

KCC Family News

Kennedy Children's Center: Where Children, Families
& Communities Learn Together | August 2019



Enjoying Nature

From Executive Director Jeanne Alter

As the end of our summer program draws near, we continue to enjoy longer days and sunny skies, and the opportunity to enjoy all that the city has to offer. Helping children connect with what they **see, hear, and feel** is an important part of the learning process. Children learn new vocabulary (windy, salty, melting, fan etc.) as the words are associated with an experience. Learning that ice cream melts as you lick the sweetness off your fingers is much better than seeing a picture of ice cream on a screen or in a book. Sharing the joy of watching a bird flying overhead, or watching a squirrel run around the park provides the chance to see and hear different words and actions. Simple walks are filled with all kinds of learning opportunities. Special trips to the park or zoo are even more exciting!

We have loved learning together this past school year. We wish all our graduates the best of everything in Kindergarten and to our returning children, we can't wait to hear about your summer adventures!

Enjoy the next few weeks exploring together :)

Here are some simple ways to explore nature with your child at your local park or zoo:

Identify wildlife. Try taking a walk through the zoo or the park and identifying the different wildlife that you see -- squirrels, birds, dogs, turtles, ducks, trees, flowers, and so much more; there is life all around us!

Identify sounds. What sounds do the birds make? What sound does a dog make?

Explore textures and colors. How does the texture of a smooth rock compare to the rough, bumpy bark of a tree? What does your child see that is *green*? Ask questions and encourage your child to look around and enjoy the beauty of nature!

From plants, flowers, and trees, to birds, bugs, and critters big and small, there is so much to explore in the world around us, and it is all right at our fingertips!



Snack Recipe: Lion Grahams

What you will need:

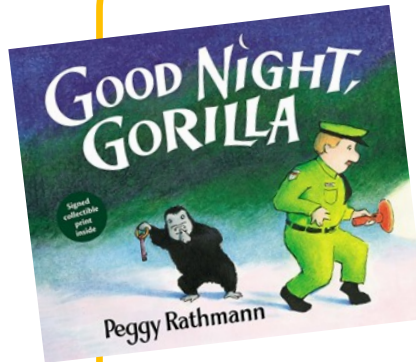
- Graham crackers
- Pretzel rods
- Pretzel twists
- Peanut butter, other nut-butter, or nut-free substitute
- Raisins and/or chocolate chips



Instructions: Spread peanut butter on one side of graham crackers. Arrange pretzel rods to create the lion's "mane", sandwiched between the two graham crackers. Using peanut butter (or substitute), raisins, pretzel twist, and chocolate chips, create the lion's face!



Our Favorite Animal Books



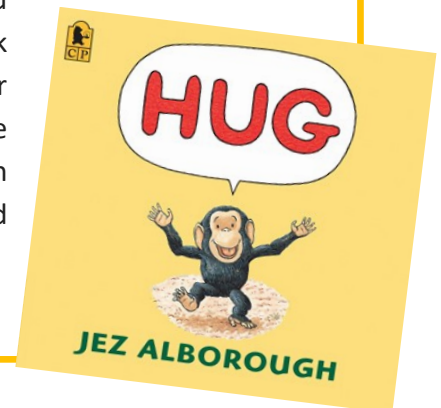
Good Night, Gorilla By Peggy Rathmann

This fun book only includes the words "Good Night" alongside pictures of the mischievous gorilla. "Good

Night Gorilla" gives parents the ability to get creative and tell your own story while looking at the pictures with your child.

HUG By Jez Alborough

"Hug" features pictures of baby animals and their parents and the word "hug", allowing you to talk about emotions with your child and identify the different animals pictured in this beautifully illustrated picture book.



Arts & Crafts Activity: Kinetic Sand

Enjoy a beach day at home with fun, moldable, less-mess sand!

Begin by combining play **sand** and **cornstarch** in a large bin or container. In a separate container combine 1 cup of water with 1 tsp of **dish soap**, and stir until the water is bubbly. Then, slowly add the **water mixture** to the **sand/cornstarch** and mix well. Add spoons, cups, and cookie cutters for additional fun!

