MCM’S Activity Kit & Parent Guide

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

1. Health Activity: What is in my Control?
2. Art Activity: Beatrix Potter
3. STEM Activity: Seeds
4. Reading Activities
5. Teacher Appreciation Activities

What’s in your kit?

• Lessons and instructions for Engineering, Literacy, Health and Art activities
• Cornstarch for Oobleck Making
• Memory Cards for STEM Activity
• Paper for Art Activity
• Work packets from your school district

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: What is in My Control?

The Lesson:
May is Mental Health Month! 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. Practicing mindfulness has lots of benefits. It helps us be more focused. It keeps us stay 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.

There are a lot of things right now that are out of our control. Having to stay home, not going to school or seeing our friends, and not knowing what the future holds can make us feel nervous. What we have to remember is that there are many, many things that are still in our control. Making a list of these things can help us feel better about what isn’t in our control.

For example: if we are holding a candy wrapper in our hands, we are in control of what happens to it. We can hold it, fold it, roll it, or throw it away. But if the candy wrapper is across the room sitting on a table, we cannot control what happens to it.

Set Up:
Gather supplies: paper, pencil, markers or crayons

The Activity:
• Use your pencil to trace your hand on the piece of paper.
• Inside your hand write: “In my control.”
• Outside your hand write: “Out of my control.”
• Now, write or draw things that are in your control inside the hand. These could be things like: my behavior, my thoughts, and how I treat others.
• Then, outside the hand write things that are outside of your control. These could be things like: the weather, my friends’ behavior, and my family’s moods.
• Take some time and talk about these lists with your family.
• If you are ever experiencing feelings that are overwhelming, a simple grounding exercise can help your feel more in control. Use your fingers to count five things that you can control right now. For example: I can control my breathing, my thoughts, my words to myself, my words to others, and my body. Even though these are unusual times, we still have control over ourselves, and we have our communities to help us feel better.

Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities.
Art Activity: Beatrix Potter

Vocabulary:
- **Mycology**: the study of fungi (such as mushrooms)
- **Conservation**: protecting species and their habitats

The Lesson:
- Beatrix Potter was born in London in 1866. She was an illustrator, mycologist, and conservationist. When Beatrix Potter was growing up, she didn’t have many friends, but she did have lots of pets. Two of these pets were rabbits named Benjamin and Peter, who became characters in her books.

- The stories Beatrix Potter wrote were influenced by fairy tales and fantasy. Potter published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* when she was 30 years old. After this she began writing and illustrating children’s books full time. She published 24 children’s books in her lifetime.

Set Up:
Gather supplies:
- watercolor, paper, pencil, pen

The Activity:
- Start by going outside and spending some time in nature. Nature is everywhere. Even if we live somewhere that doesn’t have a yard or green space, nature is present. What nature can you find in your space? Are the clouds making interesting shapes? Are there bugs that you can spend time watching? How is the sunlight making patterns on the ground? Beatrix Potter spent years studying nature and allowing it to inspire her art.

- Using your pencil, try to sketch your observations as accurately as possible. What shapes do you see? How can you use these shapes to create your drawing?

- Next, go over your drawing with watercolor. Start with a light layer of the paint so your paper doesn’t get too wet. You can always add more paint after the first layer dries.

- Once you’re done painting and your paper is dry, use a pen to go over your outline. Can you make up a story for your painting?

Visit mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home for downloadable activities.
STEM Activity: Seeds

Vocabulary:
- **STEM**: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
- **Seed**: Plant embryo that will grow into a plant if given the proper balance of light, water, and nutrients.

The Lesson:
- The seed planted two weeks should now be really growing! How big has the sprout gotten? What has happened to the seed in the bag? Can you tell what type of plant it is yet?
- Last week we learned that within a seed there are three important components that help it to grow. The embryo of a seed contains the genetic material of the plant that will soon develop. During its time in the seed, the embryo uses nutrients from the endosperm to help it grow. Finally, the seed coat helps protect these two delicate parts.
- This week we are going to play a matching game to learn about all the different types of seeds and what plants they eventually grow up to be!

The Activity:
- Lay down all the cards so that the picture of the seed is showing. Try to guess what plant each seed belongs to and then check the back to see if you’re right! After you go through them once, shuffle the cards and lay them down in a different order to see how many you remember.

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

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
Early Elementary Reading Activity

Read:
• Read *My Teacher* by Edie Evans which is included in your kit.

The Activity:
• What is the author’s purpose for *My Teacher*? Circle your answer.
  • to entertain          • to inform          • to persuade
• Have the child explain, write, or draw one example from the story of the author’s purpose.
• Read the following sentences aloud with your child.
  1. I learn so much from my teacher
  2. My teacher is the best
  3. My teacher is caring
  4. My teacher is creative
• Have the child add periods in the correct places.
• Have the child write their own sentence.

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

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome
My Teacher

Connections

Writing and Art
Draw a picture of your teacher. Write five words to describe him or her.

Social Studies
Teachers are helpful. Who else in your community is helpful? How do they help? Share your ideas with your class.
My Teacher

Words to Know

- caring
- creative
- helpful
- interesting
- smart
- talented

Focus Question

What makes a good teacher?
My teacher is the best.
My teacher is helpful.
My teacher is funny.

My teacher is creative.
My teacher is smart.

My teacher is talented.
My teacher is interesting.

I learn so much from my teacher. My teacher is the best.
Early Elementary Reading Activity

Name the pictures with students and have them listen to the initial sound of each word. For each picture that begins with the /t/ sound, have the students write the letter Tt on the line provided and color in the picture.

Want more? Find more LITERACY activity pages at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home
Upper Elementary Reading Activity

Read the following story then complete the activity.

True Life: I’m a Teacher
by Michael Stahl

When boys and girls go to school, they sit and learn from a person who is very important to each and every one of them. Their teacher does a lot of good things for them. Everybody knows that a teacher helps students learn things like math, science, reading, and writing. What some boys and girls may not understand is that teachers are also getting their students ready to live life as an adult. Teachers help kids to learn to behave the right way when in a large group of people. They also show kids that people must work hard to get what they want. Children probably would not grow up to be responsible people without the help of their teachers. Yet another thing about teachers that youngsters may not even think about is what teachers do outside of the classroom. Teachers actually do a lot of work when they are not in from of their students to make sure the students learn all of the lessons in the best possible way.

Erica Shields is a second grade teacher who works very hard, even when she is not inside the classroom. Her students know her as “Miss Shields.” They certainly appreciate all that Miss Shields says. “That is not correct at all.”

“A lot of people, including students, think a teacher only works from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.,” Miss Shields says. “That is not correct at all.”

On a normal school day, Miss Shields wakes up at 7 a.m., makes herself breakfast, takes a shower, and picks out a nice outfit to wear to work. “It
Upper Elementary Reading Activity (continued)

is important to dress the right way when a person teaches,” Miss Shields explains. “Teachers should look well-dressed, neat, and clean. They are supposed to set a good example for the kids, and proper clothing expresses that.”

Miss Shields leaves her home for school at 8 a.m. to make sure that she is in the building at about 8:35. That is a full 25 minutes before her students arrive and the class session begins. “I have to get there early to make sure I have all of my supplies ready and that they classroom is tidy.”

Throughout the school day, Miss Shields teaches a little bit of everything. She gets a break for lunch while her students eat too. On many days, she gets another break while her students to the gym for physical education or to the library for reading time.

At 3 p.m. she says goodbye to her students and drives back home.

During the late afternoon and early evening, Miss Shields has to correct any submitted classwork, homework, quizzes, or tests the students may have given her during the school day. “Grading all of these papers takes a long time because I have to show all of the students how to do things the right way if they got something wrong,” she says. “And that is only about half of what I have to do at home.”

Miss Shields will usually work between two and four extra hours at home after being at school for a little over six hours during the day. There have been some days where she has worked over seven additional hours.

“I do all of that work because I love my students,” Miss Shields says. “They need me to be ready for them every day, so I do whatever I have to do to be prepared.”
Upper Elementary Reading Activity (continued)

Comprehension Questions:
1. What is Miss Shield’s job?
   A. Miss Shields is a basketball coach.
   B. Miss Shields is a doctor.
   C. Miss Shields is a teacher.
   D. Miss Shields is a waitress.

2. What does this passage describe?
   A. This passage describes two students in Miss Shield’s class.
   B. This passage describes science textbooks.
   C. This passage describes what kids like to do after school.
   D. This passage describes the work of a teacher.

3. Miss Shields works hard.
   What evidence from the passage supports this statement?
   A. Miss Shields spends hours after the school day ends grading and planning lessons at home.
   B. A lot of people, including students, think a teacher only works six hours a day, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
   C. Miss Shields gets a break for lunch and when her students go to the gym for physical education or to the library for reading time.
   D. At 3 p.m. Miss Shields says goodbye to her students and drives back home.

4. Why might some people think that a teacher only works from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.?
   A. Some people understand that teachers help prepare their students for life as an adult by helping them learn how to behave when in a large group.
   B. Some people only see teachers working from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and do not realize that a teacher does a lot of work outside that time.
   C. Some students like math and science more than reading and writing.
   D. Miss shields believes that teachers should look well-dressed, neat, and clean.

5. What is this passage mostly about?
   A. a teacher named Miss Shields and the importance of teaching
   B. math, science, reading, and writing
   C. the right way to behave when you are in a large group of people
   D. what proper clothing for the classroom is
6. Read the following sentences: “Miss Shields also takes time to plan her lesson for the next day of school. ‘Teachers have to always be prepared,’ she says.”

What does the word prepared mean?
A. angry
B. afraid
C. happy
D. ready

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Miss Shields loves her students, _______ she works hard for them.
A. but
B. yet
C. so
D. never

8. How do teachers help students grow up to be responsible people?

9. Why does Miss Shields believe that teachers should look well-dressed, neat, and clean?

10. Reread the first paragraph of the passage. Does its description of teachers apply to Miss Shields? Use evidence from the passage to explain why or why not.
Teacher Times

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Create a newspaper article about your favorite teacher by filling in the blanks!

Teacher Checklist

- funny
- caring
- brave
- cool
- crafty
- happy
- smiley
- brilliant
- wise
- trustworthy
- considerate
- loving
- helpful
- fabulous
- silly
- thoughtful
- smart
- awesome

WORLD’S BEST TEACHER

When asked about this prize, the student said: “My teacher is amazing! My teacher is __________________. When my teacher __________________ with my class, it makes me so happy. I love being in my teacher’s class. My favorite thing to do with my teacher is __________________. My teacher is really great at __________________. My teacher is really the best teacher ever!”

The winning teacher (Draw a picture of your teacher.)
Labeling the Classroom Word Mat

Find the items on the picture of the classroom on the next page and write correct word in each bubble.

teacher  
boy  
girl  
bag  
clock  
pencil  
table  
ruler  
whiteboard  
rubber  
pen  
light  
scissors  
water bottle  
door  

glue  
chair  
book  
tray  
paper
Thank You Letter for Your Teacher

The school year is almost over! Use the below letter template to write or draw your teacher a thank-you letter for all that he/she did for you this year! Have your parents help mail or email the letter to your teacher.

Thank you for being a great teacher!

Dear ____________________________,

I really like that you ________________________________

____________________________________________________

You make me feel special when ________________________________

____________________________________________________

One of my favorite memories with you is ________________________________

____________________________________________________

The best thing you’ve taught me this year is ________________________________

____________________________________________________

I appreciate you!

Love, ____________________________