

ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

April 13, 2020

Dear Zoo-Friends,

Today we are going to **celebrate Spring** through the theme, “**Backyards, Bugs and Botany!**” and we are going to take all week to do it! The format is a little different from the past lessons but we think you’ll like it! Every day this week, you will receive three quick activities to do daily covering certain academic domains seen in **S.T.R.E.A.M.S.** (below).

Since we are all home, let’s discover Spring from our front or backyards! Always have a collection bag and a tablet and pencil ready to record your discoveries for discussions later!



PLEASE NOTE: S.T.E.M. is very important in the educational world (science, technology, engi-
neering, math). Well, Zoo-phonics does **STREAMS: science, technology** (looking up topics online,
viewing pictures, learning new information), **recreation** (movement and fitness – free and structured
physical activities), **engineering** (little hands building with blocks, Legos®, scissors, stirring, transfer-
ring, lacing – anything that uses the hands and fingers), **the arts** (art/music), **math**, and **socialization** (learning
about family, self, community, world).

Let’s see how many things you can discover in your yard, in books, and online this week. See lessons for “Older Children” below.

Two Critical Every Day Things to Do:

- 1) Signal and sound the “**a – z’s**” every day. Keeping the sounds and shapes of the alphabet in children’s memory banks is crucial! Watch our “Safari Sid” on YouTube and use your *Zoo-phonics Animal Alphabet Cards* for fun practice.
- 2) Read a wonderful **literature book** aloud every day! Today, try: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Signal and sound first letters in important words. Ask and answer questions. Involve your child in the reading.
 - a) Have him/her pretend s/he is a hungry caterpillar.
 - b) Find other “bug” books online.
 - c) Clap out the syllables in the words, “hungry” (2) and “caterpillar” (4).
 - d) Read, the Zoo-phonics Mini-Book, #37, “Inny Wins.” The lesson plans are included below.

S.T.R.E.A.M.S.

- 1) **Science:** Take a slow walk the yard and look carefully at everything! Listen to nature. Listen as your child talks. Provide names for things if s/he doesn’t know them. Signal the first sound in each important word. Look at leaves and flowers carefully. Look up at the sky. Are there any clouds? What shapes do they make? Look at bark and rocks up-close. Look under rocks. Do you see any bugs? Bees buzzing in the flowers? Are birds flying or making nests? Write down all the things you’ve seen and collect treasures in a baggie.
- 2) **Technology (New Ways to See the World):** If you saw a bird, bug, spider, flower, leaves, bark, rocks, grass, clouds, etc., look a few of them up on your phone or computer and learn more about them. (This teaches a child to research.)
- 3) **Recreation (Movement and Fitness):** As you walk around, stop and balance on one foot (arms spread out) and hold it for the count of 3 – 5 seconds. Now try the other foot. Do this three times. Breathe as you balance! Talk about right foot and left foot.

Activities for Older Preschoolers and Kindergartners

- 1) **Think, Analyze, Talk:** Use the activities found above, but provide more of a challenge for your older child(ren) by asking him/her/them to **analyze, evaluate, predict, verbalize thoughts** as you and your child participate. Together, record your findings on a deeper level. Ask your child to use **adverbs** (action words that describe the verb) and **adjectives** (words that describe the noun or subject) as they make interesting sentences.
- 2) **Word-Play:**
 - a) Look at the following words. See how they are structured. Pronounce them slowly and carefully: **bug, rock, insect; flow-er, grass, tree, cloud; bee, tree.** Signal and sound each.
 - b) Syllabicate the words by clapping.
 - c) If you have the Zoo-phonics Animal Letters, spell them. Signal and sound!
 - d) Have your child write the words (if s/he is ready) with his/her neatest handwriting.

Phonics and Signal Rules: Blends (i.e. “fl”) are Signaled and sounded one letter at a time and are done quickly. 2) /ck/ makes one /k/ sound but you Signal both letters. 3) Signal the two “ss” in grass but only make one /s/ sound. 4) The /ee/ makes the long /e/ sound – You Signal both “e’s” and say /eeeeee/!

- 3) **Math:** *Make up simple to more complex story problems.*
- a) If a rock cost 5 cents each, how much would 5 rocks cost? (25 cents).
 - b) If a flower cost 25 cents and you bought 4 of them, how much would that cost? (\$1.00).
 - c) Skip count to 25 by 5’s: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25!
- 4) **Rock Out!** Put on some crazy music and **run, jump, and hop** in place in the **sunshine** if possible – the house will work! (Rock out...get it? That was Robby Rabbit’s joke. He and the bugs made me add it!)

Magnifying Glass

Directions: Use the magnifying glasses to “read the room” phonemically. Give each student a letter and letter sound to locate. Have them find simple words on your word wall! They can be “detectives.” You can use these for science activities as well. Play “I spy.”

