

CIRCLE TIME IDEAS

~FEBRUARY~



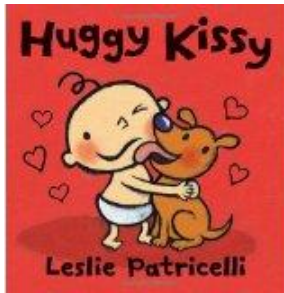
February is **I LOVE TO READ MONTH**, making NOW the perfect time to promote early childhood interest in reading and highlight the importance of literacy skills throughout life.

February 14th is **Valentine's Day!** This holiday represents love! Enjoy this holiday with some fun Valentine's Day crafts, songs and games and share them with those that mean the most to you.

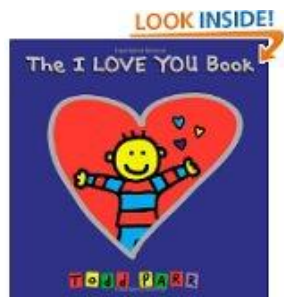
SONGS & RHYMES

<p>Skinnamarinky Dinky Doo</p> <p>Skinnamarinky dinky dink, skinnamarinky doo I love you (repeat three times)</p> <p>I love you in the morning and in the afternoon, I love you in the evening, and underneath the moon</p> <p>Skinnamarinky, dinky dink, skinnamarinky doo I love you!</p>	<p>Love, Love, Love (Tune: Three Blind Mice)</p> <p>Love, love, love, Love, love, love See how it grows, See how it grows. I love my friends and they love me. We love each other it's plain to see. There's plenty of love for a big family. Love, love, love, Love, love, love.</p>
<p>Make a Bright Red Valentine (Tune: London Bridge)</p> <p>Make a bright red valentine, valentine, valentine. Make a bright red valentine, so special just for you.</p> <p>Trim it up with lace and bows, lace and bows, lace and bows. Trim it with lace and bows, made special just for you.</p>	<p>Three Valentines (Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)</p> <p>Three valentines I have for you, Just for you, only you. Three valentines I have for you, One pink, one red, one blue.</p> <p>I'll put them in the mail for you, Just for you, only you. I'll put them in the mail for you, One pink, one red, one blue.</p>
<p>I Made Three Valentines Today</p> <p>I made three valentines today, I'll give them all away. The one for Mommy is red. The one for Daddy is blue. It's really pretty, too! And here's a big one just for you.</p>	An illustration of two overlapping pink hearts with black outlines. The hearts are positioned diagonally, with one slightly behind and to the right of the other.

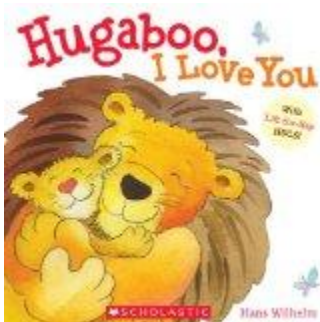
BOOK SUGGESTIONS



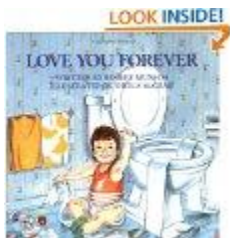
Huggy Kissy
By Leslie Patricelli



The I LOVE YOU Book
By Todd Parr



Hugaboo, I Love You (Lift the Flap)
By Hans Wilhelm



Love You Forever
By Robert Munsch

SNACK IDEAS

Fruit Dip

1 container strawberry yogurt combined with 2 cups Cool Whip. Use red food coloring for desired color. Cut fruit and place onto long wooden skewers and have the children dunk into the dip. (Be sure to cut the sharp end off of the skewer with scissors before serving.)

Heart Cupcakes

Pour cupcake mix into a muffin pan (be sure to use paper liners). Place a marble between the paper and the tin before you bake them. Bake and remove marbles - They will be HOT! Let the children ice and decorate them.

Heart Shaped Mini Pizzas

Buy pre-made pizza dough. Roll the dough out and use heart shaped cookie cutters to make hearts out of the dough. Top the mini pizzas with sauce and cheese. Bake according to the instructions on the dough.

CRAFTS IDEAS

Note: Best practice is to allow children to express their own creativity without using patterns.

Valentine's Day Gift

This makes a great gift for Valentine's Day. Purchase small terracotta pots. Have the children sponge paint the pots red & white. When dry, place a few Hershey Kisses in the pots. Glue a big red construction paper heart to a large popsicle stick. Have the children put a message on it. Then insert in the center of the pot. Wrap with red or pink cellophane and add a pretty bow just below the heart.

Supplies needed :

- Small terracotta pots
- Red & White Paint
- Sponges or Paint Brushes
- Red or Pink Construction Paper
- Glue
- Red or Pink cellophane
- Pink or Red Bows
- Hershey Kisses

Valentine Day Postcard

Cut out red construction paper in the size of a standard postcard. Let the children decorate one side using crayons, paints, and a variety of Valentine's decorations. On the back of the construction paper, glue a plain piece on white paper. Draw a line down the middle with a heartfelt verse on the left side and the address of who you would like to send it to. Stick a stamp on and toss it in the mail! Send it to Mom or Dad at home or at work, Grandma or Grandpa, Aunts or Uncles.

Supplies needed :

- Red Construction Paper
- Crayons, Markers, Paints
- White Paper
- Variety of Heart Decorations (craft foam, stickers, etc)
- Stamps

Handmade Hearts

Use your children's own hands to make a heart. Paint one hand with the thumb tucked in against the index finger. Working upside down, press the child's hand on a piece of construction paper. (The heel of the hand will be the upper lobe of the heart and the finger tips the point.) Then paint the other hand and press it on the paper in the same way, overlapping the finger tips slightly to form the shape of a heart. Glue on a small pre-printed poem to use as a gift for Valentine's Day.

Supplies needed:

- White or Pink Construction Paper
- Red Paint
- White Paper

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Activity/Game #1: Valentine Hide and Seek

This activity can help young children with developing fine motor skills. Mix candy hearts in a large bowl with dry rice or sand. Give each child a turn to reach into the bowl to find the candy hearts.

Activity/Game #2: Matching Hearts

Cut large hearts out of a variety of colors of construction paper. Then cut each heart in half in different ways (wavy, jagged, squared off angles, etc). Mix them altogether. Have each child choose one and then try to find who has the other half of their heart.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Discussion #1: Attendance Records

It is extremely important that Parent-Child programs keep daily attendance reports for participants of their group. Accurate records help identify which persons are present in the event of a fire or other emergency.

BEST PRACTICE:

Personal information should remain confidential.

Program Leaders are responsible for ensuring that attendance records are accurate at all times.

In the event that the space must be evacuated, Program Leaders must ensure all records are removed.

