



Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids

Fall 2022 Family Newsletter

Why SPARK?

You already know that SPARK gives your family a head start in getting ready for kindergarten.

Don't keep it to yourself: make sure you tell your friends and neighbors why they should join SPARK too!

- SPARK makes getting ready for school fun!
- Your family gets support from their very own parent partner, who's a readiness expert.
- SPARK families get free books, supplies, and activities!
- SPARK kids start school ready and eager to learn!



Fall is Color Time!

Fall is the most colorful season of all, which makes it perfect for learning! Just step outside: you will see the color party happening all around you!

Can you find these colors?

- Green grass
- Yellow grass
- Brown leaves
- Green leaves
- Yellow leaves
- Brown tree trunks
- Green stems
- Yellow flowers
- Brown pine cones

The foods we eat in fall are very colorful too! It's a great time to try some new flavors. Here are just some of the delicious foods we eat this time of year:

- Apples
- Figs
- Potatoes
- Beets
- Grapes
- Pumpkins
- Broccoli
- Green Beans
- Spinach
- Cabbage
- Kale
- Squash
- Carrots
- Onions
- Sweet potatoes
- Cranberries
- Pears
- Zucchini
- Eggplants
- Peppers

Eating lots of different colored foods helps keep your body healthy, and it's lots of fun for your eyes, too!

How many colors will you eat today?



Letters to Practice Now

Ff (festival, feast, food)

Gg (gourd, grain, game)

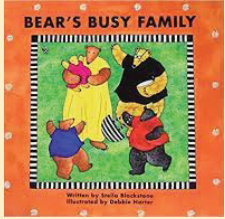
Ww (warm, windy, weekend)



Oh no! Baby Bear and his friends are hiding, but it's time for their lunch! Do you see them on this page?



What We're Reading Now: Fall Edition



If you're in the three-year-old program, you might be reading *Bear's Busy Family*.

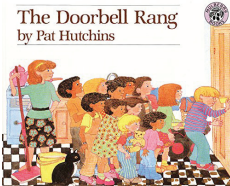
This can be a busy time of year for families, filled with sights, sounds, and flavors—and lots of people.

Whenever others are around, we can make sure they know how special they are to us by using our kindness and helping skills.

If you have large family gatherings coming up during the winter months, this is a great time to talk with your child about what family members and friends might attend, and to work on making each person their very own drawing as an act of kindness.

Learn More Online!

- Sing *We are a Family* with Jack Hartman: bit.ly/3RLbOoA
- Short, vivid video about the power of kindness: bit.ly/3qEALpxtr
- Sesame Street's catchy kindness song: bit.ly/3eLSwA7



If you're in the four-year-old program, you might be reading *The Doorbell Rang*.

Sharing is another way we help the important people in our lives know how special they are to us. And sharing sometimes means dividing what we have so that everyone can have some.

Dividing is another way of saying *splitting something up*, and it's a helpful math skill to practice.

Believe it or not, one easy way to practice is to sort clean laundry together! For instance, if you have three empty laundry baskets and six socks, how many socks should go into each basket so that each basket has the same number of socks?

Learn More Online!

- Sharing cookies with Elmo and Cookie Monster: bit.ly/3Q4nSUy
- Play a sharing game with Curious George: to.pbs.org/3dg6wCw
- Rock out to the Musical Dots' *Sharing Song*: bit.ly/3B9bPZ2





Ten Frames: Your Math Friend!

A **Ten frame** is a great tool we use in SPARK to help children learn to **subitize**.

Subitizing is a skill we develop after we learn to count. It's the ability to instantly recognize how many items there are—without counting each individual item.

A ten frame is a set of ten boxes. There's one right below this sentence.



Placing one item in each box helps a child understand what a group of ten looks like without needing to count. The items you use can be any little things you happen to have on hand in multiples of ten: ten coins, ten small candies, or ten checkers, for instance.

To use a ten frame, place one item in the first box and then count that item with your child. Then place an item in the second box; count together again. Keep adding items (and counting) until you reach ten. Now, count together as you remove the items, one by one.

Using a ten frame also helps children strengthen their counting, addition, and subtraction skills.



There are lots of fun ways to use a ten frame together. Go online to explore:

Videos

Do the ten frame dance: bit.ly/sparkten1

The *Subitize Super Fast* song: bit.ly/sparkten2

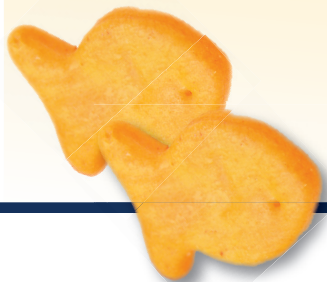
How many more to make ten? bit.ly/sparkten3

Online Games

Ten frame baking activities: bit.ly/tensparkgame1

Build a monster ten frame: bit.ly/tensparkgame2

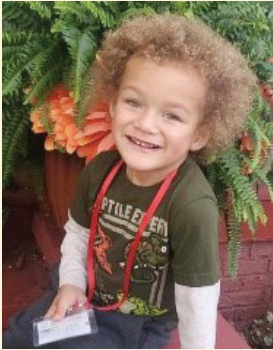
More ten frame practice: bit.ly/tensparkgame3



How many of Baby Bear's friends are on this page?



Jump to the Letters: A Story of Active Readiness



Mateo’s mom was concerned that his big, high-energy personality might make getting ready for school a challenge.

But Maria, the family’s SPARK parent partner, knew exactly what to do. She worked closely with Mateo’s mom to create a learning plan that was just right for Mateo.

Every time Maria came for a SPARK visit, she brought lots of activities that used Mateo’s energy and personality to help him learn. Maria would hide items throughout the room and ask Mateo to search for them. She would play music and count with Mateo as they danced

and stretched. She would ask him to **jump, jump, jump**: jump to the letters of his name and jump to counted numbers.

By engaging his body *and* his brain, Mateo got ready for school.

He’s still got a really big personality, but now that he’s in school, Mateo has learned to sit and listen for longer periods of time. He’s off to a great start!



The Leaves on the Trees

Sing to the tune of *The Wheels on the Bus*

The leaves on the trees are orange and brown,

Orange and brown,

Orange and brown.

The leaves on the trees are orange and brown,

All over town.

The leaves on the trees are falling down,

Falling down,

Falling down.

The leaves on the trees are falling down,

All over town.

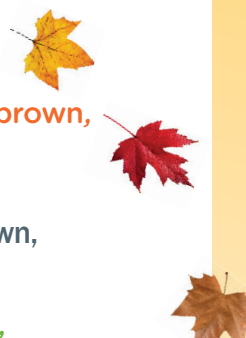
The leaves in the wind go round and round,

Round and round,

Round and round.

The leaves in the wind go round and round,

All over town.



Let’s be Social!

Follow us for lots of fun activities and highly shareable content:

• **Facebook:**

@SPARKOhio

@SPARKOHStarkSummit

• **Instagram:** SPARKOhio

• **YouTube:** SPARK Ohio

We love to see what our SPARK families are up to, so don’t forget to tag us in your photos!



Watch the video together online, bit.ly/allovertown and discover an extra verse!

It’s the end of the newsletter! How many total bears did you find?