



# Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

## Pond Life

Pack a picnic and meet us at the pond for a month of learning about frogs, ducks, fish, snails, turtles and more! Become scientists and build a pond habitat. Paint with algae, relax on a lily pad and count dragonflies as you observe pond life from different perspectives.

What animals and insects live in and around the pond? What plants grow there? It's a place teeming with life and activity, and you'll dig in and explore it all!



## Practice math at home!

Math is all around us from the day we are born. "When was he born?" "How much did she weigh?" "How long was she?" Encourage children to see the math all around them and in their everyday lives by having fun with it at home.

- **Count, count, and oh, by the way— COUNT!** Count the steps you take, the cars you see on the road, the flags and the animals to help your child connect counting and numbers.
- **Point out numbers in daily activities**, such as phone numbers, digital numerals on a clock, dates, times, addresses, microwave and television displays, recipes and more.
- **Invite your child to help you measure with recipes** or build small projects, e.g., a birdhouse or fort.
- **Find items around the home to sort**, such as laundry, buttons or books. Use words such as "more" and "less" to compare the piles.
- **Make a homemade hopscotch or tossing game** and encourage your child to write the numbers with chalk or on paper for the game.
- **Seriate items around the home** by placing them in order from smallest to largest, shortest to tallest, lightest to darkest or lightest to heaviest.
- **Allow children to handle, count and play with coins and dollars** to become familiar with monetary units.

If you show joy and excitement over math and numbers, your child will mimic that attitude. Math can be entertaining and informative from the start; pass that on to your child by adding fun!



Look for the daily notes about your child's art projects!

Today I created a peaceful pond scene.

Ponds are small bodies of water with lily pads, cattails, ducks, fish and so much more. I colored my pond picture with crayons then added watercolor. It was interesting to see how the watercolor reacted to the crayon on paper. My pond scene is one-of-a-kind, just like me!

ASK ME: What is your part of your pond picture colors did you use in it?

Today I created a turtle pull toy.

Turtles have large shells to help protect them. I decorated a bowl for my turtle shell then attached a piece of yarn to pull it around. I can pull my turtle toy slowly and watch it move around the room.

ASK ME: What colors did you use? Where did you pull your turtle?

preschool

Topics your child will explore this month:

# Pond Life

## Life Around the Pond

- 1 Turtle
- 2 Snake
- 3 Tadpole
- 4 Frog
- 5 Duck

## Pond Plants

- 6 Submergent Pond Plants
- 7 Bog Plants
- 8 Emergent Pond Plants
- 9 Floating Pond Plants
- 10 Algae

## Life in the Pond

- 16 Snail
- 17 Crawfish
- 18 Lizard
- 19 Alligator
- 20 Fish

## Pond Insects

- 11 Dragonfly
- 12 Mosquito
- 13 Water Strider
- 14 Mayfly
- 15 Backswimmer



### RECOMMENDED READS

# Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

**An Extraordinary Egg**  
by Leo Lionni

**It's Mine!**  
by Leo Lionni

**Nine Ducks Nine**  
by Sarah Hayes

**Ducks Don't Get Wet**  
by Augusta Goldin

**Little Quack**  
by Lauren Thompson



### Family Activities

## Pond Outing

If you have a pond or other source of fresh water nearby, explore it with your family. Look for signs of life: insects, plants and animals. You can take a virtual tour of a pond online if you are unable to travel to one, or you can make a mini pond in your own backyard!



## Tadpole

*(Sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")*

Hop around the house with your children as you sing this song about the frog's life cycle:

**I'm a little tadpole,  
Watch me grow,  
First my tail,  
Then my back legs show.  
When I get all grown up,  
see me hop,  
All around the pond,  
and then I stop.**

