

Early Childhood Resource Center

at the Springfield City Library

Sponsored by the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care

<http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/library/resources/early-childhood-resource-center/>
Please call 413-263-6828, ext. 201 with questions or to set up an appointment.



ESPECIALLY FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

NEW RESOURCE!

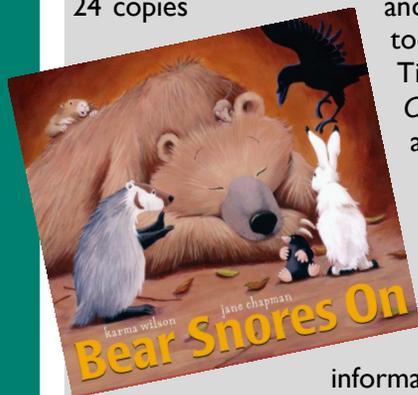
Board Book Multicopy Kits

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.



StoryWalk® Kits

StoryWalk® is a fun, educational activity that places laminated pages from a children's story along a popular walking route in your community, and can be used either indoors or outside. The Springfield ECRC houses a collection of StoryWalk® kits, including "Corduroy" and "Mouse Paint," which can be borrowed through the C/WMARS library system and delivered to your local library.

The Springfield ECRC's collection of StoryWalks® has been created by the Museums/Libraries Project of The Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. StoryWalks® are available to museums, libraries, and Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grantees to borrow and use in their local communities.

Ellison Die Machine

Looking to decorate your space? Our Ellison Die Machine allows precision cutting of capital and lowercase letters, numbers, and 17 shapes, including an apple, a snow-flake, and a butterfly, and is free to use! Just call 413- 263-6828 x201 to make an appointment.

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:

Creation Station, daily, during open hours.

Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration, March 3rd, during open hours.

Family Storytime, Saturdays, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, siblings welcome.

Valentines for Vets, January 22nd - February 7th, during open hours.

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, Introduction to the Web, and Using Email Like a Pro.

Call 413-263-6828 x213 or visit <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org> for more details.

FOR PROFESSIONALS @ the Central Library

Upcoming professional development workshop: **Developmentally Appropriate Planning/Activities for Children Birth to Five** Mondays, February 26th and March 5th, 6-8:30 p.m. Please call 413-263-6828 ext. 201 with any questions.

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.

LESSON PLAN IDEA: LIGHT & SHADOW

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

The Black Rabbit by Philippa Leathers
Flashlight by Lizi Boyd | *Blackout* by John Rocco
Black Book of Colors by Menena Cottin & Rosana Faria
Moonbear's Shadow by Frank Asch
The Foggy Foggy Forest by Nick Sharratt
Sun and Moon by Lindsey Yankey
Shadows and Reflections by Tana Hoban

ACTIVITIES

Faded Sun Prints

Place sheets of colored construction paper outside in direct sunlight. Ask each child to arrange some small objects (such as buttons, charms, paper clips, pencils, lace, ribbons, etc.) on the paper to create a design. Leave the paper with the objects on in the sun for several hours. When the children remove the objects, they will see the prints the objects left behind on the paper.

Shadow Art

Tape a large piece of paper to the wall. Use a projector or other light sources to create an illuminated area on the paper. Ask the children to choose objects to put in front of the light sources to cast shadows on the paper. Encourage

them to trace around the shadows. They can decorate the outlines with crayons and craft materials. The children can share their creations and see if their classmates can guess what objects they used to produce the shadows.

Daytime/ Nighttime

Make one poster that is bright like daytime and one poster with dark colors to represent night. Find pictures of objects that would be seen in the daytime and others that children see at night. Have children take turns choosing a picture of a daytime or nighttime object and matching it to the correct poster. Once all the pictures are sorted, ask children to work together to create a poster collage.



These activities (and many more!) can be found in 200 Essential Preschool Activities by Julienne M. Olson and The Giant Encyclopedia of Science Activities for Children 3 to 6 edited by Kathy Charner. These books are available through the Springfield City Library and through Interlibrary Loan. Call or ask your local librarian to reserve it for you!

RESEARCH NOTES:

There's a growing body of research that demonstrates the need for diverse children's books to educate children for healthy participation in a multicultural, global world. However, in 2015 the Cooperative Children's Book Center examined publishing industry statistics and discovered that there was a marked lack of diversity in children's picture books as 73.3% of the main characters were white. The remaining 26.7% of books broke down according: .9% American Indians/First Nations; 2.4% Latinx; 3.3% Asian Pacifics/Asian Pacific Americans; 7.6% African/African American, and 12.5% animals/trucks/etc.

BOOK LIST

Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats*
Lola Plants a Garden by Anna McQuinn
"More, More, More" Said the Baby by Vera Williams*
Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña
Say Hello! By Rachel Isadora*
This Day in June by Gayle E. Pitman
This Little Trailblazer by Joan Holub*
First Words: Baby Signing by Scholastic*
My colors, my world = Mis colores, mi mundo by Maya Christina Gonzalez*
Round is a Mooncake by Roseanne Thong*
* Available as a board book

Diversity encompasses more than race or skin color. Other underrepresented groups include gender, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, and religious identities. Another thing to consider is how the diversity is represented. Some books focus on diversity itself, or highlight an aspect of cultural or ethnic tradition, pride, or acceptance. However, it's important to also present children just being children regardless of how they look, what their family structure is, and what they believe.

As with all learning, earlier is better when introducing children to diversity. Yet as demonstrated in the above study, it is not always easy to find diverse materials. To the left is a list of books that can help diversify your collection or storytimes.

Further information and resources:

Kropp, Lisa G. "A Diverse Book List for the Under-Five Set." *School Library Journal*, 24 Jul 30 2015. <https://goo.gl/nx5PPC>

Reece, Debbie. "When Worlds Collide: Recent Developments in Children's Literature." *Knowledge Quest*, vol. 45, no. 3, p22-27, Jan-Feb 2017. <https://goo.gl/k3YWUA>

Myers, Walter Dean. "Where Are the People of Color in Children's Books?" *The New York Times*, Mar. 15, 2014. <https://goo.gl/hBKpYo>

Alam, Rumaan. "We Don't Only Need More Diverse Books. We Need More Diverse Books Like The Snowy Day." *Slate*, Aug. 2, 2017. <https://goo.gl/vxgBxp>

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!