



# Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids

SPARK Family Newsletter: April 13, 2020

## SPARK Parent Partners Are Here For You!

Even though home visits are postponed right now, parent partners are still available.

### We can:

- Read to your child
- Conduct FaceTime or Zoom lessons
- Share activity ideas to do at home
- Connect you to community resources
- Listen!

We have also been sharing so much fun content on our Facebook pages, just for families!

We continue to offer video storytime sessions and lots of fun activities.

**Facebook Live Storytime:** Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 7:00, on our **SPARK Ohio Stark** Facebook page.

## Home Learning Resources

[coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/family-activities/resources-for-parents-and-families](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/family-activities/resources-for-parents-and-families)

## Unemployment Information

[jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm](https://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm)

## Food Resources

[akroncantonfoodbank.org](https://akroncantonfoodbank.org)  
[starkhunger.org](https://starkhunger.org)

School districts are offering grab-and-go meals for children ages 1-18. Your school district's website will have the details.

## April's Focus: Spring & Nature

Spring is such a fun time!

The world around us is changing: the temperature, the ground, and the trees and animals too.

Look out the window or go for a walk together, and ask your child about what's going on outside. You can help by asking questions: *what do you see? What color is that flower? Do you see a bird in that tree?* This is a great time to play *I Spy* to strengthen your child's observation skills: say *I Spy a rabbit*, or even *I Spy an animal that hops*.

Talk about the weather outside. Is it warm or cold? Sunny or cloudy?

After you return home, have your child draw the things they observed.

When you read together, look at the pictures to try and figure out whether it's springtime in the book, just like it is at home.

Even your own yard is full of fun learning opportunities. Look for sticks in the yard, and sort them by size. Are there more big sticks, or little ones? How many have one pointed end, and how many have two points?

Sticks are helpful for writing practice, too. Use a stick to write your child's name (either in the dirt, or with water on the sidewalk), and then have your child trace the name.



## Letters to Practice Now

**G** (green, grass, garden, go)

**B** (bloom, blue, bunny, big, bird)

## Song: The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy spider  
Climbed up the water spout.

Down came the rain,  
And washed the spider out.

Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain.

And the itsy, bitsy spider  
Climbed up the spout again.

**Do the motions while you watch the video together!**

[youtube.com/watch?v=xwKX6m2tCR4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=xwKX6m2tCR4)



## Online Activities



**Lunch doodles with author Mo Willems:** [kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/](https://kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/)

Find the Cincinnati Zoo on Facebook for a **live home safari** every day at 3:00.

**Scholastic learn-at-home resources:** [classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html](https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html)

Follow the **Early Childhood Resource Center** on Facebook for lots of fun activities and storytime sessions from around the globe.

**And follow SPARK on social media:**

- Facebook: @SPARKOhio
- Facebook: @SPARKOHStark
- Instagram: SPARKOhio
- YouTube: SPARK Ohio



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