



OP TIMES

The Onionpatch
Academy

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Marvelous May

Flowers, trees and gardens are in full blossom, the weather is warmer and the days are longer. Spring is definitely in the air, and summer is around the corner. The marvelous month of May promises many wonderful things for our students.

In Week One students will explore the beautiful colors God gives us each spring. Some will explore an old Bermuda tradition of maypole dancing as they celebrate May Day.

In Week Two Mother's Day will be the focus and the children will have the opportunity to create special gifts for their mothers.

In Week Three students will head off to the zoo for a wild adventure, exploring different animals and their habitats.

In Week Four students will learn about spring's most famous creature – the ladybug.

In Week Five students enter a week of wacky fun filled with silly hats and backwards clothes.

Share with us as we explore Marvelous May!



WALK-A-THON

Big shout out to all those who came out and supported us on the Walk-a-thon last Saturday. It was a fun time.

Special thanks to businesses that assisted us with products or goodies for the goodie bag:

ACE Ltd.
Aspen
Department of Health
Dunkley's
Argus

Fairmont Southampton
Elbow Beach Hotel
Signworx
Triangle Press

Thanks for helping to make this event a success!

New Students

We welcome to the Onionpatch Family:

Baby Onions – Kai Smith

Nathan Bloomfield

May Birthdays

Ms. Veronica – 5th May

Zahmya Leverock – 21st May

Ms. Seika Pierre – 24th May

Midas Williams – 27th May

Upcoming Events

Sports Day – 3rd May

Pajama Day – 7th May

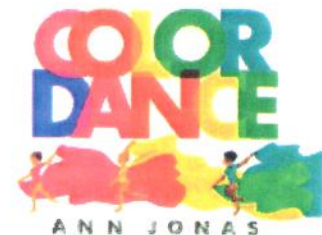
Mother's Day lunch – 10th May

Red, White & Do Day – 17th May

Bermuda Day Holiday – 24th May

Literacy

Here are some book suggestions:



Color Dance by Ann Jonas



Let's Go to the Zoo by Fisher Price

Anytime, Anyplace: Fun Family Learning Activities

Parents of young children know it best; there really are only so many hours in a day and often it's just not enough. From carpools to bath time, our schedules are jam-packed full of errands, chores, and to-do list items. There never seems to be enough time to just sit and enjoy our children's childhood.

In addition to our full schedules, many of us juggle feelings of guilt for not participating in our child's early experiences and learning as much as we'd like to. But, with a little forethought and creativity, we can turn even the most mundane tasks into fun learning activities to share with our children.

IN THE CAR

Counting Colors

- Age: Any child that can identify colors
- How-to:
 - Variation 1: Everyone (individuals or teams) in the car chooses a color of vehicle. For five minutes, see which person/team can count the most vehicles of their color. Then switch colors.
 - Variation 2: Choose a rare color for a vehicle (but not so rare you won't spot it ever - orange or purple work well). The first person to call out a chosen buzz word (i.e. Beep, beep!) when they see a vehicle of that color earns 5 points. The first person to reach 25 points chooses the radio station or CD.

Travel Bingo

- Age: Two and older
- How-to: With a piece of paper, a clipboard, and an attached pencil, you can create an easy Bingo game. Before the ride, create a 5x5 table with pictures and words of common things seen while driving (i.e. stop sign, mail box, bicycle, etc.). Use simple drawings or just words for older children who are readers. The game doesn't have to be completed in one sitting and can be worked on over a period of time.

PREPARING MEALS

Tower Power

- Age: Toddler and above
- How-to: Start with washing hands. Then, on a plate or placemat, give your child a few of each safe meal item (i.e. banana slices, cut broccoli, peas, croutons, etc.) and see how high of a tower they can build. Try different shapes or patterns, too, such as building a square or putting items in order from smallest to largest, lightest to darkest color, etc. Then they get to eat what they built. If your family has concerns about playing with food, let children build instead with plastic containers.

Measuring Magic

- Age: Preschool and older
- How-to: While it might take a bit longer, teaching your child to measure is a valuable math skill. Use a small kitchen scale and measuring cups and spoons to help your child measure ingredient items. If there's nothing specific to measure, ask him to measure things like 4 cups of water for a pot of water or to see if the package of strawberries weighs more or less than 1 apple.

Taste Tester

- Age: Preschool and older
- How-to: As simple as it sounds, ask your child to be the official taste tester during meal preparation. A special apron makes the job all the more important. Ask her to describe the taste. Older children can create a menu with their descriptions.

Shopping Savvy

- Age: Toddler and older
- How-to: There is nothing harder than coping with a child with a case of the "gimmees" at the store. A few ways to avoid this:
 - Clearly state if this is a store you will buy your child an item or not before you go in.
 - Bring the circular from the newspaper and let your child find and match items to the circular or provide your child with a journal and allow him to make a list of the items he wants.
 - Ask your child to find coupon items. Give him one or two at a time and tell him when you're in the right aisle.
 - In the grocery store, decide ahead of time on 2-3 items your child can choose - one breakfast cereal and one kind of fruit, for example.

Learning and fun can be infused in any activity with a little planning. We will be rewarded by being able to spend special moments with our children while attending to daily tasks and they will soon forget they're doing chores

I love
learning!