

ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

June 2 2020

Dear Zoo-Friends,

This week's playful and physical lessons will help you celebrate **Quality Friends!** We will use our **S.T.R.E.A.M.S.** format. We've talked in the past about friendship and helping others. We feel that this concept is so important to child character development.

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

Science – all aspects of our physical world

Technology - looking up topics online, viewing pictures and videos

Recreation - movement and fitness – free and structured physical activities

Engineering - little hands building with blocks, Legos®, scissors, stirring, transferring, lacing, cooking – anything that uses arms, hands and fingers

The Arts - literature, art and music

Math – sorting, adding, subtracting, subitizing, measuring, time, comparing sizes/weights, etc.

Socialization - learning about self, family, community, world

Everyday!

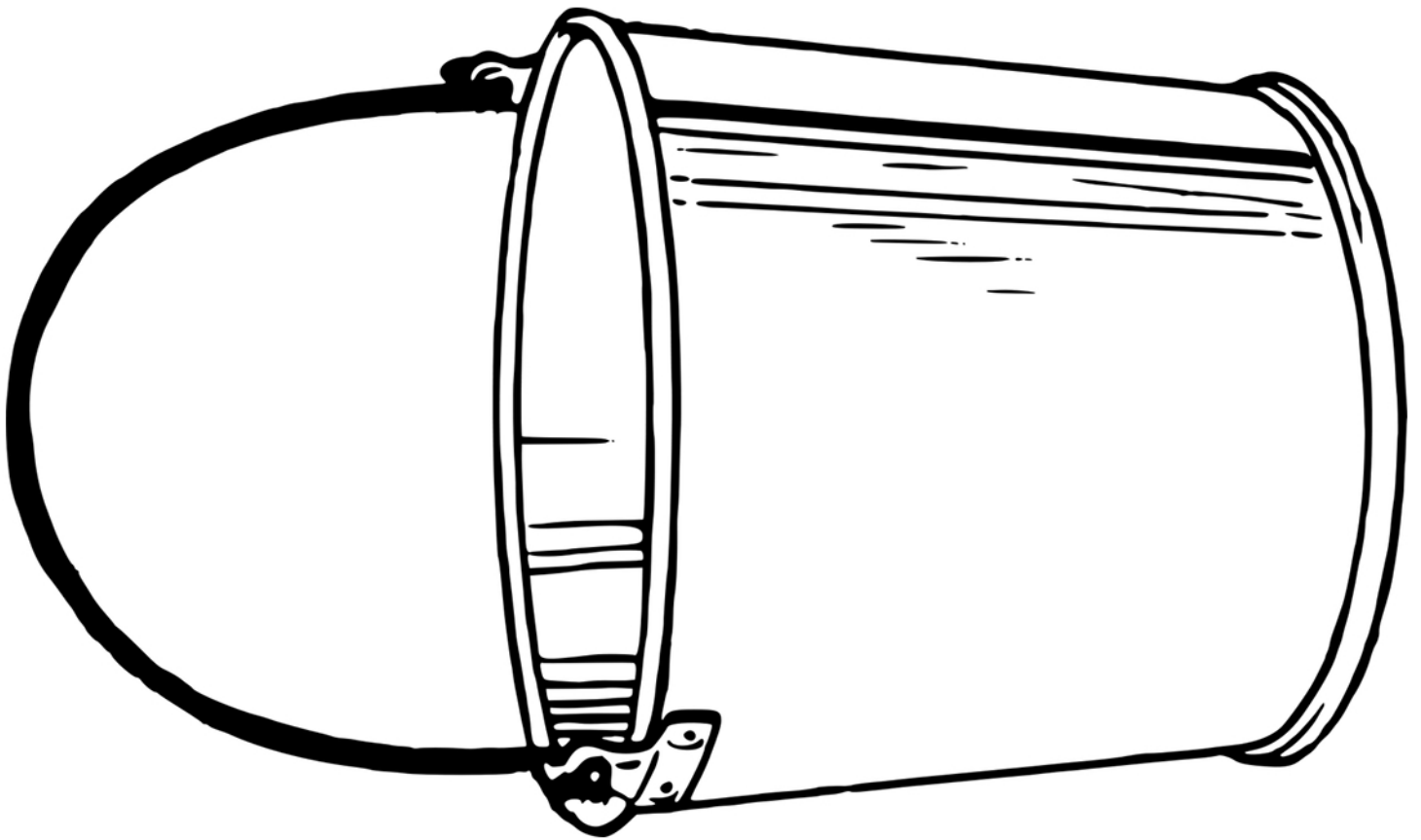
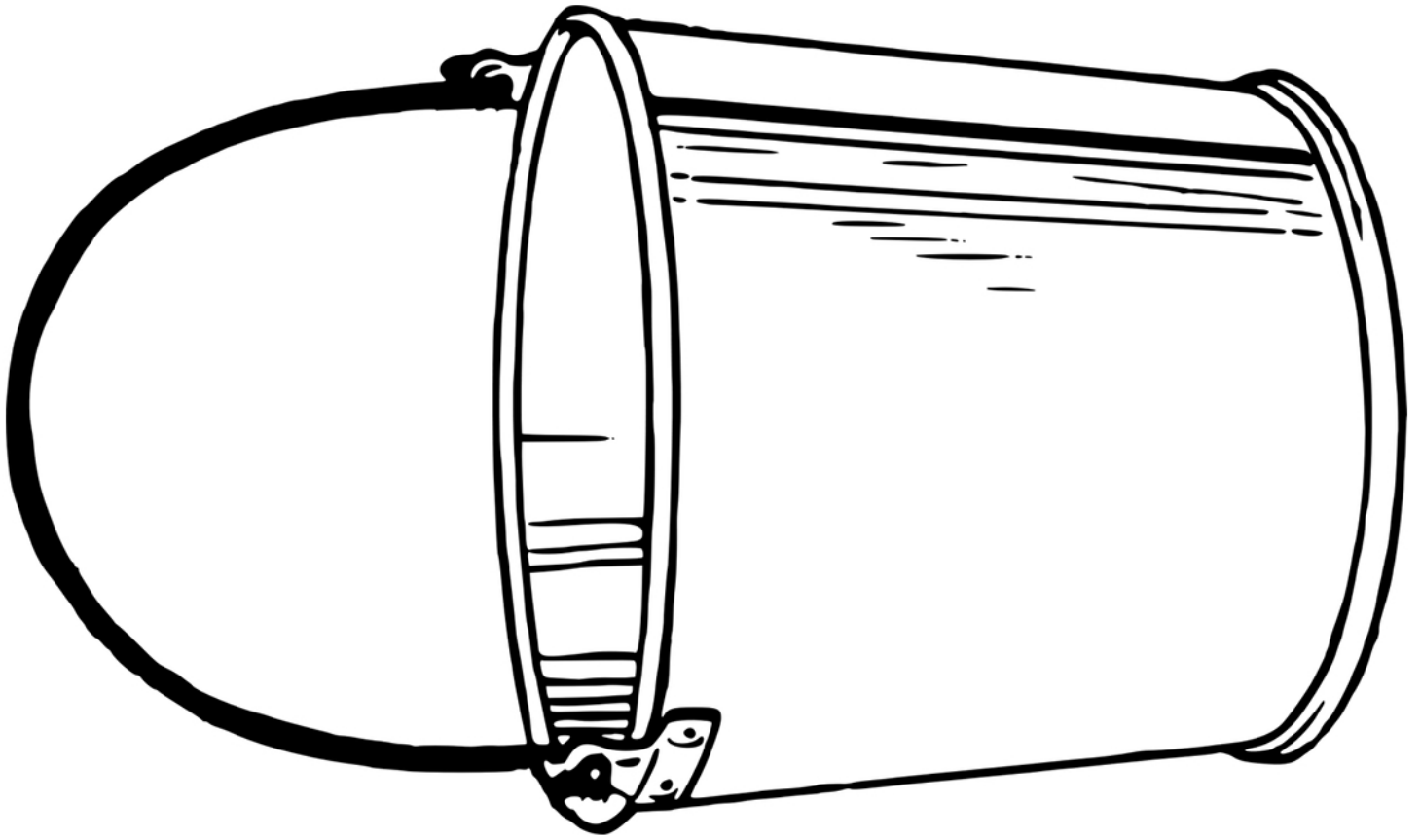
- 1) **Zoo-phonics:** Signal and sound the “a – z’s” today. Older children can practice their word lists. Are they improving? How about testing them this week. Make it fun not so serious! Signal and sound! Play different games with the *Lowercase Animal Alphabet Cards*.
- 2) **Literature:** Read a wonderful literature book aloud every day! This week, find books on **friendship**. Several weeks ago, we suggested a book called, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* written by Carol McCloud and illustrated by David Messing. There is a sequel to this book, also written by McCloud and Katherine Martin, called *Fill a Bucket*. which is created for even younger children. Both are good for all ages! This week, you and your children are going to fill “buckets” by being **helpful**, **kind**, **unselfish**, and **thoughtful**. You will also help your child(ren) to learn to say kind things to others as well.



Remember: When reading aloud and speaking, remember to Signal the first letter in key words, you are giving your child a visual cue to an auditory stimulus. Soon, your child will learn to cue him/herself when reading, spelling and writing! How exciting for them to be so empowered!

Tuesday's Lesson:

- 1) **Socialization & the Arts (Literature, Music, Art):** We are going to revisit the word “**friendship**.” We are going to call it “**quality friendship**” because Zoo-phonics has a very cute song called “Quality Friends.” Let's explore the word, “quality.” Relate this word to a toy that is well-made and a toy that is cheap and breaks right away.
 - a) Talk about learning how to be the very best friend (best = quality) we can be, to our family members and to our friends outside of our family. Spend time discussing ways to be kind. You have discussed before when we talked about friendship and when we talked about super-heroes.
 - b) If you have either book recommended above (every child needs these books!) talk about what it means to “**fill someone's bucket**.” The book says that everyone has an **invisible bucket**. (Do you really carry a bucket? No! It is invisible! You cannot see it.) So, how do we fill someone's “bucket” or have our own “bucket” filled? By kind words. By a sweet smile. By a hug. By taking the time to talk with someone. By giving a compliment (discuss this big word) to someone. By saying, “I love you.”
 - c) Clap out the syllables for the words: **bucket** (2), **invisible** (4), **quality** (3) **friends** (1), **compliment**(3), etc.
 - d) Look at your whole family. How did the day go today? Were some buckets filled today? Does anyone have an empty bucket? Think of ways you and your child can fill buckets for other siblings, parents, grandparents and even neighbors.
 - e) **Art/Music:** Make enough copies of the buckets and words so that every family member can have one. While you are coloring the “buckets” (see buckets and words below) today, put on some music that makes you and your child happy! Find the song, “**You are My Sunshine!**” What a happy song! Once colored, tape the buckets to your wall or refrigerator. Make copies of the words and let your child color them too. Cut them apart so they are ready to glue or tape to buckets! Talk about the words so your child understands them. (Depending on the age of your children, keep it simple to more advanced!) Make them for grandparents and neighbors. What a nice thing to hand to someone who needs their bucket filled!



Research shows that smiles, laughter and kindness is contagious. Next time you are in a store, smile at the clerk. Tell her or him, “great job! Thank you!” Try to say as many kind words or do as many acts of kindness as you can. It becomes a way of life.

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| 1. You are a good friend. | 16. You are my sunshine! |
| 2. You are so smart! | 17. Here's a hug! |
| 3. You are awesome! | 18. I am proud of you. |
| 4. You are amazing! | 19. You are a great helper. |
| 5. You have very nice manners. | 20. You make me laugh! |
| 6. I like the way you dress! | 21. You have a very sweet personality. |
| 7. You have a great (giggle, chuckle) laugh. | 22. You have courage. |
| 8. I appreciate all that you do for me. | 23. I can always count on you. |
| 9. You are a very strong person. | 24. You're even more beautiful inside and out! |
| 10. Thank you for being responsible. | 25. You stick up for those who need it. |
| 11. I like the way you think. | 26. Thank you for being you. |
| 12. I'm grateful that you are my friend. | 27. You're a great listener. |
| 13. I am grateful that you are my mom. | 28. You are very “oh, la la!” |
| 14. I am grateful that you are my dad. | 29. You make me feel safe. |
| 15. I am grateful that you are my grandparent. | 30. Spending time with you is the BEST! |