

ISD #347
WPS—Jefferson Learning Center
611 5th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201

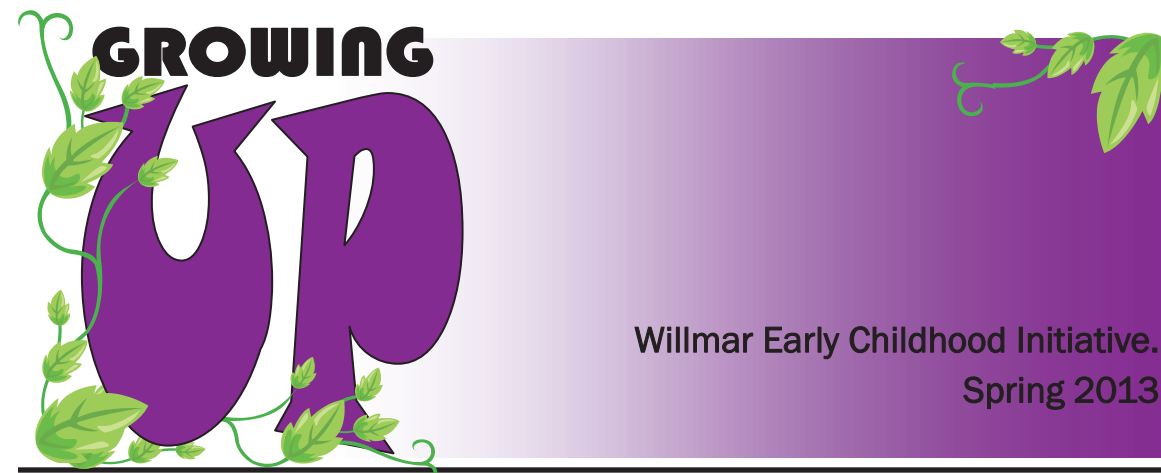
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Willmar Early Childhood Initiative Vision

The Willmar Early Childhood Initiative is committed to increase school readiness and improve the literacy skills of children in Willmar through partnerships that encourage a community environment that supports the growth and development of young children.



Willmar Early Childhood Initiative.
Spring 2013

How to Help your child Recognize and Understand Anger

Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini

As a parent, you might find that calming your angry child can be one of the biggest challenges of parenting. There are many things that make children angry, and children feel anger in different ways — just as adults do. Perhaps you were taught as a child that being angry was not “allowed” or that anger was “bad.” It is important to teach your child that it is normal to get angry. Often, the first step parents must take is to set aside what they themselves were taught as children, and choose to teach their own child something new. As with all emotions, when you help your child recognize and name his anger you have helped him take the first step toward being able to control his own behavior. When your child is able to recognize the feeling and say, “I’m angry!” it reduces the chances that he will act out.



Try This at Home

Notice and label when you, your child or others are angry. You might say:

- About yourself: “I am feeling angry in my body. My heart is beating fast and I feel like a volcano inside. I am going to take some deep breaths to calm down.”
- About your child: “I can see that you are angry! Your hands are making a fist and your eyes are big.”
- About others: “I see that little girl is angry. I wonder what happened. What do you think might help her to calm her body?”

Encourage your child to move. Just as adults release stress at the gym or by going for a run, physical movement helps children to change their body experience. Teach your child to yell into a pillow or push on the wall. However, don’t encourage your child to hit others or hit objects (we want children to let go of their anger without hitting or hurting others).

Read books about being angry. Talk with your child about what the character is feeling and experiencing and come up with ideas that might help. You can find many books and activities to help your child learn about emotions at: <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#list>

Calming down is a skill that children must learn. Young children do not understand the words “calm down.” Tucker Turtle is a story that helps children understand how to calm down. It can be a great tool for teaching this skill. Download and print Tucker Turtle for free at: http://www.challengingbehavior.org/do/resources/teaching_tools/ttyc_toc.htm

Puppets and toys are great to use for role playing situations that your child understands. “Wow, this lion is very angry. Her sister took her toys! She is stomping her feet and roaring very loudly! Let’s help her to calm down.”



How Can I Help My Young Child to Become a Reader?

Can parents help their young children become readers? Yes! Parents are their babies’ first teachers and can support their babies’ budding language abilities so that they develop good reading skills and enjoyment of reading as they grow older.

Learning to read is a skill that takes a long time to develop, and it begins during infancy. As you might guess, teaching a baby about reading is different than teaching an older child to read. Babies first start to learn about reading by learning to speak and understand language — in essence, by learning to communicate with others. Parents, by responding to their babies’ communication, help build babies’ language skills. As soon as babies hear language, their orientation to literacy has begun. Research shows that babies who hear many words in the first years of life and who are actively engaged in communicating have higher scores on achievement tests in elementary school than babies whose exposure to language is not as rich.

There are many different things parents can do with babies and toddlers to help develop the basic language and communicative skills that will prepare them to learn to read.

For Babies

Talk with your baby while feeding, bathing, and diapering. Language is the cornerstone of reading development, so the opportunities parents have to talk with babies — while feeding, during bath time, and when diapering — are important. When you talk to your baby during the course of the day, you are really giving him or her a double bonus! You are teaching language and letting your baby know that he or she is an important person to communicate with.

Tell nursery rhymes or sing simple songs with your baby. This provides infants with the opportunity to predict “what comes next,” an important part of literacy development.

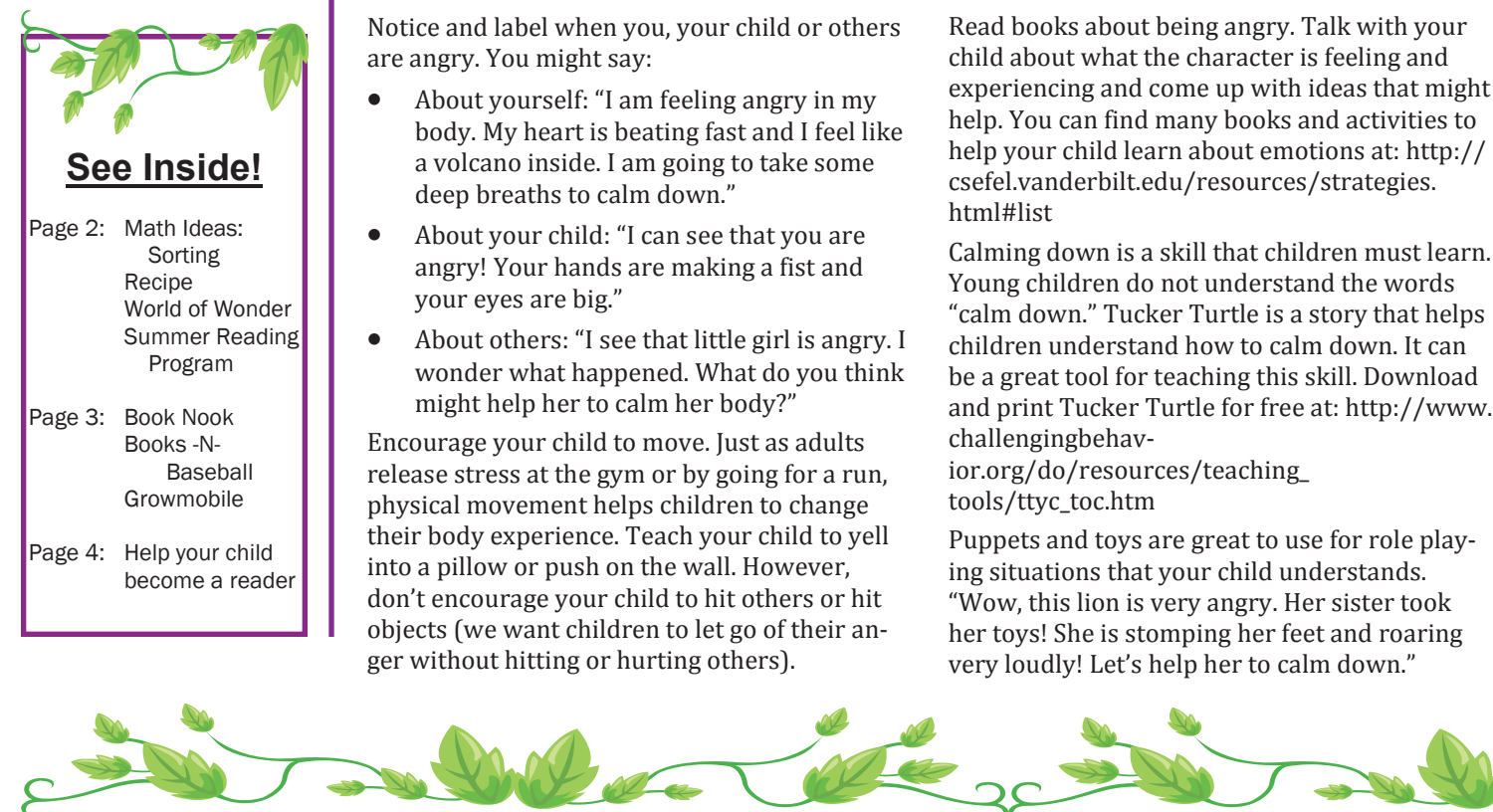
Offer your baby cardboard books. Picture books created for babies provide the opportunity for infants to begin having independent experiences with reading materials. And, reading the books to a baby provides the literature exposure, the pleasure of the physical contact, and the opportunity to experience reading as a positive experience.

References:

Bredenkamp, S., & Copple, C. (eds.). (1997). Developmentally appropriate practice in early childhood programs. Washington, DC: NAEYC.
Gonzales-Mena, J. & Eyer, D.W. (1993). Infants, toddlers, and caregivers. Mountainview, CA: Mayfield. p. 125. Adapted with permission from Schickendanz, J.A. (1994). Helping children learn about reading. Brochure written for the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Schickendanz, J.A. (1998). “More than abc’s” the early stages of reading and writing. Washington, DC: NAEYC.



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Math Ideas: Sorting

Gummies

These are gummy bears, but any kind of gummies could be used for this activity. Draw lines on a paper plate with a Sharpie to make sections for sorting.

Paint Sample Cards

These paint sample cards are the kind you can pick up for free at the hardware store. Make sure to get different hues of each color for the children to sort.

RECIPE

Cat in the Hat, Hats!



- 8 Cherub tomatoes, sliced
- 1 string cheese, sliced
- 8 golden round crackers
- 8 toothpicks

Skewer a tomato slice onto a toothpick, followed by a cheese slice, continue until there are 3 slices of tomato and 2 slices of cheese. Leave a little room on the bottom to place the toothpick into the bottom hole of the cracker.



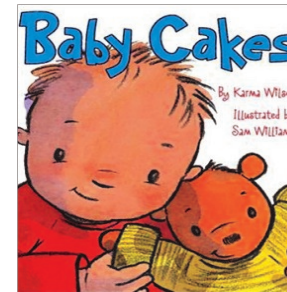
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Book Nook

Baby Cakes

By: Karma Wilson and
Illustrated by Sam Williams
Little Simon, 2006

Baby Cakes is a book about the many ways in which one can show infants and toddlers that they are loved. It illustrates fun baby games such as kissing the baby, bouncing the baby on your lap, nibbling the baby's feet, singing to the baby and playing peek-a-boo! The book has rhyming lyrics that infants and toddlers will love! (Ages 1-3)



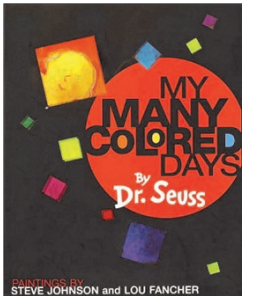
My Many Colored Days

By Dr. Seuss

Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher

This rhyming story is a wonderful way for parents and teachers to talk with children about their feelings. Each day is described in terms of a particular color, which in turn is associated with specific emotions.

Using a spectrum of vibrant colors and a variety of animals, this unique book covers a range of moods and emotions. (Ages 3-8)



Willmar Stingers and the Early Childhood Initiatives present ...

Books -n- Baseball

What: A free baseball event for children kindergarten age 5 and under and parents. Tickets available at the Willmar Public Library for families in the Willmar Public School district.

When: Saturday, June 22, 2013—2:00-5:15

Where: Bill Taunton Stadium at Baker Field—1401 22nd St. SW

- ◆ Food and beverages available for purchase at the concession stand.
- ◆ Reading will begin promptly at 2:30.
- ◆ Children will be allowed to run the bases after the game.

If you have questions, please call or e-mail Jodi at:

231-8492, ext. 7250 or
wambekej@willmar.k12.mn.us



Summer 2013 Daily Schedule: June 10 to August 23

(No Growmobile -July 4th and 5th)

9-10 a.m. Mondays: Atwater at Centennial Park

Tuesdays: Peaceful Hills, New London

Wednesdays: Raymond at 2nd Ave. Park

Thursdays: Pennock at Atlantic Ave. Park

10:30-11:15 Dana Heights (M-F) SASF 11:15**

11:30-12:15 Lincoln Park (M-F) SASF 10:40**

12:30-1:15 Regency West (M-F) SASF 12:00**

1:30-2:15 Sunwood (Mondays and Wednesdays) SASF 1:30**

Rice Park** (Tuesdays and Thursdays) SASF 1:30

** Fridays are back pack delivery days. (None on July 5th)

SASF-Indicates Salvation Army Summer Feeding Program for children Growmobile Summer Programing in a Project of the United Way of West Central Minnesota (UWWCM) Women's Empower Group. UWWCM makes this program possible through collaborating with Willmar Public Schools Food Service, Willmar Area Food Shelf, 4H, Salvation Army, Willmar Community Ed H.A.W.K. program, Stinger Baseball team, and many more wonderful businesses and volunteers.

W.O.W. World of Wonder

"WOW" is a year-long series of events that celebrates children's growth and development. These events are open to ALL families in our community with children birth to age 5. This is a great opportunity to meet other families with children the same age and visit community programs.

Tuesday, April 23

YMCA—5:00-7:30 pm
Healthy Kids

Thursday, May 16

Jefferson Learning Center
5:30-7:00 pm
Summer Fun!



Willmar Public Library

Summer Reading Program

Dig Into Reading is the 2013 Summer Reading Program Theme. Readers of all ages will explore all things underground this summer as Willmar Public Library presents "Dig Into Reading" during their summer library program. Activities may include programs on dinosaurs or construction vehicles, animals that live underground or Ancient Egypt, caves, rocks and more.

The 2013 Summer reading Program is open to young people, preschool through young adult, with programs, prize drawings, story hours, a reading club, and more.

Registration for **Dig Into Reading** begins on June 3 - and ends August 16.

Story Hour will start Wednesday June 26 - July 31 at 10:00 - 10:45 for ages 3 - 10.

The **Willmar Stingers** will be visiting the library on July 9 from 10:00 - 11:00.

The library will also be showing movies and doing 4-H on Wheels during the summer months. Other program and activities will also be going on throughout the summer. For more information, call the library at 235-3162 or visit our website,

www.willmarpubliclibrary.org.

