



Early Childhood Resource Center

at the Springfield City Library

Sponsored by the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care

www.springfieldlibrary.org/library/resources/early-childhood-resource-center/

Please call 413-263-6828, ext. 201 with questions or to set up an appointment.



FOR PROFESSIONALS @ the Central Library

Tinkering

Presented by **Marcela M. Simpson, M.Ed.**
Innovative Foundations for Early Childhood Education
Monday, April 23 & April 30 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Springfield Central Library, 220 State Street
.5 CEUs

During this professional development opportunity you will learn about the concept of tinkering, defined as a playful way of approaching and solving problems through direct experience, experimentation and discovery, using open-ended materials and homemade tools. We will also identify how the Tinkering concept applies to engineering and technology (STEM Standards). During the session participants will have access to explore with open-ended materials and use them to create their own designs. Participants will also learn about an FCC program pilot that was inspired by the Boston Children's Museum Tinkering Kit. This will be an active, fun, but above all, innovative training.

Presentadora: Marcela M. Simpson, M.Ed.
Innovative Foundations for Early Childhood Education
Miércoles 9 y 16 de mayo, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Biblioteca Central, 220 State Street
.5 CEUs

En esta capacitación aprenderemos acerca del concepto tinkering, un proceso activo, definido como una manera juguetona de abordar y resolver problemas a través de la experiencia directa, la experimentación y el descubrimiento, utilizando materiales abiertos y herramientas caseras. Así mismo cubriremos cómo los conceptos de ingeniería y tecnología (STEM) aplican a este concepto Tinkering. Durante la sesión los participantes tendrán acceso a materiales de Tinkering y encontrarán maneras creativas de utilizarlos para crear sus propios diseños. Los participantes también tendrán la oportunidad de escuchar como este concepto ha sido utilizado con educadoras de programas de educación infantil familiar a través de la iniciativa de Tinkering Kits del Museo de Niños de Boston. Será una capacitación activa, divertida, pero más que todo, innovadora.

Curious about other workshops being offered in MA?

- Visit the Institute for Education and Professional Development at www.iepd.org or call 508- 657-1079.
- Visit the Preschool Enrichment Team at: <http://www.preschoolenrichmentteam.org> and click on Training, or call 413-736-3900.
- Visit the Department of Early Education and Care at: <http://www.eec.state.ma.us/ProfessionalDevelopment/WebFindTraining.aspx> and type your parameters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR KIDS @ the Central Library Children's Room

Are your families looking for something fun to do with their kids? Drop in to any of the following great programs – no registration required!

For ages 3-12:

Art Party! Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, ages 6 – 12, siblings welcome.

Build-a-Challenge, Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, ages 5 – 12, siblings welcome.

Creation Station, daily, all ages, during open hours.

Family Storytime, Saturdays, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, ages 3 – 10, siblings welcome.

Infant/Toddler Playgroup, Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:00, ages birth – 36 months, siblings welcome.

Mad Science, Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 pm, ages 5 – 8.

Call 413-263-6828 x201 or visit <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org> for more information.

FOR ADULTS @ the Central Library and branches

Computer classes are offered on various days and times on topics including: Getting Started with Computers, Continuing with Computers, and Introduction to the Web. Call 413-263-6828 x213 or visit www.springfieldlibrary.org for more details.

ESPECIALLY FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

NEW RESOURCE!

Board Book Multicopy Kits

Add a new dimension to your story and circle times! Check out one of our new kits and give each of your students a board book to hold and follow along with as you read the story. Books come in kits of 12 or 24 copies and are ideal for groups of toddlers or preschoolers. Titles include *Dear Zoo*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, and *Bear Snores On*.

Visit the Central Library or place a hold to check out the kit of your choice! Call 413-263-6828 x201 for more information.

LESSON PLAN IDEA: BILINGUAL - ENGLISH/SPANISH

Books (Available through the Springfield City Library, as well as other libraries):

- * *Colors / Colores* by Say & Play Bilingual
- * *Counting With / Contando Con Frida* by Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein
- * *Opuestos: Mexican Folk Art Opposites in English and Spanish* by Cynthia Weill
- You Be You / Siempre Tú* by Linda Kranz, Traducción de Teresa Mlawer
- Animals / Los Animales* by Mary Berendes
- How Do You Say? / ¿Cómo se dice?* By Angela Dominguez
- * *My First Book of Shapes / Mi primer libro de figuras* by Eric Carle
- My First Book of Spanish Words* by Katy R. Kudela

* Indicates books are available as board books.

ACTIVITIES

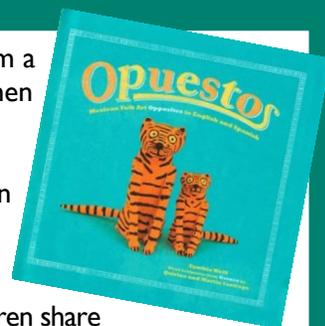
Math: Blocks

Have the children stack blocks, counting them as they stack, first in English and then in Spanish. Do this multiple times to give the children practice stacking and pronouncing the words.

Art/Music: Multicolor mural

Introduce the children to the names of the colors in both

English and Spanish by reading them a bilingual book about the colors. Then invite them to paint a mural while playing the song “Many Colors / Des Colores” by Maria Del Rey, on the CD *Universe of Song*.



Vocabulary: Common phrases

Lesson #1: “Gracias.” Have the children share things with each other, like food or blocks. As each child accepts an item, they say, “Gracias.” The children can also be taught to say, “Da nada” in response to their classmate’s “gracias.”

Lesson #2: “¿Dónde está?” (“Where is?”) This is a version of Peek-A-Boo. Show children items, such as animal figurines, food, or toys. Tell them the name of the item in both English and Spanish. Then cover each item with a towel and ask, “¿Dónde está (el gato / la fresa / etc.)? Where is (the cat / the strawberry / etc.)?” When they guess, reveal the object and say, “¡Allí está en gato! Here’s the cat!”

For other great ideas on bilingual activities, check out *The bilingual book of rhymes, songs, stories, and fingerplays el libro bilingue de rimas, canciones, cuentos y juegos*. This and other titles are available through the Springfield City Library and through Interlibrary Loan. Call us or ask your local librarian to reserve it for you.

RESEARCH NOTES:

Baby sign language is gaining popularity in classrooms, libraries, and homes across the United States as a means of communicating with preverbal children. Although babies have many ways to communicate before they are able to speak, sign language provides another tool in the toolkit to decrease frustration and increase understanding between babies and their caregivers. Children as young as six months old are able to express their needs more clearly to the adults in their lives by learning hand gestures for simple concepts such as more, done, dad, mom, and milk.

Learn more about baby sign language with these resources available through the Springfield City Libraries:

Books

- *The Baby Signing Bible: Baby Sign Language Made Easy* by Laura Berg
- *Let’s Sign: Every Baby’s Guide to Communicating with Grown-ups* by Kelly Ault
- *Baby Sign Language Basics: Early Communication for Hearing Babies and Toddlers* by Monta Z. Briant
- *Lenguaje por señas para bebés: Un metodo de comunicación temprana para bebés con capacidad auditiva* escrito por Monta Z. Briant

Board books

- *Baby Signs: A Baby-sized Guide to Speaking with Sign Language* by Joy Allen
- *ABC Baby Signs* by Christiane Engel
- *Teaching Your Baby to Sign* by Lora Heller

Other formats

- *Sign Babies: First Words* (flashcards)
- *Baby Signing Time! Vol. 1* (DVD)
- *Baby Signing Essentials: Easy Sign Language for Every Age and Stage* by Nancy Cadjan (e-book)

The author of this article presents research that indicates sign language is not only practical for babies in the preverbal stage, but can actually lay the groundwork for spoken language by giving children an early way of associating symbols with meaning, the foundation of language. Additionally, sign language helps children practice their fine motor skills, a precursor for learning to write. These more “academic” benefits paired with the social-emotional benefits that come from less stressful communication explain the rising popularity of baby sign language.

This article primarily discusses baby sign language instruction in a library environment, but signing practice could just as easily be incorporated into the preschool classroom as a way for educators to communicate more effectively with babies and toddlers. Be sure to check out some of the many materials available through the Springfield City Libraries for more information on this subject. Happy signing!

Okyle, Carly. “Show Me a Sign, Baby! Preverbal Children Flourish When They Learn Sign Language.” *School Library Journal*, July 2017, pp. 34-36.

It’s easy to get this article and others on early education! They can be found online through Educators Reference Complete. You can access this database yourself through the library’s website, or you can call or visit your local library for help.

Remember! Anyone from any C/WMARS library can borrow our resources. Call us or ask your local librarian to help you place a hold on the item you need, and we’ll send it right to your local library!