

VILLAGE VOICES

It takes a village to raise a child

Healthy Child Coalition – Central Region

March-April 2017

National Fatherhood Conference

The second national fatherhood conference was held in Winnipeg March 1 and 2 gathering a capacity crowd from across the country.

Entitled “Side-by-Side: Strategies for Working with Vulnerable Fathers”, the day and a half long conference provided strategies and resources for working with male parents and was sponsored by the Dad Central Canada Network.

Carmen Patterson-Payne is the Manitoba director for the national group. She is also the provincial coordinator for the Nobody’s Perfect parenting program.

The stated goal of the conference was to engage in conversations that do two things:

- Enhance understanding of the situations marginalized fathers/men find themselves in
- Offer ideas and creativity in finding solutions to the important work of supporting fathers.

Topics covered included domestic violence, young fathers, immigrant fathers, incarcerated dads, engaging fathers in positive discipline in everyday parenting, father’s programs from an aboriginal perspective and street culture.

One of the many resources introduced and promoted at the conference was the Dad Central website where programs can access a toolkit designed to improve local programming for dads.

The toolkit and other resources can be found at www.dadcentral.ca .



Healthy Child Coalition
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Next issue will be out

May 2017

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included in this
newsletter?

Contact Sharron
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Nursery Rhyme Games with Words

A Hunk of Mud

Original Author Unknown

Sung to: "If you're happy and you know it"

Oh I wish I was a little hunk of mud
Oh I wish I was a little hunk of mud
Then I'd ooey and I'd gooey
Over everybody's shoey
Oh I wish I was a little hunk of mud!

This Old Earth

Original Author Unknown

Sung to: "This Old Man"

This old earth
Needs our help
To stay fresh and clean and green
With a pick it up; pitch it in; and
throw it in the can
This old earth needs a helping hand!

April Clouds

Two little clouds one April day
(hold both hands in fists)
Went sailing across the sky
(move fists from left to right)
They went so fast that they bumped
their heads
(bump fists together)
And both began to cry
(point to eyes)
The big round sun came out and
said,
(make circle with arms)
"Oh never mind my dears,
I'll send all my sunbeams down
(wiggle fingers downward like rain)
To dry your fallen tears."



1. Ask your child to pick the odd non-rhyming word from a list of rhyming words that you say out loud. For example, cat, sat, mat, **pot**, rat, hat.

2. Play 'I spy' with rhyming words as clues. For example: "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with mat." The child must guess that you are looking at the

hat.

3. Say a nursery rhyme that your child knows, but leave out the rhyming word and ask him to fill in the word you miss. For example: You say, "Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the ..." The child must say "clock".

4. Pick an object and see how many words you and your children can think of that rhyme with the name of the object. For example: Box - fox, locks, socks, rocks

Paper Plate Umbrellas

Combine movement with this easy hands on art and craft activity.

Materials: Large paper plates, markers and crayons.

Description: Give each student a paper plate with a small hole poked in the middle. Let the youngsters decorate the backs of their plates with crayons or felt tip markers. When they have finished, have them stick their index fingers up through the holes in their plates to make the umbrellas.

Repeat this rhyme as children walk in a circle holding their umbrellas:

It's raining, It's raining,
Oh me, oh my!
But our umbrellas will keep us dry!

Planet Earth Coffee Filter Craft

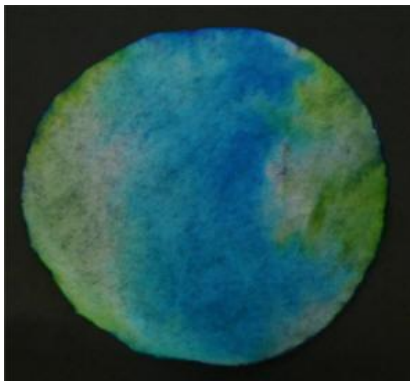
This is one of those crafts that's really simple for little kids (toddlers and preschool) but remains fun as you get older.

Materials:

- coffee filter
- blue and green washable markers
- squirt bottle or small glass of water
- black construction paper
- glue
- Optional: white paint, old toothbrush and popsicle stick



Instructions:



Flatten out a coffee filter on a plate. Scribble the filter with blue and green washable markers.

Use a squirt bottle to squirt right in the center of the filter and then sit and watch the water wick the colours over the filter (this takes 4 or 5 minutes). You can always add more water later if it doesn't get wet all the way to the edge after 5 minutes or so.

Let dry (this takes about 1/2 an hour, but will take longer if the filter has been soaked by an over-zealous crafter!). Glue your earth to a piece of black construction paper (or to a splatter painted piece of black construction paper).

As an alternative, trace children's hands on black construction paper. Cut out hands and fasten to bottom of coffee filter. Affix to window.



Winner of the 2016 Governor General's Literary Award for Young People's Literature — Illustrated Books

“Tokyo Digs a Garden” by Jon-Erik Lappano and Kellen Hatanaka

Tokyo lives in a small house between giant buildings with his family and his cat, Kevin. For years, highways and skyscrapers have been built up around the family's house where once there were hills and trees. Will they ever experience the natural world again? One day, an old woman offers Tokyo seeds, telling him they will grow into whatever he wishes. Tokyo and his grandfather are astonished when the seeds grow into a forest so lush that it takes over the entire city overnight. Soon the whole city has gone wild, with animals roaming where cars once drove. But is this a problem to be surmounted, or a new way of living to be embraced?

Other short-listed books for the 2016 award:

A Hungry Lion or a Dwindling Assortment of Animals by Lucy Ruth Cummins

Once upon a time there was a hungry lion and a bunch of adorable animals...what do you think happened next? The very hungry lion is all set to enjoy an exciting day with his other animal pals. But all of a sudden his friends start disappearing at an alarming rate! Is someone stealing the hungry lion's friends, or is the culprit a little...closer to home?

Ooko by Esme Shapiro

Ooko has everything a fox could want: a stick, a leaf and a rock. Well, *almost* everything . . . Ooko wants someone to play with too! The foxes in town always seem to be playing with their two-legged friends, the Debbies. Maybe if he tries to look like the other foxes, one of the Debbies will play with him too. But when Ooko finally finds his very own Debbie, things don't turn out quite as he had expected!

The Branch by Mireille Messier and Pierre Pratt

When an ice storm snaps a small girl's favorite branch from the tree in her yard, she's crestfallen. The girl's mom says it's just a branch. But not to her! That was the branch I sat on, jumped from, played under. It was my castle, my spy base, my ship . . . Luckily, her neighbor Mr. Frank understands. He says the branch has potential. What's potential? she asks. It means it's worth keeping. And so, with imagination and spirit, and Mr. Frank's guidance and tools, the girl transforms the broken branch into something whole and new, giving it another purpose, and her another place to treasure.

The White Cat and the Monk – by Jo-Ellen Bogart and Sydney Smith

A monk leads a simple life. He studies his books late into the evening and searches for truth in their pages. His cat, Pangur, leads a simple life, too, chasing prey in the darkness. As night turns to dawn, Pangur leads his companion to the truth he has been seeking. *The White Cat and the Monk* is a retelling of the classic Old Irish poem “Pangur Bán.”



THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

— Albert Einstein

