

PARENT TIMES



Mar. 2013 Vol. 38 No. 5

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Welcome Spring!

Spring is almost here, and with spring comes refreshing. Whether it is refreshing our closets, spring cleaning, or doing something that we've always wanted to do but put off, spring is the time to get started.

Spring is also the start to longer days, nicer weather, and more activities for us and our kids. As parents this can be a very busy time. We'd like to take this time to thank all of you that have already given some of that precious time to NCPG by participating in a couple of our spring events.

First we had our **Spring Family Event** at All Saints Episcopal Day School at the end of last month. This was a new venue for us and everyone had a great time. Thanks so much to **Debbie Alders** and **Kristin Magin**, our two Special Events Directors for organizing such a fun event for us – from the food to the petting zoo, everything was amazing!

Second we had our **Corks for Kids Annual Fundraiser** on March 9th. We would like to thank everyone who contributed and supported NCPG. This event was not only a really fun night out with our friends and spouses, but it was also hugely successful for our organization.

If you didn't know, NCPG membership dues only cover a portion of what keeps our organization running, so events like Corks for Kids are instrumental in keeping our organization alive and providing us a venue for new friendships, camaraderie and education.

Thank you so much to **Jennifer Rutledge** and **Kori Shapiro**, our Fundraising Directors, for executing every detail flawlessly and ensuring our event was a success!

We are still looking for a couple more people to join the **2013-2014 NCPG Board**. If you are interested, please e-mail director@ncpgaz.org.



We hope for the remainder of the month you enjoy this beautiful weather by organizing play dates amongst your classes. This is the perfect time to get out to the park or the zoo and cultivate our mommy friendships and also our kiddo's friendships.

We hope everyone has a safe and fun St. Patrick's Day and wonderful Easter!

Lisa Barnes & Tricia Rochford

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Join The NCPG 2013-14 Board!

We are currently looking for members who want to become more involved with NCPG. We have 19 Board positions, most of which work with a partner to keep NCPG running efficiently and successfully. If you are interested in joining the Board for next year or know someone who would be a great addition, we would love to speak with you! Please contact Lisa and Tricia at director@ncpgaz.org

Decorating Easter Eggs with Kids

Easy, Eggcellent Ideas for Springtime Coloring Fun

Easter is one of those holidays that while the day itself is always a wonderful celebration, the weeks leading up to it is also a big part of the festivities. From planning Easter egg hunts to meeting with the bunny and filling baskets there is always something fun to do. This is especially true for decorating Easter eggs. Sure, it would be easy enough to buy one of those coloring kits from the store, but with a little advanced planning and creative thinking, you can turn dyeing Easter eggs into a fun family activity. Here are some easy ideas that even the littlest of preschoolers can get involved with.

- Place different rubber bands of different widths across the diameter of the egg in different directions. Have fun removing and adding bands as you put the eggs in different dyes. See what kinds of color combinations you can make.



- This one is messy, but fun. Brush craft glue onto eggs and then roll in glitter for a sparkly finish.

(continued on page 5)

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NCPG is a non-profit, non-denominational organization providing classes to parents of infant to pre-school age children.

www.ncpgaz.org



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Parent Times

Members, this monthly newsletter is for YOUR benefit, so we want to ensure our team is publishing content that is valuable, useful, informative, and fun! We don't want this to be something that gets lost in your stack of mail. Please let us know if you have suggestions, comments, concerns, or any input that would help us to improve this publication. Thanks for your help!



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Women Struggling with Secondary Infertility, I Understand Now!

by Tavia Fuller Armstrong, Fertility Bridges

I used to get really mad at the women who were battling secondary infertility. After waiting in line for what seemed like forever and what was, literally, years on end, I didn't think it was fair that women who'd already had a child should be complaining that they could not have another. To me, it was as if they'd been among the first in line at the church potluck, grabbed a great slice of pie and returned to the line for seconds while those of us suffering from primary infertility had still not made it to the buffet table even once. I knew better than to think that their ability to get pregnant had any bearing on mine, but I couldn't help feeling the way I felt.

After I had my twins, I felt the longings for another baby stir within me as I boxed up the cute baby clothes they'd outgrown at the end of each season. More than once, I found myself holding a sweet little outfit and crying, knowing that a season of our life had passed and my babies would never be so tiny again. The hardest part was knowing that we would definitely not be doing IVF again, and that our chances of conceiving on our own were practically non-existent.

For the first time, I sort of understood the women who'd desperately wanted another child. Always before, I thought they should just be happy with what they had, because even with just one child, they were so much more blessed than me. Some of them even had two or three kids and wanted another. I was jealous, I was angry, and a part of me honestly hated them for having what I'd started to believe I might never have.

With my arms so full of love and joy, holding beautiful, healthy twins, I felt guilty for even thinking of wanting another child. I always managed to stuff the feelings back down and close them away like the box of old clothes I stored for my next garage sale. But like the few little outfits too precious to let go, I couldn't get rid of some of the feelings of longing that would come rushing back when I least expected them.

As I said, we had decided not to pursue IVF again, partly because of the cost and partly because it was a very difficult procedure for me. The progesterone shots in particular were horribly painful, and the emotional rollercoaster was something I did not want to ride while taking care of young children. We did not have any leftover embryos to freeze after our first procedure, so we would have been starting from the beginning.

Our youngest daughter came as a true surprise. There was not one treatment of any kind involved in her conception. I call her "God's little bonus" because she was truly an unexpected gift. I'm extremely grateful for her, and for all my kids, and I definitely understand how badly a couple could want a second or third child. I don't hate anyone for wanting another baby now, and I realize it was only my own pain and jealousy that made me feel that way before I had kids. Infertility hurts in so many ways. Today, I hope everyone who wants another baby, or a first baby, will be blessed with the family they long for one way or another.

At Fertility Bridges, we understand the years of trial and frustration that infertility can bring. Our goal is to lend a hand and provide solutions and answers. At Fertility Bridges our staff is made up of parents who have worked with surrogates and egg donors to have their children, as well as experienced surrogates and egg donors who have helped make families dreams come true through their participation in creating the miracle of life. We gladly help all types of families achieve their family building-dreams.

www.fertilitybridges.com



Decorating Easter Eggs with Kids

(continued from page 3)



- Get a bunch of stickers from the craft or dollar store and let your preschooler stick them on white or dyed (make sure they are dry first) eggs wherever they like.
- Turn Easter eggs into tiny friends with google eyes, tiny candies, yarn and markers. Have kids make faces using the various materials. Can they make one for every member of the family?
- Make jewelry-box worthy gem eggs by glueing flat-sized jewels in different shapes and colors all over your egg. Finish by outlining each gem with gold and silver glitter glue.
- You can produce gorgeous swirled eggs by simply adding a little vegetable oil to each container of dye/water mixture. Put the egg in the dye and gently swirl it around with a spoon. Pat dry and repeat with as many different colors as you like.
- Once you have hard-boiled the eggs and they are still warm, let your little one color on them with crayons. The heat from the egg should melt the wax a little, making for a cool effect.
- Glue small objects such as elbow macaronis, buttons and beads onto the eggs. When the glue is dry, you can paint for a colorful look or leave as is.
- Dye eggs as usual, or paint them. When they are your desired shade, take sponges that have been cut into fun shapes (duck, bunny, flower, etc.) and dip them into white paint and then onto the eggs.
- If you are confident in your drawing abilities or are just doing a random design, color on each egg using a white crayon. Dip into dye and wait for your results to appear.



THIS IS MY

...became a GIRL SCOUT, got to zip-line, baked cupcakes, flew a plane, conquered shyness, rode a horse named Chloe, discovered my strengths, shot an arrow, became an actress, climbed a mountain, had a spa day, bonded with others, learned to lead, made lifelong friends, when can I go back again?

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News & Events



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended "CORKS FOR KIDS" ANNUAL FUNDRAISER PARTY & SILENT AUCTION.

It was an amazing night of food, fun and friends all coming together to support NCPG. We appreciate everyone's support!



Join the NCPG Board for 2013-2014

We are currently looking for members who want to become more involved with NCPG. We have 19 Board positions, most of which work with a partner to keep NCPG running efficiently and successfully. If you are interested in joining the Board for next year or know someone who would be a great addition, we would love to speak with you! Please contact Lisa and Tricia at director@ncpgaz.org

Join us for an ALL NCPG Playdate!

Wednesday, April 3rd at 4 pm
at Arcadia Park

This playdate is for all of our members, so if you have an infant, or a preschooler, please come to enjoy the afternoon with NCPG. We will have shady areas set up as well as snacks and drinks for the kids. Hope you all can make it!

NCPG Class Calendar

This is just a reminder of our remaining class dates and our class schedule:

Day Classes

- Nursery opens at 8:45am
- Refreshments are served in Nelson Hall from 9-9:25am
- Classes are held from 9:30am to 11:30am (Please be on time to participate in "Hot Topics")
- Nursery closes at 11:35am
- Pre-Infant class is from 11:45am to 1:45pm
 - March 27th
 - April 24th
 - April 10th
 - May 1st

Evening Classes

Classes are held from 6:15pm to 8:15pm

- March 20th
- April 17th
- April 3rd
- May 8th

Peek – Aren't You Curious?

Peek at Fashion Square is partnering with NCPG!

Our members will enjoy a 10% discount off all regular priced items in the Peek store at Fashion Square on Thursday, March 21st from 10am to 12pm. Grab your

classmates and head on over for a fun Mom's Morning Out and Shopping Treat! Don't forget to mention that you are a member of NCPG to get your discount.

New Arrival!

Please welcome this new addition to our NCPG family!



Patrick Michael Burns

January 10, 2013

Weight: 8 lbs, 12 oz

Height: 21 inches

Parents: Jen and Adam

Big Sisters: Nancy Kate and Adelyn



NCPG MOM to MEET: Didi Chan

Stats:

Husband: Quentin

Son: Kingsley (3)

Born, raised & lived:

Born & raised in China until age 11.

Immigrated to the US to Pittsburgh, PA

City & years married:

Married at Wynn Las Vegas; 5 years

Career or previous career:

SAHM/Recovery Room Nurse

Non-mother hobby:

Photography

5 words to describe yourself:

Perfectionist, Direct, Passionate, Inquisitive
and Organized

Favorite vacation spot:

Hong Kong

Favorite adult spot to dine in town:

Roka Akor

Favorite children's book to read:

"How Did You Grow Big So Fast?"

Favorite family hangout:

Watching Kingsley ride his bike in the backyard
while hubby and I drink lattes

Rules to mother by:

Routines make everything work!

Most meaningful mom moment:

When Kingsley asked for my hands at bedtime and
said he wants to hold my hands forever

Best mothering advice given to you:

Kids will get the potty training on their own time

Who introduced you to NCPG?

Suzanne Vanderhoff

Best thing learned in class this year?

Giving kids 2 positive choices.

And who's your teacher?

Barb - the Greatest!





March Things to Do!

Disney's Little Mermaid Jr

Fri-Sun Feb 22-Mar 24

Ariel, the mermaid, longs to leave the sea behind and live on land. 7:30pm Fri-Sat, 1 & 3pm Sat-Sun. \$15. Reservations recommended. Scottsdale Desert Stages Theatre, 4720 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale. 480-483-1664 or desertstages.org

Old Macdonald

Wed-Sun Mar 6-17

Make animal noises and have fun with the famous farmer. 10am Wed-Sat, 2pm Sat-Sun. \$10 adults, \$7 children, under 2 free with another paid child admission. Reservations recommended. Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W Latham. 602-262-2050 or azpuppets.org

Native Words, Native Warriors and Navajo Code Talkers:

Photographs by Kenji Kawano

Oct 27-Mar 31

Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit, focuses on the important role Native languages played during the 20th century. Exhibit also includes "Navajo Code Talkers: Photographs by Kenji Kawano" as well as art and artifacts. 9:30am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun. Included with admission: \$18 adults, \$7.50 ages 6-12/students, ages 5 & under free. Heard Museum, 2301 N Central Ave. 602-252-8848 or heard.org



Spring Butterfly Exhibit

Through May 12

Expect to see Giant Swallowtails, Great Southern Whites, Zebra Swallowtails, Queens, Julias, Painted Ladies and Malachites among others. 9:30am-5pm. \$3.50 with paid admission; \$18 adults, \$10 ages 13-18, \$8 ages 3-12. Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy. 480-941-1225 or dbg.org



Carousel Charity Horse Show

Thurs-Sun Mar 14-17

All ages. More than 350 horses, live entertainment, kids activities,

vendors and more. Proceeds benefit veterans, first responders and needy families. Gates open at 9am. Free; donations accepted. WestWorld, 16601 N Pima Rd, Scottsdale. carouselcharityhorseshow.com



MIM Celebrates St. Patrick's Day.

Sat-Sun Mar 16-17

All ages. Celtic music, Irish Step and Ceili dance lessons, exhibit talks and crafts. 11am-4pm. Included with admission: \$18 adults, \$14 ages 13-19, \$10 ages 4-12, ages 3 & under free. Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E Mayo Blvd. 480-478-6000 or themim.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade & Faire.

Sat Mar 16

All ages. Step dancers and Irish bands, arts & crafts vendors, inflatable rides, face painting, petting zoo and more. 10am parade; Faire immediately following parade. Parade is free; Faire is \$10 adults, \$1 ages 6-12, under 6 free. Parade travels south from 3rd St & Sheridan to Margaret T Hance Park, 1106 N Central Ave. phxirish.org

St. Patrick's Day Tumble Time.

Sun Mar 17

Ages 1-12 (with an adult for ages under 6). Unstructured play time in the gym. Wear green and receive \$1 off admission. 10-11:30am. \$5-\$8/child, parents free. Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics & Dance Center, 3110 E Thunderbird Rd. 602-992-5790 or arizonasunrays.com





Free Easter Bunny Photos

Fri-Sun Mar 22-30

All ages. Free downloadable photo with the Easter Bunny. 11am-9pm Fri-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun. Desert Ridge Marketplace, 21001 N Tatum Blvd. shopdesertridge.com/bunny.

McDowell Mountain Music Festival.

Fri-Sun Mar 22-24

All ages. Bands, Kid's Zone, marketplace and more. Proceeds benefit children's charities. Gates open 4pm. \$40-\$55. Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N 3rd Street. mmmf.net

Meet Peter Rabbit.

Sat Mar 23

All ages. Meet and play with the beloved character and bring your camera for a photo. Noon-3pm. Free. The Doll House & Toy Store, 16447 N Scottsdale Rd #D115, Scottsdale. 480-948-4630 or azdollhouse.com



Easter Egg Hunt Sat-Sun Mar 30-31

Ages 1-10. Prize-filled eggs and the Easter Bunny (Sunday only). Bring your own basket. 10am egg hunts start. Free. Enchanted Island Amusement Park, 1202 W Encanto Blvd. 602-254-1200 or enchantedisland.com



Egg Hunt for the Elephants Sun Mar 31

All ages. The resident elephants will enjoy paper mache Easter eggs filled with tasty fruit. Call for times. Included with admission: \$20 adults, \$10 ages 3-12, ages 2 & under free. Phoenix Zoo, 455 N Galvin Pkwy. 602-273-1341 or phoenixzoo.org



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Gaga is fun to dance to and we love singing along with The Beatles, but did you know this?

by Mary Goodman, Musicology



We have a riddle: what makes your baby or child bounce, smile, speak her first words, think creatively, pay attention, learn cooperation with peers AND develop motor skills? Ta-da! It's...MUSIC!

Music is the one activity that lights up all areas of the brain. Children who grow up hearing, singing and moving to music are experiencing a "rich sensory environment". That is, the more they are exposed to, the more neural pathways are forged between the cells in their brain.

Food For The Brain

When a baby is first born her brain is only 25% wired. By age 1 her brain will be 75% wired and by age 3 her brain is 90% wired. That means we have our work cut out for us in the very important first three years! As caregivers we have the awesome task of giving our babies the love, security and sensory-rich environment needed to develop their brain, and give them the best start in life. Music has many key elements that feed the brain in a variety of ways.

Music Is Pattern

The brain is a pattern seeking organ, and what better way to demonstrate patterns than through the joy of music! Music IS pattern. For example, a simple song like the beloved "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" showcases musical form and pattern perfectly. We all know the simple melody and lyrics that begin the song, "Twinkle twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are". The middle portion has a contrast in melody and lyrics "Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky", and then the first line repeats again. This simple musical form, or pattern, may seem trivial to us as adults but our children are absorbing this information to form new connections in their brains. As their brain memorizes these patterns they are more prepared to learn patterns in preschool and grade school that help with mathematics, problem-solving and critical thinking.

Music Helps With Focus and Attention

Music does, in fact, train areas of the brain involved with focus and attention. Ever notice that when your child is fussy just singing and dancing can engage them immediately? Why does a restless child in his carseat calm down instantly when Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" comes on the radio? Why does a restless baby on the changing table succumb to your silly version of "Wheels On The Bus"? Hmmm...

Better yet, music improves listening skills and concentration. This is especially beneficial as children enter school since this skill helps them filter out distractions and pay attention to the teacher.

Overall, music training at early age forms cognitively strong minds which is generally sustained throughout the child's life.

Music and Language

Dr. Seuss had it exactly right with his sing-songy rhymes and silly verses! "Big A, little a, what begins with a? Aunt Annie's alligator, a a a!" Language has rhythm and pitch just like music. Exposure to the various musical rhythms and beats at an early age help a child develop the foundation of rhythm needed to read.

The sing-songy lyrics in music also reinforce language skills in our children. And strong language skills produce better readers and learners!

Move It!

Movement with music helps develop motor skills and physical coordination. Children naturally respond to rhythms and beats they hear, whether it is Bob Marley, Mozart or The Wiggles!

When your child enjoys music in a group setting they get the benefit of sharing, turn-taking, and cooperation in movement. Add in some colorful instruments and your child will love shaking and tapping along to their own beats and rhythms while developing muscle control and coordination.

A Child's Emotional Intelligence

Music training sharpens the ability to recognize emotion in sound. Even young children can be moved by a weepy melody, or become jubilant by an upbeat fiddle. Music is how we connect with other human beings to celebrate, mourn and relax. This ability to connect with emotion in music also helps a child understand emotional cues in the social context of human behavior. For example, a child can pick up on another child's emotional cues when they are sad, frightened, angry or friendly. This type of emotional intelligence develops empathy, and stems bullying and aggression.

Above all, music is for enjoyment and fun! So turn on your favorite tunes (Bieber anyone?), and have fun dancing and singing with your child. Those feel-good endorphins are released from the brain and they make for happy, playful children!



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Plastic surgeon Lawrence Shaw has been on a long journey.

Born and raised in Long Island, NY, Dr. Shaw completed his residency in Arizona. Something about our state stuck with him, and he stuck with us. Dr. Shaw has been in practice for 25 years and has been board-certified... twice and included in the guide to *America's Top Plastic Surgeons*.

With 14-year-old twins, much of his free time is spent with family attending sporting events, dance recitals and school activities. His 'alone' time is found at 4:30 a.m. where he dedicates his time to physical fitness. Dr. Shaw and his wife of 17 years still feel it's important to have a date night at least once a week. A previous passion of his, golf, is now on the back burner.

Over the last 25 years, Dr. Shaw has had a particular interest in non-invasive aesthetic medicine to accentuate and prolong the effects of plastic surgery and by itself to allow men and women to 'age gracefully.' One of Dr. Shaw's most popular non surgical procedures that he offers is CoolSculpting, a non-invasive, no downtime fat reduction procedure.

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Ten Great Books!

from MomAdvice.com



1. Alice the Fairy by David Shannon

Alice considers herself a temporary fairy because she has not gone to fairy school yet to become a permanent fairy. Her super fairy powers include changing her dress colors (by spilling her juice) and making cookies mine (by eating them). Fairies never eat food that has been poisoned by the "wicked duchess" (broccoli served by her mother) and she has yet to learn the one super fairy power that her mother wishes she did...making clothes dance away into the hamper.

This book will make you giggle out loud and has the sense of humor and comedic writing that David Shannon is known for. If you are at the library, just pick up every book by this author and enjoy every single book he has written!



2. Olivia Helps with Christmas by Ian Falconer

This book focuses on all of the holiday traditions and planning that the family does to get ready for the holiday festivities. Olivia helps her mother by setting the holiday table (by removing the top of the Christmas tree for a centerpiece), burning the holiday cookies, and overfeeding the baby (until he pukes).

More than that, it perfectly captures the nervous excitement that children go through waiting for a visit from Saint Nick and the disappointment with those boring holiday gifts. I guarantee that this will be a book that you read over and over again—the perfect addition to any holiday book basket!



3. Dinosaur vs. Bedtime by Bob Shea

This book is ideal for a beginning reader or for a child with a short attention span.

The book is a simple concept, can a dinosaur conquer and win matches against anything from a bowl full of spaghetti to a room full of talking grown-ups? In each round, the dinosaur wins with a giant, "ROAR! ROAR! ROAR!"

He conquers everything there is to conquer, but then has to face his toughest match yet... bedtime! Will he ever win it? As the dinosaur winds down, even he admits that bedtime is just one thing he can't conquer.

This is a fantastic bedtime story that is nice and short...with a goodnight and sweet dreams finish!



4. Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems

Our family is in love with Mo Willems! My son loves his easy readers and my daughter adores the Knuffle Bunny series. He is one of those author's that has a fun book for everyone in your family.

Wilbur is a naked mole rat who doesn't like being...so naked. He loves to wear clothes and adds variety into his wardrobe with everything from his space suit to his tuxedo. He hates feeling naked, but no one in his naked rat community agrees.

The naked mole rats decide to have a town meeting with the most naked mole rat of them all.. Grand-pah. Much to the town's surprise, Grand-pah arrives in his own seersucker suit to address the issue at hand, and the town realizes that sometimes it might be okay to be dressed.



5. Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann & Elizabeth Kann

Pinkalicious is a book about a little girl that is obsessed with pink. Everything she uses and eats must be pink which leads to a horrible case of pinkitis, a condition that turns her physically pink. Is too much of pink a bad thing? This cautionary tale shares how even our favorite things in the world are best in moderation.

The book is a delight for the eyes and perfect for the pink princess in your life.



6. Ladybug Girl & Bumblebee Boy by David Soma

If you are not acquainted with the original, "Ladybug Girl," be sure to check out that book, but for a household that has both boys and girls, the new, "Ladybug Girl & Bumblebee Boy" strikes the perfect balance.

Ladybug Girl is an endearing little girl who is all about girl power! She is a positive little girl that can do anything including counting to infinity and jumping over sidewalk cracks. When her mom brings her to the park she is unable to figure out how she and her friend Sam can play together. Noticing his yellow and black striped shirt, they decide that he can be bumblebee boy and they can save the day together. As other children want to join in, they give them their own character names and Ladybug Girl realizes that they can do so much more good working together as a team rather than separately.

This is a book that not only your girls will love, but your boys can love too! Don't overlook this book for your family.



7. Scribbles: A Really Giant Drawing & Coloring Book

Want to get your child to read and use their imagination too? The Scribbles drawing book is the perfect book to encourage your child to read and draw together.

Instead of having you simply color, each page tells you something that it would like you to draw. One page will tell him that the alligator is angry and have him fill in his face. Other pictures are exactly alike, but may request colors and patterns to make each of the pictures different. My favorite series is a simple line that is drawn and then it asks you to draw different animals all sitting on the pole. It is truly the best drawing book I have ever come across for allowing children to use their own creativity and imagination to fill in and create pictures.

The book is very durable and it is truly giant. My son still has many more pages to do and with the durability factor, I plan to tuck this away with his age on it as a keepsake of his creative talent at this age. Because the child is doing all of the drawing, you could buy the same book again another year and see what different things they come up with.



8. Charlie & Lola: We Are Extremely Very Good Recyclers by Lauren Child

My kids both really love the Charlie & Lola series. This book in particular is a new favorite as it teaches children the importance of recycling and how you can do your part.

The book is printed on FSC-approved paper and includes recycling tips as well as a tree poster just like Lola's, so kids can keep track of their recycling projects and help to save the planet all on their own.



9. Finn Throws a Fit by David Elliott

Do you deal with crazy toddler tantrums in your house? We have had all too many in our home with our children, and maybe that is why this book is so laugh-out-loud funny.

Finn loves peaches, but on this particular day, he hates peaches. Finn goes into a tantrum that is unlike any other tantrum you have ever seen. The illustrations of his tantrum will make you and your children laugh from the bottom of your toes. His tears flood the floor so much that his mom has to stand on a table so she doesn't drown, his tantrum creates real storms and avalanches, and the drawings set the book up perfectly for the perfect tantrum storm that is brewing in Finn's house.



10. Twimericks by Lou Brooks

Twimericks are what happens when tongue twisters crash into limericks. It is an adorable book that will be perfect for a long car trip or read aloud and passed around at your child's birthday party.

The illustrations are deliciously old-fashioned and funny which make this book already look like an instant classic. Don't forget to put your name in the cover where it says, "This Beak BooLongs To..." Seriously hilarious and highly addictive, this book is perfect for children and adults alike.

Marbled Easter Egg Pictures

from FamilyCrafts.com

Materials Needed:

- Construction Paper or Cardstock
- Lid from a Box or a Baking Pan
- 2 - 3 Marbles
- Paint
- Scissors

Instructions:

Cut a piece of paper in the box lid or baking pan. Squirt a few colors of paint onto the paper. Drop a few marbles in and let the child roll the box lid back and forth to make an interesting marbled egg.

Once your painted design looks how you want it, set the paper aside to dry. Once dry, you can cut an egg shape out of the paper and display it for all to enjoy!



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Clover Cupcakes

from Spoonful.com

It doesn't take the luck of the Irish to make these St. Patty's Day treats look so sweet — just a clever baking technique.

Materials Needed:

- Cupcake batter
- Cupcake tins and liners
- Aluminum foil
- White frosting
- Green food coloring
- Toothpick
- Green licorice (we used Twizzlers Rainbow Twists sold in a pack with other colors)



Instructions:

1. Place paper liners in 32 standard muffin cups, then fill each halfway with the batter.
2. For each cupcake, roll three balls of foil (ours were 2/3 inch in diameter) and insert them evenly around the perimeter between the liner and the tin, as shown.
3. Bake the cupcakes for a few minutes less than the package suggests (because there's less batter per cup than usual), or until a toothpick comes out clean.
4. Allow the cupcakes to cool, then remove them from the tin.
5. Cover each with green frosting (our ratio was 1 teaspoon of green food coloring to one 16-ounce can of white frosting).
6. Use a toothpick to draw leaf veins, and insert a 2-inch-long piece of green licorice for a stem.





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Spring Event 2013

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Spring Event at All Saints! What a fun day!

