MCM’S Activity Kit & Parent Guide

Included in your kit are the materials and information for the following activities:

1. Health Activity: Mindfulness at Home
2. Art Activity: Sketch like Leonardo Da Vinci
3. STEM Activity

Instagram/Facebook Moment
We would like to see your finished products!
Please tag us on social media, @mschildsmuseum on Instagram and @MississippiChildrensMuseum on Facebook, using the hashtag #mcmathome. You may also send us an email with any questions or ideas at programs@mcm.ms
Health Activity: Mindfulness at Home

Description:
Mindfulness can help us stay positive when we are stuck at home. Mindfulness means paying full attention to something and slowing down to really notice what you’re doing. In this activity, you are going to create a mindfulness jar! This jar will be here for you during this time spent at home and help your keep a positive attitude!

Set Up:
Gather supplies: cup, paper, crayons, scissors

The Activity:
Start by decorating your cup however you want. Use whatever you have at home to make your cup look awesome! Using your scissors, cut some strips of paper and keep them next to your cup. Anytime something good happens to you, write or draw it on your paper and put it in your cup. These events can be as big or as small as you want. Maybe you ate a really good lunch, or you had a conversation with a friend on the phone. It could be as small as seeing a really cool bug! If you’re feeling down, choose a few strips of paper from your cup and read the positive moments to make yourself feel better.

The Lesson:
Practicing mindfulness has lots of benefits. It helps us be more focused. It keeps us calm and avoid getting angry or upset. It helps us slow down and be better listeners. It also helps us get along better with our friends and family, as well as creating happy feelings. We should all work hard to practice mindfulness, especially while we are spending more time at home with our families.

Want more?
Find more healthy fun activity pages online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
Art Activity: Sketch like Leonardo Da Vinci

Vocabulary:
- **Renaissance**: This means “rebirth” in French. During this time, there was a “rebirth” of interest in the arts. People also made scientific discoveries during this time.
- **Sketch**: A sketch is a rough outline or drawing. It shows the main, or important, features of what you are drawing.

The Lesson:
- Leonardo Da Vinci was born in April of 1452 in Italy. He was an artist, an inventor, and a scientist. He worked during the Italian Renaissance. Because he had so many different talents, he was called a “Renaissance Man! This term is still used today to describe someone who is good at many things.
- Da Vinci is considered to be one of the greatest artists in history. Two of his most famous paintings are the Mona Lisa and The last Supper. He also kept journals that he used to sketch inventions, scientific diagrams, and self-portraits. He even sketched plans for a flying machine!
- **Fun fact**: Some people claim he invented the bicycle!

Set Up:
- Gather supplies: paper, pencil, crayons

The Activity:
- Da Vinci was very curious about how things worked. One way he explored this curiosity was to make sketches of how things worked. He would take things apart and sketch their different parts. He even sketched how our bodies worked! His sketches of how the human body is put together were so good that they were used by doctors!
- Walk around your house and see what you might be interested in learning more about. Maybe you want to know more about how a pen works, or the remote control to the TV. Don’t take anything apart without your grownup’s permission. You may not be able to put it back together again!
- Start by sketching the whole object. What shape is it? What color? What kind of parts does it have? Then, think about the inside. Does it have batteries? Springs? Maybe wires? Sketch each part of your object and be sure you label the parts.
- After you have sketched some objects around your house, move on to people or animals! Pay close attention to faces. What shape are their eyes? What about their eyebrows? Do they have freckles or dimples? If you’re sketching a pet, what color and pattern is their fur? Is it long or short?

Find more activity pages online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home
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STEM Activity

Vocabulary:
• **STEM**: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
• **Engineering**: Using science to design and build.
• **Catapult**: A mechanism used to throw objects vast distances

The Lesson:
During this activity, students will get a chance to explore some of the basic principles of engineering. In addition, students will use elements of the design process (ask, imagine, plan, create, improve). Engineers use this process regularly to design things we see and use every day!

Set Up:
Gather materials: popsicle sticks, rubber bands, marshmallow

The Activity:
• Stack 8 of your popsicle sticks.
• With one of the other two remaining sticks, slide it through the first and second sticks of your stack. Your catapult should be T-shaped now.
• Now take two rubber bands and wrap secure both ends of the stack by looping them several times.
• To complete the catapult, take your final popsicle stick and lean it against the stack. Use a rubber band to secure it to the piece that we wedged into the stack earlier. The catapult should look something like this now.
• Your catapult is now completed! To launch a marshmallow, bend the top stick back, place the marshmallow near the end and release!
• After making your catapult try to launch a few different things. What flies best? Why do you think that is? What improvements could be made to the catapult to make it even better?

Want more?
Find more STEM activity pages to experiment at home online at mscchildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
Story Reading and Retelling
Interactive Read Alouds

The Lesson:
• Retelling stories helps build comprehension, vocabulary, and oral language. Supporting children to retell stories we read to or with them with visual aids and props can be highly beneficial to their reading development.

Interactive Read Alouds:
• Before you read:
  o Discuss what the book is about.
  o Connect it to real life experiences your child may have had or other books you’ve read to him/her.
• During reading:
  o Discuss what’s happening on each page as you read it.
  o Explain any words that your child may be unfamiliar with.
  o Ask questions to be sure that your child understands what is happening in the story.
• After reading:
  o Review what happened in the story (what happened First? Then? Next? Last?).
  o Connect the story to real events.
  o Ask what your child did or didn’t like about it.
  o Did he/she have a favorite part?

Retelling with Visual Aids:
• Guide your child through using a “visual map” to draw what happened in the story.
• Assist him/her as needed with summarizing and sequencing events.
• Have him/her explain the events of the story as they draw it.
• Non-Fiction (Informational) Text is a little different. Is usually shares information and facts instead of telling a story. Appropriate questions to retell non-fiction text would be: what was the story about, what did we learn in the story, what facts did we read about, what happened when ________?

Want more?
Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities. Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Middle</th>
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Show the Main Idea

Use words and pictures to tell about the main idea.

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
Directions: Use the words in the boxes below to write three sentences about the picture!

Simple Sentences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tree</th>
<th>apples</th>
<th>red</th>
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</thead>
</table>

1. The tree has apples.
2. The apples are red.
3. There is a tree with apples in the picture.
Directions: Use the words in the boxes below to write three sentences about the picture!

Simple Sentences

| petals | pink | flower |

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Spring Beginning Sound Activity

Mark the beginning sound of each picture.

Rainbow
- S
- R
- G

Umbrella
- U
- W
- I

Kite
- K
- P
- T

Butterfly
- D
- S
- B

Sheep
- Y
- L
- H

Daisy
- J
- A
- F

Bee
- B
- T
- P

Cloud
- Y
- R
- L
Roll a Spring Adventure Story

Roll a dice four times to create your own spring adventure story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll 1 Setting time</th>
<th>Roll 2 Setting place</th>
<th>Roll 3 Character</th>
<th>Roll 4 Plot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First day of spring</td>
<td>Spring meadow</td>
<td>Mom</td>
<td>An adventure takes place!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>A birthday party</td>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>A mystery needs to be solved!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise</td>
<td>Bowling alley</td>
<td>An army of ants</td>
<td>Something or someone is lost!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring break</td>
<td>A playground</td>
<td>Twins</td>
<td>Something has eaten all the flowers!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>The neighborhood</td>
<td>A boy</td>
<td>All of the flowers can talk!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle of the night</td>
<td>A garden</td>
<td>A group of garden people</td>
<td>Spring cannot begin because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>worm</td>
<td>leaf</td>
<td>insect</td>
<td>grass</td>
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<th>tree</th>
<th>cloud</th>
<th>spider</th>
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<th>butterfly</th>
<th>mushroom</th>
<th>dew</th>
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<th>breeze</th>
<th>branch</th>
<th>nest</th>
<th>stones</th>
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TALKING TO AND WITH CHILDREN FROM BIRTH IS ESSENTIAL TO LEARNING TO READ.

Human beings learn language at a very early age by listening to others speak and then practicing these words themselves. This “give and take” is fundamental to early literacy development and, specifically, learning to read. More children in Mississippi need to receive this oral stimulation early. TALK from the START! is a statewide campaign to raise awareness and boost the early language development of our youngest Mississippians.

ROCKY’S FAVORITE BOOKS FOR AGES BIRTH - 1 YEAR+

We’re Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen & Helen Oxbury
Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox
The Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle
Where’s Spot? by Eric Hill
Please, Baby, Please by Spike Lee
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown
Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle
Moo, Baa, La La La! by Sandra Boynton
Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault

ROCKY’S FAVORITE BOOKS FOR AGES 2-3 YEARS+

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
It’s Ok to Be Different by Todd Parr
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
Cars and Trucks and Things That Go by Richard Scarry
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
The Mitten by Jan Brett
Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney

ROCKY’S FAVORITE BOOKS FOR AGES 4-5 YEARS+

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
Curious George by H.A. & Margaret Rey
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
The Maggie B. by Irene Haas
ROCKY’S FAVORITE BOOKS FOR FIRST GRADE

Strega Nona by Tomi dePaola
Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmen & Stasia Burrington
Giraffes Can’t Dance by Giles Andreae & Guy Parker-Rees
At the Same Moment Around the World by Clotilde Perrin
One Grain of Rice by Demi
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett & Ronald Barrett
Thunder Cakes by Patricia Polacco
Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
Hil Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold
The Big Honey Hunt by Stan & Jan Berenstain

ROCKY’S FAVORITE BOOKS FOR SECOND GRADE

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
Duck for President by Doreen Cronin & Betsy Lewin
Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo
Dog Man by Dav Pilkey
Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport
Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne
Moses Goes to a Concert by Isaac Millman
Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
Jumanji by Chris Van Allsberg
My Father’s Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett & Ruth Crisman Gannett

ROCKY’S FAVORITE BOOKS FOR THIRD GRADE

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball by David Adler
The Paperboy by Dav Pilkey
Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
The Magic School Bus Inside Ralphie by Beth Nesler
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Charlotte’s Web by EB White
Stargazers by Gail Gibbons
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

The mission of MCM is to provide unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge, and learning in all children. The museum accomplishes this mission through hands-on and engaging exhibits and programs focusing on literacy, the arts, science, health and nutrition—the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners.

WWW.MSCHILDRENSMUSEUM.ORG

The Barksdale Reading Institute works to improve the overall quality of public education in Mississippi through strategic literacy initiatives and providing professional development to teachers and administrators.

BRI was founded in 2000 by Jim and Sally Barksdale, who, after researching the state of education in America, became convinced that reading is the most fundamental skill that every child must master in order to become successful.

WWW.MSREADS.ORG