Butts County
Family Enrichment Center

October
2018

Inside This Issue

♦ How to Raise a Reader
♦ Halloween Activities for families
♦ October FEC Schedule
♦ Community Happenings

Daughtry
Elementary
Site
Sheryl Warner
Room: 107
Phone: 770-504-2356
Ext. 6107

Jackson
Elementary
Site
Christy Goolsby
Room: 203
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Stark
Elementary
Site
Alesia Greer
Room: 112
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Jackson, GA 30233

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How To Raise A Reader
By Kim Ratcliff

Settling into a comfy chair with your child to read a story is one of the best things about being a parent. And if you haven't already made reading a daily habit, you need to start now, since books benefit kids in so many ways. "First of all, reading with your child is a wonderful bonding experience," says Parents advisor Linda Acredolo, PhD, coauthor of Baby Minds. Your kid gets to bask in your undivided attention, which makes storytime truly magical. Reading every single day also helps your child learn to talk, expand her vocabulary, build her imagination, and get prepped for school. Our expert tips will get your child hooked on books for life.

Reading with Babies
You can't start the reading habit too early. At 3 to 6 months, your baby will be more interested in chewing her board books, but by the end of her first year, she'll probably pick out favorites.

Make Reading Fun
Go for the right touch (and taste!). Babies learn through their senses, so buy cardboard or cloth books that they can put in their mouth. Face it. Infants love looking at pictures of faces, especially those of other babies. Be silly. Is there a phone in the story? Say, "Ring, ring. Hello? I'm sorry Olivia can't take your call; she's in a meeting." Point out things in the real world. When you're taking a walk, talk about stuff you've read about in books. "See the doggie?" This will help her begin to associate the word "dog" with her picture book and the live creature in front of her.

Reading with Toddlers
Toddlers love simple picture books about a particular topic -- flowers, trucks, whatever. Books with movable parts are also irresistible, since lifting flaps and turning wheels make story-time extra fun.

Make Reading Fun
Tune in to your child. A toddler's attention span is short, so limit storytime to 10 minutes. If he's into it and wants to read more, that's fine; but if he seems bored, don't push it. Personalize the story. Make your child the star. Or substitute the kids or animals in the illustrations with family or friends' names: "Look, Jordan is driving the truck. Grandma is riding in the caboose."

Make Reading Fun
Get your child a library card. Going to the library is a fun ad-venture. Kids love dropping books into the return slot and making new selections. Be a social butterfly. Check out storytime at the bookstore or library. Your child will get a kick out of listening to a book with a group of kids. Choose a character series. Children this age become attached to certain characters, so don't pass up the chance to get her interested in more books. If she loved Max's quest for red-hot marshmallow squirts in Rosemary Wells's Bunny Cakes, chances are she'll want to see him get a makeover in Ruby's Beauty Shop. Accept his literary taste. Don't be bummed if all he'll read is Bob the Builder books. What matters most is that kids are reading, and books based on their favorite TV shows are fine.

Reading with Preschoolers
Reading becomes a fun game for Preschoolers as they become more active participants in story hour. Picture books are ideal for preschoolers who get even more meaning out of illustrations.

Make Reading Fun
Read books throughout the day. Bedtime stories are great, but you should also read before a nap, at snacktime, even when he first wakes up. Leaf through waterproof books in the tub too. Make books part of your emergency kit. Carry a few faves in your diaper bag. The next time the waitress takes forever, whip out a book and save the day.
5 Fun Halloween Activities for the Whole Family
by Katie Kavulla
http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/844191/5-fun-halloween-activities-for-the-whole-family

There’s so much more to Halloween than just trick-or-treating! Make Halloween special for your family this year by creating some fun new traditions that your kids will love. Here are five Halloween activities for families to enjoy!

1. Boo your neighbors or friends
This is a fun tradition that is sure to get your entire family in the spirit of Halloween. It’s known by a few different names, but the essence is always the same -- put together a little Halloween package filled with goodies and treats and leave it on the doorstep of your favorite neighbor. Include instructions that they need to pass the Halloween love along by doing the same to another neighbor. Don’t forget to include a cute “boo” sign that they hang in the front window of their home so that the entire neighborhood can tell they’ve been boo’ed and see how long it takes before everyone has a boo sign!

2. Visit the library for some spooky books
There are some really great, fun Halloween books and a trip to your local library to stock up on some for the holiday will surely spook-up your bedtime stories. A few that are worth hunting down include The Big Pumpkin by Erica Silverman, The Little Old Lady Who was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams and Megan Lloyd, and The Halloween Kid by Rhode Montijo. Reading Halloween books is the perfect way to gear up to the big night!

3. Plan a deliciously frightful dinner
Halloween pulls out all of the stops when it comes to creative recipes, so why not plan an entire meal full of Halloween recipes -- you can even make this a Halloween Eve tradition in your family! At a Halloween dinner, the most ordinary foods are magically transformed into their spooky counterparts -- spaghetti is brains or guts, olives become eye-balls and nuts become witch fingernails. Or, make some homemade pizza dough and decorate it as a jack-o-lantern using cut up veggies. For dessert, a graveyard cake covered in “dirt” will be a hit.

4. Have a Halloween fashion show
Do your kids have a huge collection of dress-up clothes? Pull them all out of the playroom for a silly Halloween fashion show -- make one room of your house the dressing room and let them go wild creating crazy costumes and creations. Once they’re dressed in their Halloween finest, have them walk the “scaredy-catwalk” to show off. For older kids, make some cards with costume ideas (a policeman, a chef, a fitness instructor, a parent, etc.), have them pick one idea from a hat and then make them pull together a costume to match that idea.

5. Turn out the lights for a night of ghost stories
Sometimes the most fun part of Halloween is that all of the activities happen in the dark! Families who are feeling brave can plan a night at home telling ghost stories -- pop some popcorn, build a fire in the fireplace and turn the lights off in the house to set the scene and then pass out flashlights and get the ghost stories going.

For more information about Family Enrichment Center Activities and community events follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Early learning paves the way for future school Success!
We are here to help you! If you want the friendly support of a fellow parent who can support your family during the critical early years, please contact one of our Parent Educators! We will be there with you through every step of this important time.

To schedule an opportunity to meet with one of our parent educators, please email us at fec@bcssk12.org or call your child’s elementary school.

Parents as Teachers
Playgroups will be held at each elementary school on Thursday, October 4th, 18th, and 25th at 10:30 am. Anyone living in Butts County with children under 5 years old is invited to attend.

There will be no playgroup on October 11th as we will be out on fall break with the schools.

Butts County Community Calendar

Barnyard Barktoberfest, Oct. 5
Barnyard Barktoberfest Bingo will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 5 at Jan and Burt’s Barn, 671 Halls Bridge Road, Jackson. The event will benefit Butts Mutts and will include food, drinks, games and prizes. Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. For more information, call 770-630-8394.

Artifact ID Day, Oct. 6
The 12th annual Seven Islands Artifact ID Day, held this year in memory of W.J. Shannon, will be from noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Indian Spring Hotel/Museum, 1807 Ga. Highway 42, Flovilla. Artifacts of all kinds can be brought to be identified by an experienced archaeologist. The museum and Elizabeth Harris Garden will be open for tours. The free event is sponsored by the Butts County Historical Society.

Movie Under the Stars October 6
Movie Under the Stars is back at Dauset Trails featuring "Coco". Showtime 7:15. Bring your chairs and blanket. Snacks permitted. Concessions will be sold. No pets, alcohol, or smoking allowed. This is a free event. See you at the Trails!

Cornhole tournament, Oct. 13
The city of Jenkinsburg will host a cornhole tournament presented by Uncle Chewy Entertainment at 6 p.m. Oct. 13. Two-person teams can register for $25. There will be trophies for first-, second- and third-place finishers. A cash prize will go to the first-place team. Contact City Hall at 770-775-4850 or Derrick Adams at 678-233-4781 to register. All proceeds will go toward a new special-needs park in Jenkinsburg.

High Falls Spookfest, Oct. 13
High Falls State Park, at 76 High Falls Park Drive, Jackson, will host High Falls Spookfest from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 13. The event will include a trick-or-treat trail, a glow-in-the-dark putt putt game, s’mores, food trucks and other activities. The cost is $6 per child. Attendees are asked to register in advance by calling 478-993-3053. The park is looking for volunteers for the trick-or-treat trail. Volunteers will decorate and host a trunk or table along the trail to pass out candy or do an activity with the trick-or-treaters. The best trunk or table will win a free night at one of the park’s yurts.

Butts County Fall Festival, Oct. 20
The Butts County Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Butts County Fall Festival, formerly Jackson Alive, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 20 on the Jackson square.