

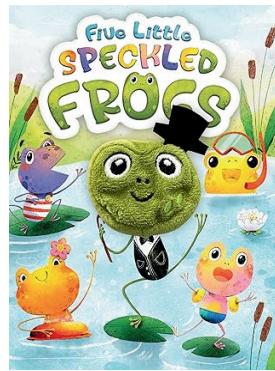
# The Scoop in Family Child Care

April 2026 | Issue 58

SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

## Featured Book

Introduce children to this classic rhyme, made even more fun with an adorable plush finger puppet frog with a top hat. Little ones will delight in this fun, repetitious rhyme with a twist on a classic ending, all while enjoying interactive play with the attached frog finger puppet. This sweet children's finger puppet board book are perfect for everyday reading and interactive sensory play. The vivid, eye-catching colors used throughout the story make it fun for older preschoolers as well, even if they've outgrown other board books!



<https://youtu.be/zAigowYRg-Q?si=J5wdMyLpQt2p8LEZ>

## Sensory

### Frog Pond Sensory Bin

#### Materials Needed

- Large Tub
- Green Foam Sheets
- Plastic Plants
- Plastic Frogs
- Rocks



#### Possible Ways to Interact

##### With the Materials

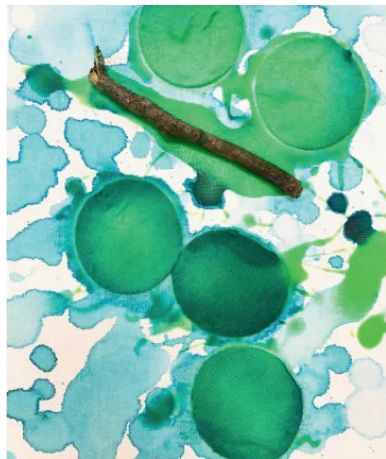
Children could see how many frogs they can fit on the lily pads, count the number of frogs, sort the frogs based on color and patterns, count the number of plants, sort the rocks by color, texture, or shape, compare the different types of plants, and more!

## Art Project

### Abstract Water Paintings

#### Materials Needed

- Canvas panel
- Tempera paint
- White glue
- Blue liquid watercolor
- Sticks
- Cotton Pads
- Plastic Pipettes
- Jars or paint containers
- Paint Brushes



#### Instructions

For full instructions, go to [www.homegrownfriends.com/home/abstract-water-paintings-speckled-frogs/](http://www.homegrownfriends.com/home/abstract-water-paintings-speckled-frogs/)

## Finger Play

### Five Speckled Frogs



Five little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log  
Eating the most delicious bugs, "yum, yum!"  
One jumped into the pool where they were nice and cool,  
Then there were four green speckled frogs, "glub, glub!"

(Repeat verse counting down to one)

One little speckled frog sat on a speckled log  
Eating the most delicious bugs, "yum, yum!"  
One jumped into the pool where they were nice and cool,  
Then there were no green speckled frogs, "glub, glub!"

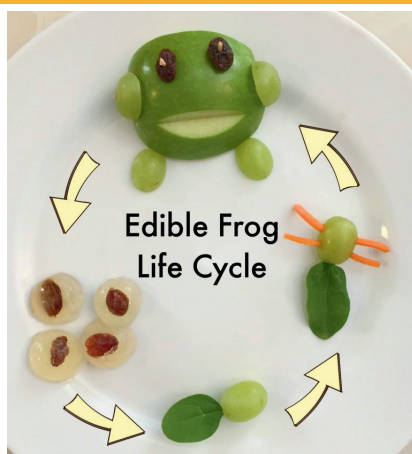
[https://youtu.be/8VCpa4blanQ?si=eHyBD-bhk\\_u8H-BO](https://youtu.be/8VCpa4blanQ?si=eHyBD-bhk_u8H-BO)

## Nutrition

### Frog Life Cycle

#### Ingredients

- Plain Gelatin
- Juice
- Honey
- Green Grapes
- Small Spinach Leaves
- Green Apple
- Raisins
- Shredded Carrots
- Toothpicks



#### Directions

For full directions and explanation, go to [www.teachbesideme.com/edible-frog-life-cycle-snack/](http://www.teachbesideme.com/edible-frog-life-cycle-snack/)

## 12 Books Featuring Frogs



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## Referral Services

### Submit Your Complete Update Survey

If you have not done so, please take ten minutes to follow the QR code to fill out the Complete Update Survey. This year, the State is using the data we collect to set the new CCAP Reimbursement rates, so it's crucial that we get your response.



If you have any questions, contact our Referral Specialist, Jessi, at [jguzman@salccc.org](mailto:jguzman@salccc.org) or (309) 686-3750, Ext. 2129

## Trainings

### Overview of Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children

This training covers the steps of Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children (PTR-YC) and how PTR-YC is used as a manualized process for conducting a functional behavioral assessment and developing a behavior support plan

**Monday, April 13**

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Online via Zoom

**Registration Deadline: 11:55 p.m. Sunday, April 5**

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

## Health & Safety

### April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Children can experience physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. As a Mandated Reporter, if you have contact with a child you suspect is being abused or neglected, you must call the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) hotline and/or inform your local law enforcement agency.

The DCFS hotline phone number is 1-800-25ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

See [www.preventchildabuseillinois.org](http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org) for more information.

## Grants

Round One for the Smart Start Workforce Grant for Fiscal Year 2027 opens up on April 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, Ext. 2105.

## 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 Ext. 2111

## 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 - Extension 2129  
Training Registration & Grants - Extension 2111  
Higher Education Navigation - Extension 2111  
Smart Start Grant Expert - Extension 2105  
Quality Visits or Information on ExceleRate - Extension 2105  
Infant-Toddler Consultations - Extension 2118

**SAL** COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

3425 N. Dries Ln  
Peoria, IL 61604



@salchildcareconnection