COMPUTERTOTS

Computers & Kids

NEWS

October & November 2007

A is for Apple and ...

What other words begin with A?

Letter recognition is one of the most important early reading steps for preschoolers. Tune into your child's learning by focusing on the letter A this month. Challenge your young child to point out every A-word he/she can find at the grocery store, on street signs, and in print. Create an A collage together (I SPY-style) using the stamps in Kid Pix software, and including as many "A"s as possible. If you have fun with A, move onto to B and C next month. Or follow your child's preschool curriculum. If you do not know what your child is learning in preschool, be sure to ask. Teachers appreciate parents who participate in their child's learning!

Go to www.littleclickers.com to download a newsletter for schoolagers.

Apples are a great snack...

but how can you convince your grade schooler of that? Challenge your child to take the "Go Healthy Challenge" at www.nick.com/myworld/letsjustplay/. The challenge encourages children to make healthier food choices. Making four small changes in everyday life is one of the first challenges.

And don't forget to check out this website for heaps of information about Nutrition for Children http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/Nutrition_for_all_ages/Children/children_index.asp.

Additional Apple Activities

Your child's preschool curriculum probably includes an apple unit. With help from the Internet continuing the learning at home for an apple unit (or nearly any other theme) is easy. Or find a local apple orchard and show your child how apples grow and how to pick them. Find apple orchards and other crops at the Pick Your Own site – http://www.pickyourown.org/australia.htm.

If you are not lucky enough to live in an area with apple orchards, expand on your child's preschool curriculum by cooking together using apples. A bushel of apple recipes is available at the FamilyFun website, see http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/family/specialfeature/apples_sf/.

If time and patience allows, continue with apple activities by getting messy with an art project or by singing silly apple songs together. To learn more about apple-themed activities search for "apple" at Preschool Express (www.preschoolexpress.com/). Bookmark this site to have parallel learning between preschool and home at your fingertips.

Buckleitner Box

Dear Parents,
Have you picked up a Nintendo DS lately? If you borrow one from any willing child (good luck!) you will find out about the great learning potential behind Nintendo's innovative system:

For younger children, Smart Girl's Playhouse and Smart Boy's Gameroom each feature 12 well-designed games that use Nintendo DS's touch screen to serve up school-related concepts like colours, shapes, music, and more. (See www.ufointeractivegames.com for more information).

For older children and adults, Brain Age 2: More Training in Minutes a Day impressed me because it's perfect for children who need short, intense challenges centered around math, memory, and spelling. The touch screen allows for scribbling and yelling out answers before time runs out!

LittleClickers features apples this month... visit our site at www.littleclickers.com to find out more!
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