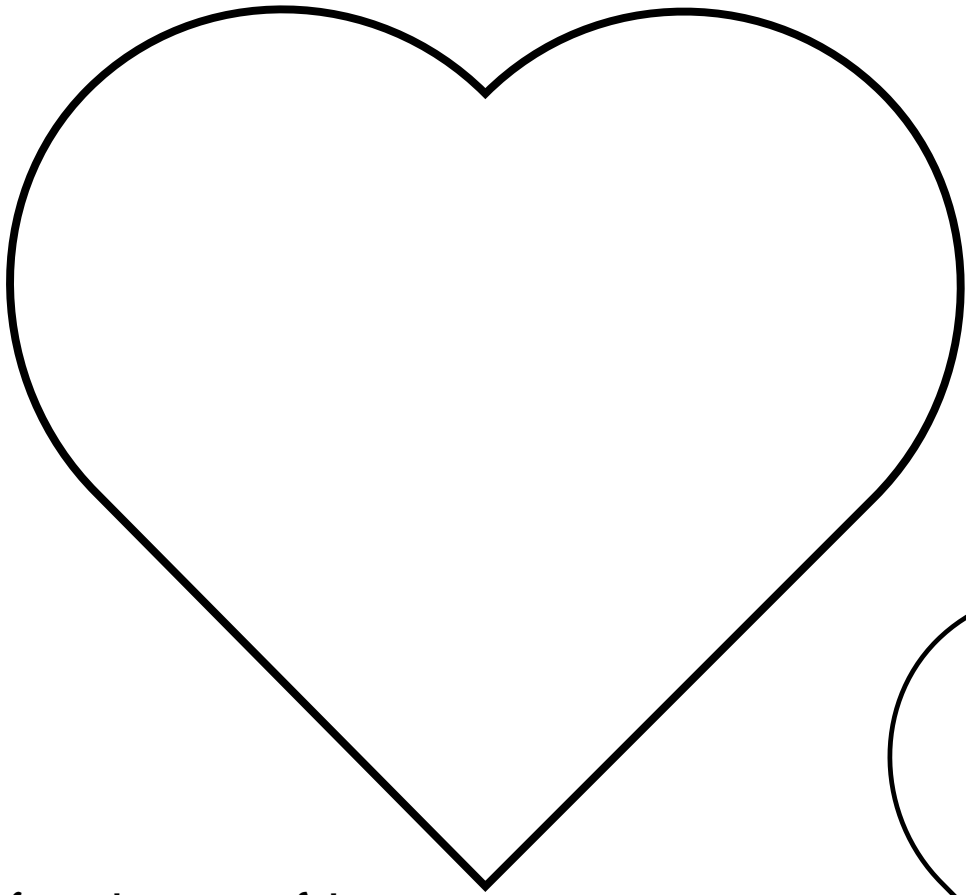
Put clean crushed ice in cup. Pour fruit juice over the ice.

Talk about Fruits

Think of fruits that are yellow, orange, red or green? What do they taste like? Are they sweet?

Books I read in January

HEART MOBILE



Construction paper
Scissors
Coat hanger

String
Glue

Cut out paper hearts of various sizes (as many as you want). Attach different lengths of string to the hanger. Glue two hearts together back to back at bottom of each string making sure the string is in between the hearts.

FEBRUARY

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

G & V

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Talk about the letter G. How does it sound? Think of things that start with G and look for words and pictures.			For Groundhog Day, read <i>Geoffrey Groundhog Predicts the Weather</i> , by Bruce Koscielniak.		Visit the library and read <i>Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch</i> , by Eileen Spinelli.
Share the newspaper with each other; look for all the pages that have color on them and save them.		Make Valentine cards. Use magazines or newspapers torn into pieces for decoration.		Make a heart mobile. (see sample)		Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.
	Talk about the letter V. Think of names that contain the letter V.		What shall I be? Let your child tell you what they want to be and find a book to share or draw a picture.		Visit the library and read <i>February</i> , by Ellen Jackson.	
Help make something you would eat for breakfast – pancakes, eggs, cereal – but eat it at lunch.		Visit the library and read <i>Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books</i> , by Kay Winters, and <i>George Washington's Teeth</i> , by Deborah Chandra.		Look at your tree and write about what it is doing.		Let's pretend. Let the children wear their swimsuits in the bathtub and pretend they are at the beach. You can relax in the sand and watch them play.
	Make snowballs out of paper and play catch with them. You can also use cotton balls taped together.					

RECOMMENDED READING

Madeline
 Author: Ludwig Bemelmans
 "It's a book about a little girl."
 – Justine, Chester Public Library,
 on the reason she likes this book

Cupid Doesn't Flip Hamburgers (ages 9-12)
 Author: Debbie Dadey
The Bad Beginning – A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book 1 (ages 9-12)
 Author: Lemony Snicket

February Special Days

Groundhog Day
 Valentine's Day
 Presidents Day

Love Love Love

(Sung to *3 Blind Mice*)
 Love, love, love, Love, love, love,
 See how it grows,
 see how it grows.
 I love my friends
 and they love me,
 We love others
 and then, you see,
 There's more than enough
 for a big family
 Love, love, love, Love, love, love,

Dipped Marshmallows

- 1 bag large marshmallows
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil
- chocolate chips
- assorted sprinkles

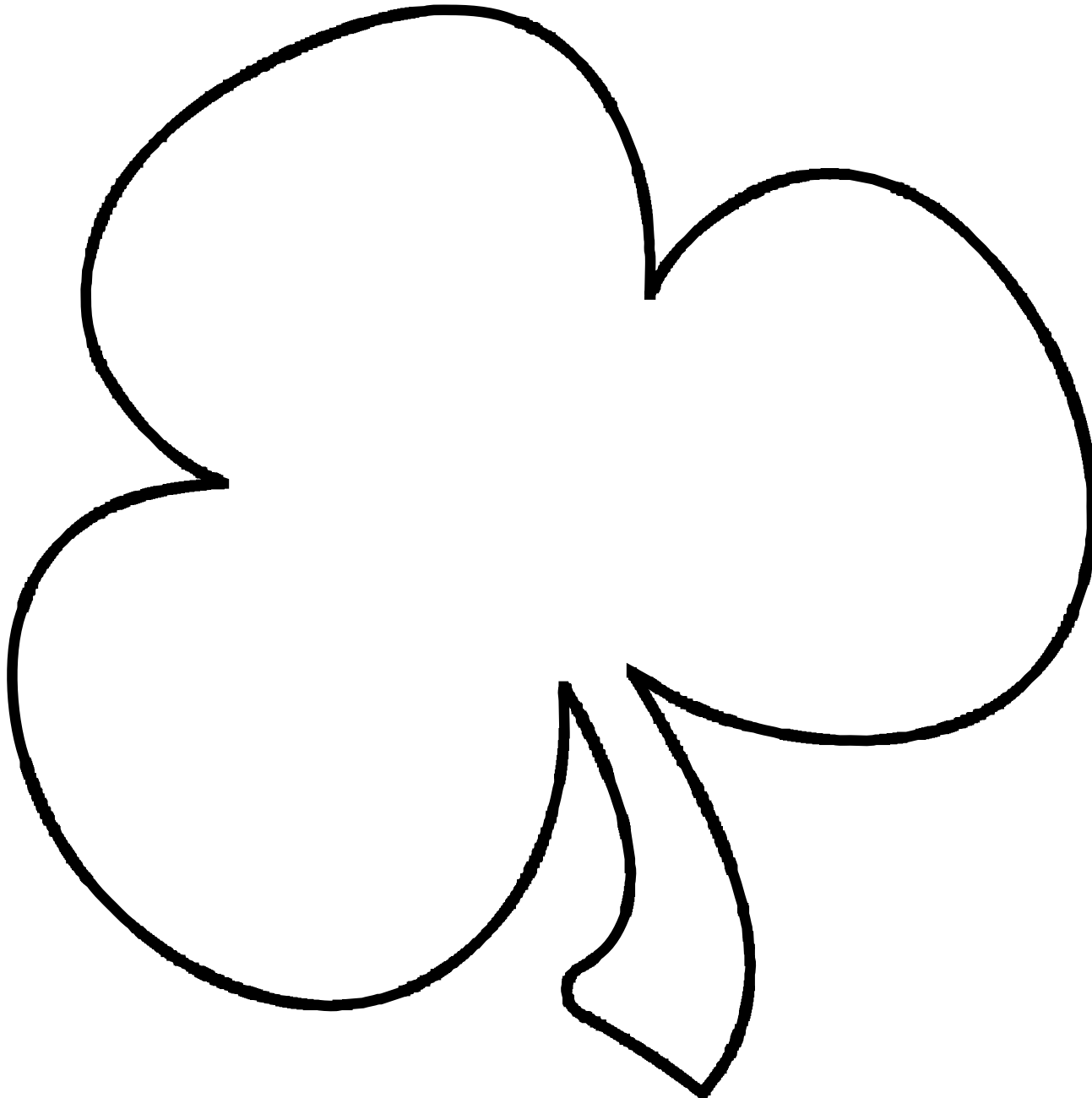
Melt chocolate chips and oil together over low heat (about 1 min. in microwave). Have your child dip each marshmallow into the chocolate about halfway, then dip and roll in the sprinkles. Place on a cookie sheet to harden.

Talk about Breakfast

Which one of the following do you like the best for breakfast—cereal, eggs, pancakes, waffles or toast. Why is it your favorite? What else do you eat for breakfast?

Books I read in February

ST. PAT'S SHAMROCKS



Salt
Green food coloring
Glue
White paper or poster board

Place salt in zip-lock baggie, add a few drops of green food coloring and shake (this is fun for kids to do).

Give children a shamrock and let them spread glue thinly all over shamrock using fingers or Q-tip.

Give children a small bowl with green salt in it, let them sprinkle over glue, let dry.

MARCH

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

P & I

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Letter P Day. Have peanut butter sandwiches and look for words and pictures for your book.		Visit the library and check out <i>Leprechaun Gold</i> , by Teresa Bateman.		
Tell your child a story, nursery rhyme, poem or song that was your favorite when you were their age.			Make a shamrock. (see sample)			Visit the library and check out <i>You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together</i> , by Mary Ann Hoberman.
	Decorate a window or mirror. Cut pictures out of magazines or newspapers and make a scene of your favorite time of year.			Make a kite and go outside to fly your kite.		
Look at your tree. Is it starting to have buds on the limbs? Draw a picture of the tree.			Write a poem using the letters I and P.		Visit the library and read <i>You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!</i> , by Shana Corey.	
	Read the newspaper with your child and let them cut out pictures and words with the letter I or P.		Have a treasure hunt. Hide objects somewhere in the house and give clues to find them.			

Shamrocks, Shamrocks

Shamrocks, Shamrocks,
On Ireland's hills,
Greenest of green
Over rocks and rills
Good luck do they bring,
For one and all
On St. Patrick's Day
We can see them all.

Magical Leprechaun Pudding

- Vanilla pudding
- Yellow and blue food coloring
- Clear zip-lock baggie
- Bowl or cup and spoon
- Green sugar crystals

Spoon pudding into baggie. Add a few drops of yellow and a few drops of blue food coloring. Close the bag and gently squish the bag until the "magic" begins. The pudding should turn green. Cut a small hole in the corner of the baggie and squeeze the pudding into cup or bowl, add green sugar crystals and enjoy!!

Talk about the milk group

Are these foods from the milk group – milk, yogurt and cheese?
Which kind do you like?
Can you think of other milk group foods?

Books I read in March

RECOMMENDED READING

The Mouse and the Potato

Author: Thomas Berger

"I like this book because it is funny."

– Leslie, Kankakee Community College
on the reason she likes this book.

The St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Mystery (ages 9-12)

Author: Marion M. Markham

The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle and Other Surprising Stories about Inventions (ages 9-12)

Author: Don Wulffson

March Special Days

St. Patrick's Day

SPRING WORD SEARCH

**SPRING
GROW
FLOWERS
APRIL
GARDEN
DAFFODIL**

I	H	H	Y	Y	X	T	T	V	T	R	A
J	U	F	R	L	K	S	S	J	N	P	B
A	G	R	O	W	N	P	E	D	R	K	T
B	I	K	U	I	I	B	H	I	V	M	H
F	T	N	A	L	P	M	L	U	Q	T	P
L	G	R	U	A	G	A	R	D	E	N	I
O	R	T	W	G	R	A	O	A	D	Q	K
W	R	M	C	G	N	P	E	S	S	I	S
E	V	R	U	E	Z	I	L	N	T	N	X
R	G	B	I	F	N	D	R	E	W	O	E
S	Z	R	H	F	S	E	S	P	V	X	P
T	Q	A	O	Z	W	V	R	H	S	W	K
V	O	Q	L	W	B	M	O	O	L	B	A
X	F	U	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	M

**TULIPS
KITES
POTS
BLOOM
PLANT
GROWN**

APRIL

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

R & E

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Visit the library and read <i>April Fool's Day (Rookie Read-About Holiday)</i> , by Melissa Schiller. and <i>Mud Flat April Fool</i> , by James Stevenson.	
Play Bag Guess. Take turns finding objects and placing in a bag. Let everyone touch and feel the objects and guess what they are.		Talk about the letter R. Look for foods in your house that start with the letter R.		Read a book about a red dog, red firetruck or a rainbow.		Have fun with the Spring Word Search.
	Make some rice and read <i>Rice Is Life</i> , by Rita Golden Gelman, and <i>What's for Lunch? Rice</i> , by Pam Robson.		Check your tree. Do you see anything changing? Don't forget to write in your tree journal.		Visit the library and read <i>All by Myself</i> , by Ivan Bates.	
Make scrambled eggs and read <i>One Carton of Oops!</i> , by Judy Bradbury.		Talk about the letter E.			Look in newspapers and magazines for words and pictures containing the letters R and E.	Paste your pictures and words in your letter book. How many letters do you have?
	Look for a rainbow in the sky.		Make a rainbow. Trace a child's hand and a parent's hand, then let the child color in rainbow colors.			

RECOMMENDED READING

What Makes a Rainbow? — Author: Betty Ann Schwartz
 "The book teaches kids and their parents about the colors of the rainbow. The book also provides many repetitious phrases that allow families to partake in reading it. The book also teaches about various animals represented by the colors of the rainbow."

— Denise, Chinese Mutual Aid Association

Everything on a Waffle (ages 9-12)
 Author: Polly Horvath

Owen Foote, Soccer Star (ages 9-12)
 Author: Stephanie Greene

April Special Days
 April Fool's Day

Colors up in the Rainbow

Red and orange, green and blue, shiny yellow, purple too.
 All the colors that we know, live up in the rainbow.
 Red and orange, green and blue, shiny yellow, purple too.

Gelatin Rainbow Snack

- Clear plastic cups
- Jell-O (cherry, orange, lemon, lime, blue, and grape)

Make all six colors. After the Jell-O has set, spoon one spoonful of each flavor into clear cups. Top with a cloud of whipped cream.

Talk about grains

Bagels, biscuits, cornbread, crackers, noodles, pasta, rice, tortillas — can you think of any more grains? What is your favorite grain?

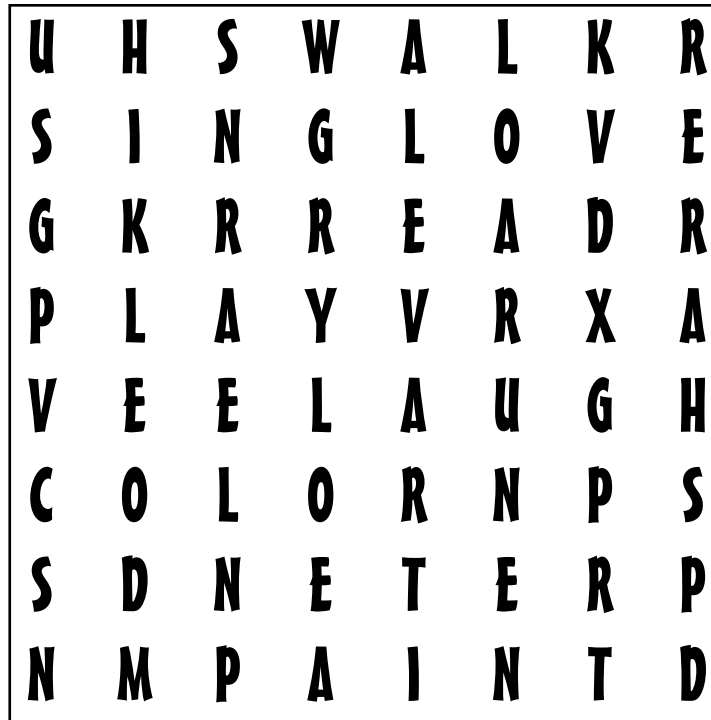
Books I read in April

MOTHER'S DAY WORD SEARCH & BOOKMARK

COLOR
 RUN
 LAUGH
 SHARE
 PRETEND
 LOVE
 TRAVEL

PAINT
 WALK
 PLAY
 LEARN
 SING
 READ

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I'm Trying So Hard

I'm trying so hard to be really good, and do all the things I know that I should.

But, I'm just a kid, Mom, I'm messy and slow, I don't eat my veggies, and I'll clean my room, I know!

And I don't pick my toys up, and I don't like my bath, I'm trying to learn my spelling, and I need help with my math.

So, you're stuck with me, Mom, and I'm a lot of work, I know. But I'm sure that you will help me as I learn new things and grow.

I won't always be so messy. Some day I might be neat. And then I won't hide my veggies every time I eat!

My room might end up tidy, I won't complain about a bath. Some day I'll teach you how to spell and I'll be a genius at my math.

But that might take a long, long time, cause, I'm still a kid you see. I've got to grow up for a while, then I'll make you proud of me.

So, thanks for understanding, like Mothers always do, and for taking me the way I am, I will always love you!

Mother's Day Bookmark

Cardstock colored paper

Picture of child

Short poem

Hole punch

Ribbon or tassel

Cut cardstock into 4 pieces the short way (the size of a bookmark). Give each child a rectangle. Punch a hole in the top with a hole punch. Have them copy a short poem about their Mom or let them write their own. Allow the children to paste or glue their picture at the top. It may be best to punch holes first. If you have access to a laminating machine, laminate the bookmark. Tie a ribbon or tassel through the hole.

MAY

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

M & O

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Go to the grocery store and see how many fruits and vegetables you can name.			Visit the library and check out <i>Mama, Do You Love Me?</i> , by Barbara M. Joosse.		Talk about the letter M. Can you think of someone who loves you whose name starts with M?
Read the newspaper and find words and pictures that contain the letter M.		Have your favorite vegetable today. Do you like fresh, canned or frozen vegetables best?			Take a walk in your neighborhood. What is your neighborhood like? Who lives next door?	
	Make a Mother's Day bookmark. (see directions)		It is time to check your tree and write in your tree journal.		Start saving plastic milk caps. You will need them in a few months.	Visit the library and share a favorite book with your Mom.
Take your Mom to the park, the backyard or the living room for a picnic. Bring something to sit on.		Talk about the letter O. Can you think of something that starts with the letter O?		Look for pictures and words that contain the letter O. Put them in your letter book.		Have fun with the Mother's Day Word Search.
	Read <i>See the Ocean</i> , by Estelle Condra.		Make a list of 5 places in your neighborhood that you can go for free.			

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY

Going with Mom to the park is Azuncena's of Aurora Public Library, favorite activity. Azuncena says, "Sometimes we walk and sometimes we drive to the park. We like to play together at the park."

A Gift for Mama (ages 9-12)
Author: Esther Hautzig

My Life in Dog Years (ages 9-12)
Author: Gary Paulsen

May Special Days
Mother's Day
Memorial Day

Butterfly Sandwich

Bread
Peanut butter
Raisins
Favorite jelly or jam

Make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Cut into four triangles and arrange in butterfly shape. Use raisins to create antennae.

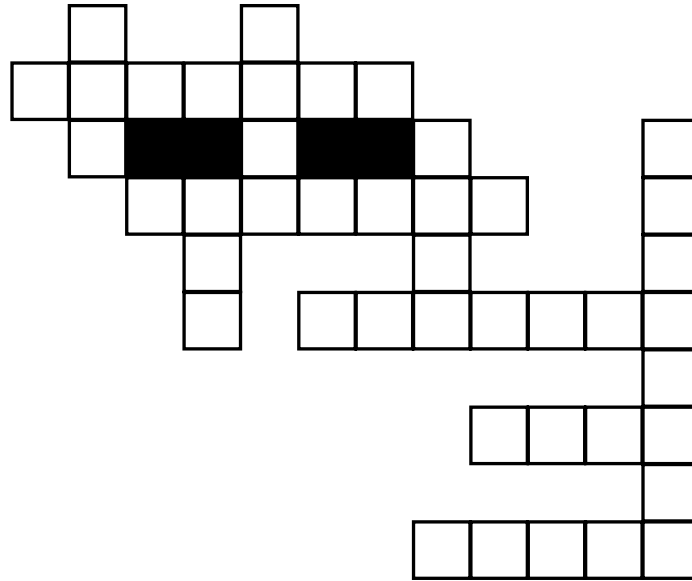
Let's Talk About Vegetables

What is your favorite vegetable — carrots, celery, peas, beets, cauliflower? What colors are these vegetables?

Books I read in May

FATHER'S DAY CROSSWORD & BOOKMARK FOR DADDY-

TIE
PIPE
FISHING
POP
SHIRT
GREATEST
LOVE
GRANDPA
PAPA
SPECIAL



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Bookmark for Daddy

Cardstock colored paper

Ribbon or tassel

Hole punch

Cut cardstock into 4 pieces the short way (the size of a bookmark). Give each child a rectangle. Punch a hole in the top with a hole punch. Have them copy the short poem to the right or let them write their own. Help children place fingerprints in various places and make pictures out of them using colored pens (a sun is made by drawing the rays around the print). If you have access to a laminating machine, laminate the bookmark. Tie a ribbon or tassel through the hole.

These are my fingerprints tiny and small.

To place in your book Winter, Spring,
Summer, and Fall.

Reminding you the whole year through,
the best gift of all — Is my love for
you.

JUNE

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

B & D

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Make silly faces. Stand with each child in front of a mirror and see who can make the scariest, happiest, saddest face.		Think of things you play with outside that start with the letter B. Remember to look for pictures and words for your book.		Visit the library and sign up for the summer reading program. Check out a book about birds.
Go outside and look at the clouds. What do you see?	Make a bookmark for Daddy. (see directions)		Read <i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i> , by Bernard Lodge, and <i>Cloud Dance</i> , by Thomas Locker.		Make a cloud picture using paint, crayons, cotton balls or whatever you wish. Read <i>The Cloud Painter</i> , by Eileen J. Doran-Smith.	
	Check your tree and make sure you write in your tree journal. Is it getting tall?		Have fun with the Father's Day Crossword.		Visit the library and check out <i>Dad's Dinosaur Day</i> by Diane Dawson Hearn.	
Read the newspaper with Dad and look for words and pictures that start with the letter D.		Go to the park and play at the playground. Explore and see what you can find.		Make a list of 5 places you can spend money in your neighborhood.		Make pork chops, hot dogs or hamburgers on the grill.
	Visit the library and read <i>The Fishing Summer</i> , by Teddy Jam.		Go fishing! If you can't fish for real fish, play the card game Go Fish.			

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY

Make a collage for Father's Day. Linda from Kankakee Community College says you need pictures of your father and yourself, popsicle sticks, fabric, glue and markers.

RECOMMENDED READING

Holes (young adult)
Author: Louis Sachar

Dragon in the Clouds (ages 9-12)
Author: Rosemary Nelson

The Weather Sky (ages 9-12)
Author: Bruce McMillan

Football Fugitive (ages 9-12)
Author: Matt Christopher

June Special Days

Father's Day
Flag Day

Dad Poem

I sure am glad,
You are my Dad.
You are true blue,
Do I love you!

Basic Pancakes for Dad

3 cups flour
1 t salt
1 1/2 T baking powder
2 eggs
2 cups milk
2 T oil

Mix dry ingredients then add eggs and milk and gradually add oil. Pour into heated pan into small circles. Flip them when small bubbles form on top. You can add blueberries or cooked rice or 2 tsp. of cinnamon and 2 Tbs. of sugar. To make these more special for Dad, top them off with some whipped cream, sliced strawberries or bananas!

Talk about Meats

Do you like hamburgers, hot dogs, pork chops or roast beef? What is your favorite meat? Do you know someone who does not eat meat?

Books I read in June

BALL CATCHERS & MAKE YOUR OWN FLAG

Ball Catcher

2 plastic milk cartons or laundry detergent bottles

Sharp scissors

Colored electrical tape or masking tape that can be colored — red, white and blue

Crayons — red, white and blue

Ball to play with

- Wash the milk cartons and let dry.
- Use the scissors to cut the milk cartons. First cut off the bottom, then cut a U shape under the handle. Make sure you don't cut into the handle so you can hold on to the ball catcher.
- Use the colored electrical tape or masking tape and decorate the milk cartons.
- Have fun playing catch and toss with these fun toys.

Make your own Flag

12"x18" paper or poster board Markers

Scissors Tape

Write your name (really big) in the middle of the paper. Decide what things are important to you — family, friends, hobbies, team sports, pets, church, etc.

Pick a symbol to stand for each thing and draw them on the flag. Try to think of as many things as you can about yourself so the flag will be bright and colorful. You also can cut out and glue on pictures from a magazine.

Hang your flag someplace special.

JULY

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

J & Q

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Make a bookmark with your favorite J word or picture. Look for pictures and words for your letter book.		Celebrate Independence Day. Read <i>Hurray for the Fourth of July</i> , by Wendy Watson.	Go swimming, run through the sprinkler or play with squirt bottles.
Make Ball Catchers, then go out and play ball. (see directions)		Go outside and play 4 square, hopscotch or draw with chalk on the sidewalk.		Visit the library and read <i>Marshmallow Kisses</i> , by Mari Takabayaski.		Make a flag today and have a parade in your neighborhood. (see directions)
	Check your tree. How tall has it grown? Don't forget to write in your tree journal.		Go out when it turns dark and catch fireflies. Read <i>Fireflies</i> , by Alice Hoffman.		Talk about the letter Q. Find pictures and words with the letter Q.	
Make lemonade and have lemonade sitting on a blanket outside. Tell stories that you make up.		Go to a museum. If you don't have one nearby, think about what a museum would have in it and pretend you are at one.		Play "I Am." Take turns and guide your child with positive statements. Adult says, "I am helpful." Child says, "I am friendly," etc.		Visit the library and read <i>Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind</i> , retold by Caron Lee Cohen.
	How many milk caps have you saved? Keep saving.					

Our Country's Flag

Please sit down, everyone, I'm going to tell a story About our country's famous flag — Its nickname is Old Glory. Stars and stripes are on our flag, They're red and white and blue. It tells the world that we are free And proud to be here too!

Fourth of July Fun Drink

- Milk
- Seedless red cherries with stems
- Vanilla ice cream
- Whipped cream (in a can)
- Red, white and blue edible sprinkles
- Blue food coloring
- Ice cubes
- Straws

Blend 2 scoops of ice cream and 2 cups of milk in a blender for 30 seconds. Add a couple ice cubes and a few drops of blue food coloring and blend another 30 seconds. Pour into a tall clear glass. Add whipped cream and sprinkles and top with a cherry.

Talk about Fish

Do you eat fish — catfish, shrimp or tuna? What kind do you like and how do you like it cooked?

Books I read in July

RECOMMENDED READING

Clifford, The Big Red Dog — Author: Norman Bridwell
 "I like the Big Red Dog."
 — Ricardo, Aurora Public Library
 "My daughter likes dogs."
 — Jennifer, Aurora Public Library

It's the Fourth of July! (ages 9-12)
 Author: Stan Hoig

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (young adult)
 Author: Ann Brashares

July Special Days
 Independence Day

SUNBRELLA & WATERMELON SLICES

Sunbrella

old umbrella

assorted colors of ribbon

Take an OLD umbrella and have an adult cut out the cloth in between the spokes. When you open the umbrella, it should have open areas for the sun to come in! Tie about 5-10 pieces of ribbon to each end of the spokes. When you finish, you will have a sunbrella.

Watermelon Slices

8-inch cardboard circle cut into 4 pieces

6-inch red tissue paper or construction paper cut into 4 pieces

5-10 watermelon seeds or black construction paper cut like seeds

light green marker or crayon

glue

Serve watermelon and have children save the seeds. Cut out cardboard circle and tissue paper circles, then cut each into fourths. Color the cardboard with a light green marker or crayon. Glue the red tissue or construction paper piece to the cardboard. Glue watermelon seeds or black construction paper seeds to the red tissue or construction paper piece and let dry.

AUGUST

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

C & H

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Go to the library and make a map showing how to find your favorite book. Share the map with a friend and see if he/she can find the book.			Go to a pond, lake, creek, river or stream and explore! What do you find and see?	Go camping. If you can't sleep outside, have a campout in the house.
	Talk about the letter C. Cut out pictures and words for your letter book. How many pictures and words do you have in your book?		Take the book <i>Daddies are for Catching Fireflies</i> , by Harriet Ziefert, outside and read it laying under a tree.		Make a sunbrella. (see directions)	
Take a walk and look at your tree. Make a bark rubbing of your tree and put it in your tree journal.		Talk about the letter H. Think of all the fun things you do that start with the letter H.		Is it hot or cold today? See what you can find that is hot or cold. Look inside and outside.		Watermelon slices are fun to eat! Make watermelon slices with paper. (see directions)
	Visit the library and check out the book <i>Jack's Garden</i> , by Henry Cole.		Go to the grocery store and look for foods that are poultry. Make sure you look all over the store.		Take all your milk caps and make a checker board, play bingo, count how many you have, hide them and have others find them.	Take all your milk caps and use them to add, subtract, divide and multiply.
		Visit the library and check out <i>The Big Dipper</i> , by Franklyn M. Branley.	After dark, go outside and look for constellations, stars or meteor showers.			

Summer

I love summer! Summer is hot. It's sun and shade. It's water to wade. It's frogs and bugs. It's grass for rugs. It's eating outside. It's a tree-swing ride. It's tomatoes and corn. It's dew in the morn. It's dogs and boys And lots of noise. It's a hot sunny sky. It's summer. That's why... I love summer.

Under the Sea

- Berry Blue Jell-O
- Package of any gummy water creatures
- Package of mini marshmallows (for bubbles)
- Clear cups

Prepare Jell-O. Do not put in refrigerator yet. Reserve half of the liquid Jell-O. Fill cups half full and let children add gummy creatures. Place cups in refrigerator until Jell-O sets slightly. Add remaining Jell-O and marshmallows. Place cups back in refrigerator until completely set.

Talk about Poultry

What is poultry? Do you eat chicken or any other kinds of poultry?

Books I read in August

RECOMMENDED READING

Froggy Learns to Swim
Author: Jonathan London

"Froggy is silly."
— Derek, Chester Public Library

Wishing on a Star (ages 9-12)
Author: Fran Lee

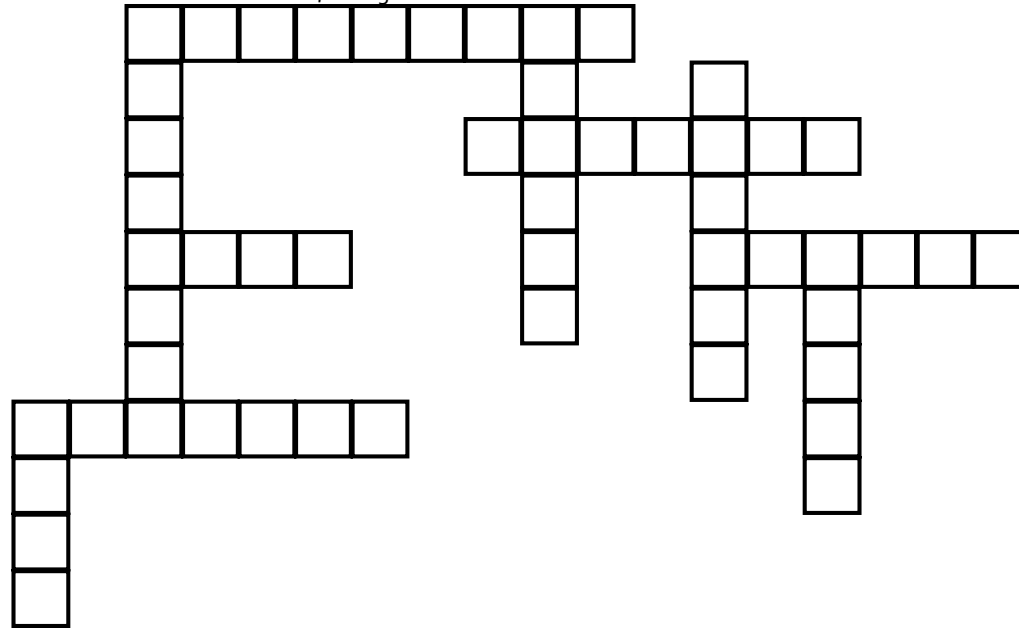
Niagara Falls or Does It (Hank Zipzer, 1) (ages 9-12)
Author: Henry Winkler

August Special Days
Back to School

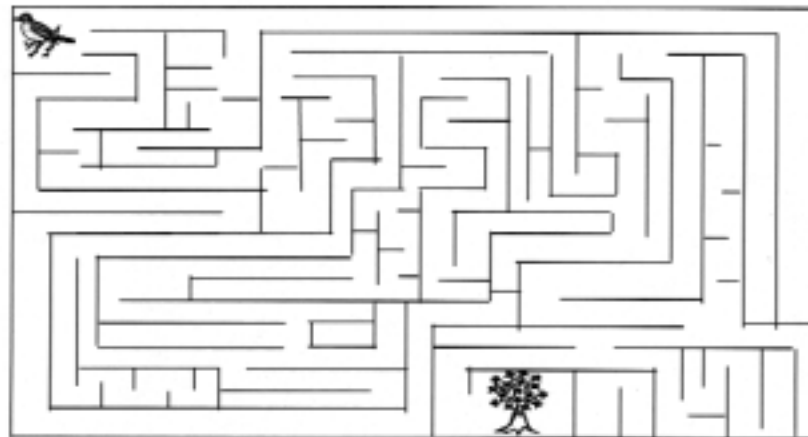
FALL CROSSWORD

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FALL
HARVEST
RAKE
FOLIAGE
ACORN
SQUIRREL
ORANGE
SCARECROW
YELLOW
LEAVES



HELP THE BIRD FIND THE TREE



SEPTEMBER

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

K & S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Visit the library and read <i>The Berenstain Bears Back to School</i> , by Stan Berenstain.		Did you have fun in the summer reading program? What books did you read? What was your favorite?	Write a letter or draw a picture about your favorite book and send it to the Literacy Office.
Find pictures and words that contain the letter K.		Check your tree. How is it changing? Write in your tree journal about what you see.		Draw a picture of your favorite summer activity. Complete the Fall Crossword and maze.		Look for books at the library that contain the letter S. Remember your letter book.
	Eat an apple for a snack and read <i>The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree</i> , by Gail Gibbons.		Make a crayon drawing. You need black and other crayon colors, white paper, a paper clip or a pen that does not write.	Color a design on paper with crayons then color on top of that with black. Scratch out your own picture with the paper clip or pen.		Look for pictures that represent fun things you did this summer.
Make a healthy snack and take it to the park.		Make a collage of fun things you did this summer. Take it to the post office and mail it to someone special.			Visit the library and check out <i>Isabella Abnormella and the Very, Very Finicky Queen of Trouble</i> , by J. Patrick Lewis.	
	Make a paper airplane.					

Pumpkin Poem

One day I found two pumpkin seeds. I planted one and pulled the weeds. It sprouted roots and a big, long vine. A pumpkin grew; I called it mine. The pumpkin was quite round and fat. (I really am quite proud of that.) But there is something I'll admit That has me worried just a bit. I ate the other seed you see. Now will it grow inside of me? (I'm so relieved since I have found. That pumpkins only grow in the ground!)

Pumpkin Rice Krispies

- Food coloring (orange and green)
- Rice Krispie Treats recipe
- Brown icing
- Marshmallows
- Butter

Follow the recipe for Rice Krispie Treats. Dye marshmallows orange as they melt. Roll them into balls to create pumpkin shapes. Make a small batch and dye the marshmallows green. Shape into a stem and place on top of the orange ball. When cool, make pumpkin faces with the brown icing. Chill to set the icing and enjoy!

Talk about healthy snacks

Apples, bagels, cheese, milk. Can you think of anymore? What is your favorite snack? Is it a healthy snack?

Books I read in September

RECOMMENDED READING

Liliana's Grandmothers
 Author: Leyla Torres
 Jorge, Zoraida and Federico of Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley identify with this book because they take a vacation to Mexico every two years to visit their grandmothers.

Hoot (young adult)
 Author: Carl Hiaasen
Kids' Paper Airplane Book (ages 9-12)
 Author: Ken Blackburn
String Music (ages 9-12)
 Author: Rick Telander

September Special Days

Labor Day

COLUMBUS DAY WORD SEARCH

M	S	I	S	A	B	E	L	L	A	S	S
D	I	P	S	P	I	C	E	S	A	C	Y
A	I	A	I	V	K	T	Y	N	U	N	H
T	E	S	L	H	Z	R	T	R	D	E	A
L	G	V	C	C	S	A	V	Y	Y	W	R
A	A	X	D	O	M	Y	S	Q	A	W	D
N	Y	N	L	A	V	S	G	L	P	O	T
T	O	B	R	P	J	E	E	O	T	R	A
I	V	I	I	A	Z	F	R	I	L	L	C
C	A	N	N	I	A	P	S	Y	D	D	K
I	T	I	S	R	O	L	I	A	S	N	R
A	N	D	N	A	N	I	D	R	E	F	I

ATLANTIC
CLAIM
DISCOVERY

FERDINAND
GOLD
HARDTACK

INDIES
ISABELLA
NEW WORLD

NINA
PINTA
SAILORS

SANTA MARIA
SCURVY
SHIPS

SPAIN
SPICES
VOYAGE

Watch for Something New

Sit in a circle. Discuss that sailors were on a ship for many days with nothing to see but water and sky. They were constantly watching for something different.

Observe everyone in the circle: what are they wearing, how are they sitting, and where they are sitting. Place head in lap and close eyes.

Adult changes something in the circle. Open eyes. What is different?

OR

Every day for a week take a walk or look out the same window. Discuss observations that were not noticed the previous day.

OCTOBER

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

N & U

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Visit the library and check out <i>The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A story of life for all ages</i> , by Leo F. Buscaglia.			Make a fall wreath. Go outside and collect acorns, leaves, sticks, pinecones, rocks, etc. and glue on a cardboard circle.	
Don't forget to look at your tree and write in your journal.		Read <i>Look What I Did With a Leaf</i> , by Morteza E. Sohi.		Can you find all the words in the Columbus Day Word Search?		Visit the library and read <i>Christopher Columbus</i> , by Stephen Krensky.
	Take a walk and see how many carved pumpkins you see.		Talk about the letter N. What was one of Christopher Columbus' boats named? (answer: Nina)		Create something from the book <i>Look What I Did With a Leaf</i> .	
Be a helper today. See what you can do to help at home — fold laundry, set the table, wash dishes, rub your parent's back, be nice to your brother or sister.		Find pictures and words that contain the letter U.		Play Watch for Something New. (see directions)		Go outside and jump in a pile of leaves. How does it feel and sound?
	Find things in the house that might float in water and test them out.					

Columbus Day

Across the world, Columbus, You dreamt your wild schemes. You slept on decks Of sailing ships; You nailed the wooden beams. You coaxed west wind Into the sails; You mended tattered seams. Across the world, Columbus, You brought your wild dreams. By Myra Cohn Livingston, from the book *Celebrations*

Apple Sailboat Snack

- Apple sliced
- Cheese
- Raisins
- Toothpick

Slice the apple in half or quarters, core and remove seeds. Cut a triangle shape in a piece of cheese. Put a toothpick into the triangle shaped cheese and stick into the apple. Add a few raisins around the apple.

Talk about eggs

What kind do you like — scrambled, fried, hard boiled or soft boiled?

When do you like to eat eggs?

Books I read in October

RECOMMENDED READING

Green Eggs and Ham
 Author: Dr. Seuss
 "My daughter would like to be Dr. Seuss someday. She doesn't like eggs either."
 —Berenice, Aurora Public Library

Morning Girl (ages 9-12)
 Author: Michael Dorris

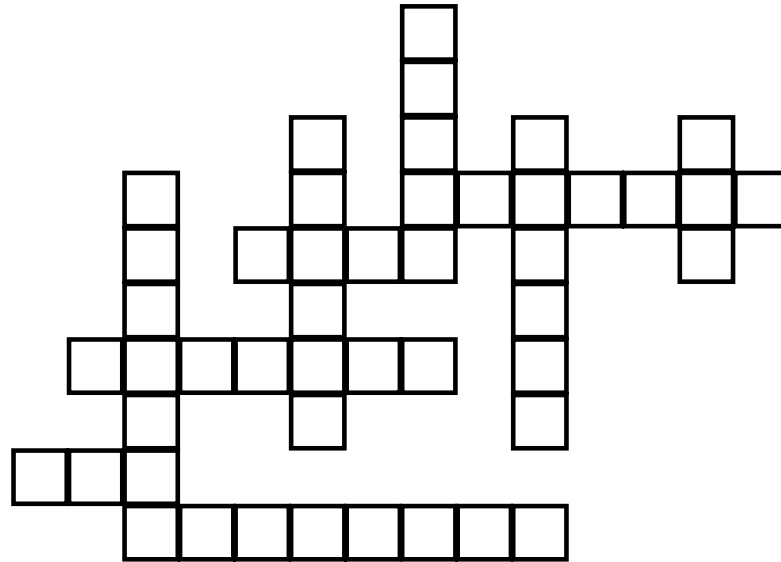
The View from Saturday (ages 9-12)
 Author: E.L. Knoigsburg

October Special Days

Columbus Day
 Halloween

WINTER CROSSWORD

ICE
SNOWMAN
HOCKEY
SHOVEL
HAT
SNOWBALL
ICEBERG
COAT
ICICLES
FROST



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Tree of Thankfulness

Container
Markers
Construction paper
Clothes pins
Glue
Tree branch

Find a branch that has fallen off a tree. Cut leaves out of construction paper. Have family and friends write what they are thankful for on a leaf. Glue the leaves to the branch using a clothespin to keep it in place until it dries. You also can make a hole in the leaves and hang them on the tree with string.

Thankful Turkey

Large piece of paper
Markers
Feathers cut out of paper and colored with assorted colors
Glue

Draw a large turkey body and feet on the piece of paper and color it brown. Each evening at supper for about 10 days before Thanksgiving ask everyone in the house to list something they are thankful for on a feather. Glue feathers on each night you write something. Hang the turkey up for everyone to see.

NOVEMBER

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

W & Y

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Go to the library and find a book about Veterans Day. Ask the librarian for help.		Make a Tree of Thankfulness. (see directions)	Do you know someone that served in the military and is a veteran? Ask them what it was like.	
Talk about the letter W. Don't forget to cut out pictures and words.		Complete the Winter Crossword.	Take your bath without being told. Ask someone to read <i>The Fish Is Me!</i> : <i>Bathtime Rhymes</i> , by Neil Philip or <i>I Can Take a Bath!</i> , by Shigeo Watanabe.			Visit the library and check out <i>Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey</i> , by Joy Cowley.
	Talk about the letter Y. Remember your pictures and words.		Make a Thankful Turkey. (see directions)		Take a walk and look at your tree. Make notes in your tree journal.	
It gets dark early so stay inside. See what shadows you can make on the wall with a flashlight shining on the wall.		Ask an adult what favorite thing they liked to do when they were your age.		Help an adult. Read <i>Helping Values to Live By</i> , by Jane Buerger and Jennie Davis.		Visit the library and check out <i>Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From</i> , by Franklyn M. Branley.
	Do you have any turkey leftover? Ask if you can help make turkey salad. Go to the library to find a recipe.					

RECOMMENDED READING

Angel Cat
 Author: Michael Garland
 "We like this book because it is a good book. And the cat saves the family from the fire in the end."
 — Debra of Kankakee Community College

The First Thanksgiving (ages 4–8)
 Author: Jean Craighead George
Puppies, Dogs and Blue Northers:
Reflections on Being Raised by a Pack of Sled Dogs (ages 9–12)
 Author: Gary Paulsen

November Special Days
 Thanksgiving Day
 Veterans Day

I Am Thankful

I am thankful for pets. I am thankful for school; I am thankful when I can swim in a pool. I am thankful for home and the food that I eat. I am thankful for all the new friends that I meet. I am thankful for health and for my family. I'm especially thankful that I am just me!

Sandwich Cookie Turkeys

- Sandwich cookies
- Icing
- 5 candy corn pieces
- Small cinnamon candy
- Candy sprinkles

Open the cookie, and place a dab of icing off-center on the inside. Replace the cookie pieces so they are at an angle (<). On the top of the cookie on the angled edge, stick on 5 candy corn pieces with icing, pointing toward the center of the cookie to form the tail. On the center of the cookie, place another dab of icing to make the turkey's head. Two little white dots on the head make the eyes, and 3 cinnamon candies below the head make the turkey's waddle. Use chocolate icing on chocolate cookies or vanilla icing on vanilla cookies.

Talk about the food groups

Which food group is your favorite — grain, vegetables, fruits, milk or protein? How many food groups are there?

Books I read in November

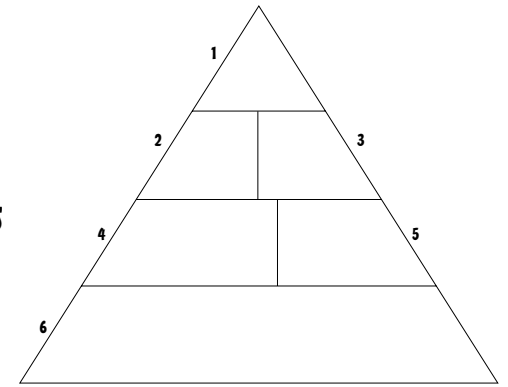
WINTER WORD SEARCH

e	m	q	j	q	i	m	j	i	s
b	h	k	c	v	v	i	w	d	e
h	a	t	s	k	a	t	e	s	g
m	y	w	j	r	e	t	n	i	w
e	e	o	s	s	l	e	d	k	o
f	r	o	s	t	h	n	k	s	n
l	j	f	r	a	c	s	x	t	s
d	b	p	l	o	w	b	f	o	t
x	e	c	i	c	e	d	l	o	c
m	k	v	n	v	k	s	b	b	q

boots
cold
frost
hat
ice
mittens
plow
scarf
skates
skis
sled
snow

Draw a Food Pyramid

Cut out pictures of all the food groups and glue them into the right group.



Answers to food pyramid:
1. Fats, oils and sweets 2. Milk, yogurt and cheese 3. Meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts 4. Vegetables 5. Fruit 6. Bread, cereal, rice and pasta

Snowman Soup

Was told you've been real good this year. Always glad to hear it!
With freezing weather drawing near, You'll need to warm the Spirit.

So here's a little Snowman Soup complete with stirring stick.
Add hot water, sip it slow. It's sure to do the trick!

Snowman Soup

1 individual pack hot chocolate mix
15 mini marshmallows
1 mug, canning jar or styrofoam cup

3 Hershey's chocolate kisses
1 candy cane
Tag

Assemble these items in plastic wrap or plastic baggie. Tie with pretty ribbon.
Place in mug or other container, slide candy cane in and attach poem.

DECEMBER

LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT

X & Z

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Go to the library and find a book with the letter X in the title. Look for pictures and words to add to your letter book.		Have a boat race in the bath tub. Make boats using plastic storage containers.	Make snowman soup. (see directions)
Read the newspaper and look for pictures and words with the letter Z. Add to your letter book and see what letters have the most and the least pictures and words.		Draw a picture of your favorite time of year and wrap it up and give it to a friend.			Visit the library and read <i>Best Friends</i> , by Mirian Cohen.	Look for pictures of foods from each group for your pyramid.
	Read <i>The First Snow</i> , by David Christiana.		Go outside and play in the snow. Make sure you dress warm. When you come in do the Winter Word Search.		Take a walk and look at your tree. Write in your tree journal. What month did your tree have the most changes?	
Take a walk outside and look for animal foot prints in the snow. What kind of animal do you think they belong to?		Read <i>The Magic Kaleidoscope</i> , by Sheila Black.		Make a kaleidoscope with a cardboard paper towel roll and colored paper.		What holiday do you celebrate in December? Share your holiday with a friend.
	Wrap up in a blanket and share your tree journal, food pyramid and letter book with someone special.					

Snowflakes in the Cloud

Little snowflakes hiding in a cloud. Little snowflakes soft and round. Little snowflakes falling for me. How many snowflakes do you see?

Gingerbread Houses

shared by Debra and Drew of Kankakee Community College

- School-size milk carton
- Frosting
- Graham crackers
- Gum drops
- Mints
- Assorted small candy

Frost the graham crackers and place on milk carton. Add candy to decorate the house.

Books I read in December

RECOMMENDED READING

The Train to Timbuctoo
 Author: Margaret Wise Brown
 Brittany of Chester Public Library calls it her "Buc and Too book" and knows it by heart. They have two copies so one can stay home and the other can go to the babysitter's.

Samantha's Winter Party: American Girls Short Stories (ages 9-12)
 Author: Valerie Tripp

Tangerine (young adult)
 Author: Edward Bloor

December Special Days

What is your special winter holiday?
 How do you celebrate?

Literacy Office
Illinois State Library
Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701
217-785-6921

