

RTL eNewsletter

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Ready To Learn



Mark Your Calendars

July is **Blueberry Month**. Fresh blueberries and a little sugar in milk. Good and good for you! **7** is **Chocolate Day**. Need I say more? **12** is **Hot Dog Day**. We are eating good in the neighborhood! Grill a hot dog octopus—slice the hot dog halfway. Lengthwise in quarters. It will curl up as it grills. **28** is **National Cowboy Day**. Do you know a cowboy you can invite to lunch? Read the *Buckaroo ABCs* to your kids. **August 8** is the **Date to Create**. Devote the day to play and art. Create some fun!! **15** is **National Relaxation Day**. Kids are active, but they need to relax too. Put on some soft music, close the blinds and lead the children through tensing and relaxing their muscles. **September** is **Fall Hat Month**. A headband with autumn leaves cut out and glued on, seems just the thing! It is also **Library Card Sign Up Month**. If you haven't already, go out and do it! **8** is **Potato Day**. Cook 'em, stamp with 'em. Potatoes are fun. **19** is **Talk Like A Pirate Day**. Avast me hardies and shiver me timbers! Aaargh, matey.



Child Development

Negotiating with Your Child

Negotiation can be difficult and time-consuming, but as a parent or care-giver, it is an important educational experience for the children in your life. Here are a few basics to keep in mind:

Take time to cool down: Most of life's challenges don't need to be addressed immediately. You need to be in control of yourself and to model calming down to your children. Good negotiating will not occur if emotions are high. Take a deep breath, count to five, tell your child you need some time to think about the problem.

Explain your point of view: Think out loud, it shows children what factors go into problem solving and decision making. Children need to feel that your decisions are not arbitrary. If...then statements show children that actions now affect the future. (*If we stay later at the park, then we will miss the start of the soccer game.*)

Get your child involved: Start with age appropriate decision making (Do you want to wear the green shirt or the blue shirt?). As children learn more skills for decision making and problem solving, get them to figure out appropriate responses to situations.

Solutions are not set in stone: Revisit solutions and see if they are working well. Maybe you will need to brainstorm something new. Children need to learn that there may be multiple approaches to solving problems, not just a right or wrong approach.

Remember, you have final say: You are the adult and at times, you cannot negotiate. If you use the steps outlined above, children will be much more willing to respect those decisions, since you have modeled respect and willingness to negotiate in prior situations.

View Read Do

Topic: Vacations

View: *Arthur—The Shore Thing*
Caillou—Vacations

Read: *The Waterfall's Gift*
by Joanne Ryder and Richard Jesse Watson
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant



Do: **Have a vacation right where you are!**



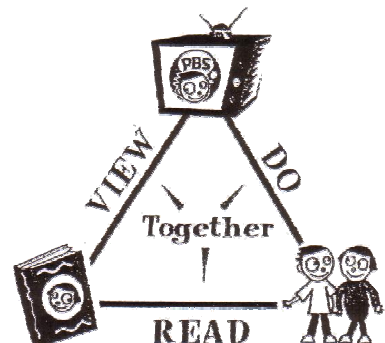
- * Send away for travel brochures and take a "magic carpet ride" as you look at them with your children.
- * There is Disneyland...why not Teddy Bear Land or Truck Land right in you own home/center. Use toys you have and make your own theme park!
- * Life's a beach—so make one in your own backyard. A wading pool is the ocean, a sandbox is the shore. Pack up for the day and enjoy the sun and the sand. A picnic lunch, lounge chairs, beach toys, sunscreen...what could be better?
- * Plan a trip (to the park? to the mountains? to the lake?) Give children an opportunity to see what is involved in planning a trip and let them come up with some of the ideas of things to do or eat. Make a check list, read it, and mark your items off. A great way to show kids what writing is for.
- * Are we there yet? And how are we going to get there. Explore different kinds of transportation. Make pretend buses trains and planes with chairs, tables, large appliance boxes. All aboard!!
- * "Going On A Vacation" Use the response chant "Going On A Lion Hunt" and adapt it to a vacation. What will you see next? And will it end in a cave, or a motel?



Online:

PBSkids.org/arthur/games: Sue Ellen's Travel Tales lets you choose what trip you are going on and what advice you want from Sue Ellen. She will write you back!

PBSkids/readingrainbow/seaya: Join LeVar on four different trips to the seashore. Watch videos and enjoy some activities to download.





A Good Read!

Chicks and Salsa by Aaron Reynolds

Once in a while, everyone hankers for something new to eat. The chicks inspire the whole farm to expand their ideas about what is for dinner. The story seems to end with disappointment, but when a window closes, a door opens.

Alvie Eats Soup By Ross Collins

We all have our favorites, but Alvie *only* eats soup. When cookbook writing Grandma announces a visit, Alvie's parents worry about what she will think, but Grandma and Alvie end up with lots in common.

Superdog: The Heart of a Hero by Caralyn Buehner

With planning and training, even the mildest looking dog can become a superhero. Stay true to yourself and you can win over even your harshest critics. A handsome cape also helps!

The Hippo-NOT-amus by Tony and Jan Payne

I wish I could...that's what young hippopotamus thinks, and he sets off to acquire all the traits that he admires in other animals.

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin

You never know what life is like for someone else, until you read their diary. The story of a worm's life is different, yet in many ways the same as ours!



Surf's Up!

If you have favorites you want to share, send them my way!
(see address below)

aplaceofourown.org is the website for a new parent and provider show now airing on Wyoming Public Television: *A Place of Our Own*. Each show offer advice and practical solutions for a wide range of early childhood issues, featuring national experts as well as educators, caregivers, parents and grandparents. Take advantage of the resources of this website and...

Tune in weekdays at 11:00 am.



Contact Info

I invite your inquiries, comments and suggestions.

To stop this communication, send me an email with 'stop mail' in the subject line.

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