

# The Scoop in Family Child Care

July 2025 | Issue 49

## Featured Book

In this fun book, you meet a young boy named John, who experiences camping for the first time.

Throughout the book, he learns about nature while experiences new firsts in his life, like catching a fish, hiking, and collecting keepsakes. But most of all, John loves spending time with his family on the weekends. This colorful rhyming book teaches children about nature, family time, and new adventures with family and friends. It'll expand children's imagination and critical thinking about other places to visit and learn about nature and animals, while enjoying the beauty of many unique places.



<https://youtu.be/kOHHWKNZ5aM?si=VgDVuGxOPTllyUWe>

## Sensory

### Play Dough Night Sky

#### Materials

- Dark colored playdough
- Star-shaped sequins

#### Directions

Provide dark-colored playdough and star-shaped sequins for children to create their "constellations."



## Art Project

### Marshmallow Fire Painting

#### Materials Needed

- Jumbo Marshmallows
- Sticks/Skewers
- Paint
- Shallow Cups
- Paper
- Brown Marker



#### Instruction

Pierce one marshmallow with a stick and repeat for as many colors of paint as you have. Divide your paint colors into shallow cups. Lay out the paper and encourage your child to paint using the paint colors. Let the masterpiece dry overnight, and in the morning, you can draw "logs" with a brown marker.

## Finger Play

### A Camping We Will Go



A camping we will go  
A camping we will go  
Hi ho the dairy-o, a camping we will go  
We'll pitch the tent right here  
We'll pitch the tent right here  
Hi ho the dairy-o, we'll pitch the tent right here  
We'll crawl into the tent  
We'll crawl into the tent  
Hi ho the dairy-o, we'll crawl into the tent  
We're having lots of fun  
We're having lots of fun  
Hi ho the dairy-o, we're having lots of fun

<https://youtu.be/Cc99nGv096Y?si=SJla6wwDUldNhCPk>

## Nutrition

### Trail Mix

#### Ingredients

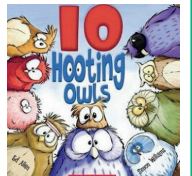
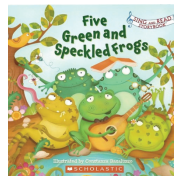
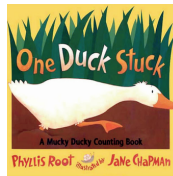
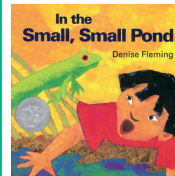
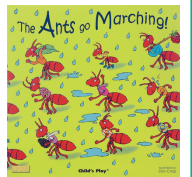
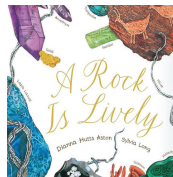
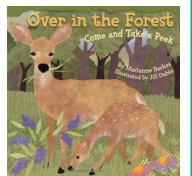
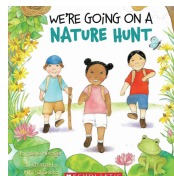
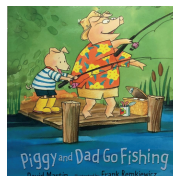
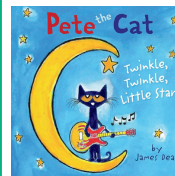
- Cheerios
- Chex Cereal
- M&M's or Skittles
- Pretzels
- Raisins



#### Directions

Combine all the ingredients in a bag. Shake up the contents of the bag to mix them all together. Enjoy your snack wherever you travel.

## 12 Books About Camping



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## Referral Services

### Upcoming Market Rate Survey

With the start of a new fiscal year, there will be a Market Rate Survey coming your way. This survey helps the government set the rates they pay providers. It is extremely important that you return and fill out this survey so the rates are as accurate as possible. This survey will be sent out between October and December of 2025.

If you have any questions, contact our Referral Specialist, Jessi, at [jguzman@salccc.org](mailto:jguzman@salccc.org) or (309) 686-3750 Option 3.

## Trainings

### Start Strong: Setting the Stage for a Successful Year in Early Childhood Classrooms

This engaging and hands-on course equips early childhood educators with proven strategies to build a classroom culture that supports emotional regulation, clear behavioral expectations, and lasting student success.

**Tuesdays, July 29, August 5, and August 12**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | In-Person or Online via Zoom

**Registration Deadline: 11:55 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22**

Register at [www.salccc.org/provider-services/training](http://www.salccc.org/provider-services/training).

## Health & Safety

### Screen Time and Our Children

- Children under two years old should have no screen time, except for video calls with family.
- Children two to five years old should have no more than one hour per day of screen time with high-quality educational content and adult supervision.
- When using screens, prioritize educational content that promotes learning and active engagement.
- Always watch screens with children to discuss what they're seeing and answer questions.
- Prioritize physical activity and hands-on learning over screen time.

## Grants

Round Two for the Smart Start Workforce Grant opens up on July 1!

These funds assist child care providers in offering more competitive wages for their staff to attract and retain talented staff and meet parents' needs at affordable rates.

Learn more about how to apply for these funds and if your program qualifies by going to [www.salccc.org/provider-services/smart-start-workforce-grants](http://www.salccc.org/provider-services/smart-start-workforce-grants), or contact our local Smart Start Expert, Heather, by emailing [SmartStart@salccc.org](mailto:SmartStart@salccc.org) or calling (309) 686-3750, Option 6.

## Home Child Care Network

Home Child Care Network is seeking licensed home care providers to join their **free** program. Their program offers free monthly training, technical support for grants and budgets, mental health support including screenings, and add-on rates for 2nd and 3rd shifts and weekends, with monthly payments guaranteed by the 15th of the month.

For more information, call (309) 685-8064.

## Higher Education Navigation

### Thinking about advancing your Early Education Career?

Contact a Higher Education Navigator for Help:

1. Determining your educational goals
2. Identifying which programs are available to best fit your needs
3. Connecting you with Early Childhood Education scholarship opportunities
4. Acting as a point of contact with Higher Education Institutions
5. Completing your Gateways membership
6. CDA cohort
7. Other assistance as needed

Call (309) 686-3750 Option 7

## Home Daycare Professional Group

Third Tuesday of the Month

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting



For more information on any of our programs and services  
Call: (309) 686-3750 | Fax: (309) 686-3850 | Visit: [www.salccc.org](http://www.salccc.org)  
Child Care Assistance Program Option 2  
Referrals Option 3  
Training Registration Option 4  
Grants Option 5  
Smart Start Grant Expert Option 6  
Higher Education Navigation Option 7  
Quality Visits or Information on ExceleRate Option 9

**SAL COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

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Peoria, IL 61604



@salchildcareconnection