

Early Childhood Programming for our youngest learners



Art + Making Make a Memory Journal

Making a memory journal is a great way to work together to preserve the special memories of childhood.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Cardboard from cereal box
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Old magazines and scrap paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Decorative tape
- ☐ Brass fasteners
- ☐ Family photos

Directions:

1. Cut your cardboard box down into 2 pieces that are about 8 ½ x 6 inches. Next, cut your paper in half, so it's about the same size as your cardboard pieces.
2. Stack your cardboard pieces and punch 3, evenly spaced holes, into the side. Try and do it close to the edge! Next, repeat this by poking holes in the same spots on your paper.
3. Insert your brass fasteners to hold everything together!
4. Start to fill the pages with photos! Sometimes it's nice to use copies, so you and your child can decorate on or around the photos.
5. Add collage to the pages and the cover to give it a personal touch.



Wellness Card Deck Matching Game

Brain boosting games help exercise our brains and improve memory, focus & attention, and other cognitive skills in an engaging way. Try this DIY brain game to keep your memory sharp!



Materials Needed:

- ☐ Deck of playing cards
- ☐ Scissors

Directions:

1. Take a deck of cards and cut each card in half (hamburger style).
2. Mix up your cut cards.
3. Match cut cards with their matching half, sort by colors or suits, or have them play a memory game by flipping the cards over and matching them up two by two.



Tech Try Out

Busy Shapes app



Busy Shapes helps children improve their ability to handle simple objects through a series of puzzles, in which they must change simple shapes and place them in the proper holes. Along the way, the app responds to each child's actions with positive guidance and motivation.

Outdoor Exploration Pressing Flowers

It's May and it seems like flowers are popping up everywhere! Try preserving flowers to remember a beautiful bouquet or your favorite garden flower.

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Fresh flowers
- ☐ Heavy book (for example, dictionary or cookbook)
- ☐ Paper

Directions:

1. Choose flowers you would like to press. These can be flowers found outside, in the garden or a fresh flower bouquet.
2. Gather paper that will fit the size of your heavy book. Place your flowers on the paper. Give each of your flower space so they don't overlap. Place another piece of paper on top, making a flower sandwich.
3. Open the book and place your flower sandwich in between the pages. Put a bookmark on that page so you can find it again.
4. Close your book and put more heavy books on top to weigh it down. Check back on your flowers in a couple weeks and take them out once they are fully dried and pressed. Use your pressed flowers to make something beautiful!



Recipe Card

Cooking and eating meals together are great ways to make memories together! Use this blank recipe card to capture one of your favorite recipes. Start a collection of your most loved recipes or share one of yours with friends or family.

Ingredients Needed:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
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Directions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

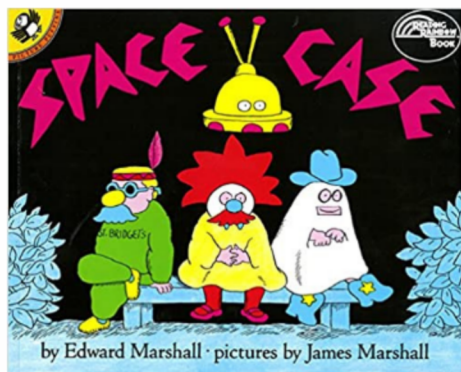
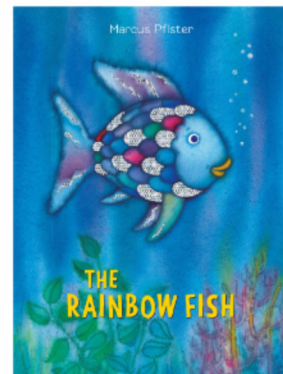
Book Memory Lane

The following book suggestions were selected by Museum staff and represent some of our own childhood favorites and the memories we have of reading them. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did as kids!

The Rainbow Fish

by Marcus Pfister

The most beautiful fish in the ocean, Rainbow Fish, learns that happiness is gained by sharing with others. This book made me feel strong emotions as a young child, empathizing with the Rainbow Fish when he was alone and finding it difficult to share his beautiful scales. I still reflect on the lessons taught by this book. – [Laura](#)



Space Case

by Edward Marshall

While trick-or-treating a boy and his friends meet a UFO traveling from outer space! This book is full of laughs as the humans try to explain planet Earth. I can remember reading this book with my mom (all year long!) and asking to dress up as the cowboy ghost for Halloween! – [Caitlin](#)

Alison's Zinnia

by Anita Lobel

An unusual alphabet book, Alison's Zinnia follows a chain of floral gift giving before circling back to the first person. I remember turning these pages into a guessing game with my sister where we would try to guess the next recipient and flower to be given. – [Alison](#)

