



# Caring and Sharing

A publication of the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency  
East Central University — Ada, Oklahoma

*Spring 2016 Edition*

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## Sharing the Wonder

### Science with Infants & Toddlers

#### What is Science?

For infants and toddlers, it is a process of exploration and discovery. We call it scientific inquiry, best thought of as a "way of thinking and acting" (Worth 2010).

You don't have to have a background in science to support children's ability to think deeply about problems, develop and test hypotheses, and share their discoveries. While it can help to understand a few basic science concepts, the best thing you can do is observe the kinds of problems infants and toddlers create for themselves, and then let those problems unfold. Of course, be ready to step in whenever something looks unsafe or children become very frustrated.

Scientific inquiry allows children to develop a range of skills across all domains of development (Worth 2010), including skills like:

- ♦ Exploring objects, materials, and events.
- ♦ Developing vocabulary to describe what they are seeing and doing.
- ♦ Asking questions.
- ♦ Making careful observations.
- ♦ Engaging in simple investigations, like dropping various objects into water to see which float and which sink.
- ♦ Comparing shape or size, and practicing skills like matching and sorting.
- ♦ Recording observations using words or pictures. Imagine a toddler room where a 2-year-old tells her caregiver all about the bird outside the window. Her caregiver snaps a photo of the bird and quickly jots down the child's words. Later the photo and observation are hung near the window for other children to see.
- ♦ Using a variety of simple tools to extend observations, such as ramps to experiment with movement and speed.

## Contact Information for You

### Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

1-888-446-7608 [www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org)

**Warmline** — 1-888-574-5437

free telephone consultation for child care providers — covers behavioral and health related topics

### Scholars for Excellence in Child Care

Statewide — Kiki McWilliams

1-866-343-3881

[www.okhighered.org/scholars](http://www.okhighered.org/scholars)

Pathway to CDA — Gina McPherson

1-866-343-3881

[www.okhighered.org/scholars](http://www.okhighered.org/scholars)

## How can you support science learning?

- ♦ Create an “environment of yes.”
- ♦ Trust the child. Try not to solve the problems for them. A little bit of frustration can lead to learning.
- ♦ Use language. When you describe what children are doing and the results of their actions, you help them make sense of their experiences.
- ♦ Ask questions — like “what do you think will happen if you do that?” or “I wonder why . . . ?”
- ♦ Do some background learning. When an educator understands the basics of a concept like floating/sinking, he can enrich a child’s understanding of water play activity.
- ♦ Follow children’s leads. Watch and listen to see what engages children’s interests. Give them time and space to explore the problems.
- ♦ Offer interesting objects to “provoke” children’s interest. When children arrive and discover a basket of different seashells and several magnifying glasses on a table, they are invited to discover what makes these objects the same and different. A treasure basket filled with soft-edged, washed pieces of wood; a dry, clean sponge, a scarf; and a laminated leaf encourages infants to explore shape, size and texture.

Reprinted from *Young Child*, March 2016 Edition, A journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

## Fingerprint Recipes — NOTE: Adult Supervision is a MUST!

### Pre-mixed Liquid Starch Fingerprint

Premix 1/2 cup liquid starch and 1/2 cup liquid tempera paint in a cup. Spoon the mixture onto paper for fingerprinting.

### Easiest Fingerprint (child made)

Pour a puddle of liquid starch on a piece of paper, and then squirt one or two tablespoons of liquid tempera paint onto the puddle. Encourage the child to mix the paint with his hands by spreading it around and fingerprinting with it.



### Creamy Soap Flake Fingerprint

Pour 2 cups warm water in a bowl. Add 1 cup soap flakes and beat with an electric mixer until stiff. Mix in 1/2 teaspoon food coloring. Spoon the paint onto paper for fingerprinting. (Make sure you use safe soap flakes such as Dreft or Ivory Snow and not regular laundry detergent. You can also grate a bar of Ivory Soap to make your own flakes.) Do not dump unused paint in the sink because it can clog the drain.

## Non-Messy Magic Paint Bag

Materials: tempera paint, in dark colors; large, heavy-duty zipper-closed bag; measuring spoon; white paper; masking tape; popsicle sticks; spoons

Prepare (by adults): Spoon 3 TBSP tempera paint into plastic bag. Ease out as much air as possible, then close the bag. Place white paper on a table and put the paint-filled bag on top of it. Tape the edges of the bag to the table.

Process (by children): Smooth the paint into a thin layer inside the bag using a flat hand; rub fingertips over the flat side of the bag to draw lines and scribbles, and experiment with popsicle sticks or spoons. The paper will show through. Wipe away the designs by gently rubbing hands over the bag and then start again.

Variations: Fill the bags with other colorful ingredients, such as blue hair gel or liquid starch tinted with food coloring. Slip a sheet of aluminum foil into the bag, and place the paint on top of the foil. Close the bag and draw on the surface as above. The foil will show through.



### We Are Available to Provide One-on-One Assistance in your Family Child Care Home or Child Care Center Classroom

Please call 580-559-5768 or email us for the following services:

Cheryl Bell [cbell@ecok.edu](mailto:cbell@ecok.edu)

Alexis Stokes [astokes@ecok.edu](mailto:astokes@ecok.edu)

On-site Assistance includes:

- ◆ Observation and suggestions for new teachers or those needing new ideas
- ◆ Room Arrangement
- ◆ Transitions
- ◆ Equipment Inventory
- ◆ Behavior and Guidance
- ◆ Understanding of Basic Child Development
- ◆ Building Relationships with Families
- ◆ Information on how to get started with Reaching for Stars Quality Improvement program
- ◆ Assisting Directors/Owners with Professional Development Plans, Contracts, Handbooks, Getting Signed Up on the Registry

We also offer help over the phone and by email. Give us a call or send us an email.

**Do you have staff interested in  
taking college classes?  
Check out the  
Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program**

**What Is the Scholars Program?**

The Scholars Program awards scholarships to eligible child care professionals to complete coursework in the area of child development or early childhood education, as well as the Child Development Associate (CDA) and Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) Credential Assessment. These scholarships enable child care providers in Oklahoma to improve their skills through education, receive an educational stipend and continue the availability of quality child care in local communities.

**Mission Statement**

The Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program ensures that eligible child care professionals in the state of Oklahoma have an opportunity to attend a technology center or community college to further their education while earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Certificate of Mastery, Director's Certificate of Completion, and/or an associate degree in child development or early childhood education.

**Seminole State College — Child Development Courses**

[For Information on Classes at Seminole State College](#)

Call Admissions 405-382-9230

[Seminole State College Summer and Fall 2016 Classes](#)

June 6—July 28

CD 1123	Intro to Early Childhood Education	ONLINE	J. Cossey
CD 2423	Health, Safety & Nutrition	ONLINE	A. Porter

August 15—December 10

CD 1103	Child Development	ONLINE	J. Cossey
CD 1123	Intro to Early Child Educ	ONLINE	J. Cossey
CD 1223	Behav & Guidance of Young Child	8-20—9/17	8:00-5:00 A. Porter
CD 2113	Prog Curr Planning Early Childhood	5:45—8:25 pm	V. Wilson
CD 2143	Family & Comm Relations	ONLINE	A. Porter
CD 2423	Health, Safety, Nutrition of Young Child	ONLINE	Staff

**Murray State College — Child Development Courses**  
**Tishomingo & Ardmore and Ada Locations**  
For Information on Classes at Murray State College  
Contact: Amy McCain 580-387-7411

**MURRAY**  
**STATE COLLEGE**

**Tishomingo & Ardmore Campuses**  
**Child Development Courses**  
(Classes are also offered on ECU's campus in Ada.)

**Summer 2016** (May 31<sup>st</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup>)

**East Central University - Ada**

\*CD 1353 Child & Family Development M/Th 6:00-9:50 Harper

**Internet option for all campuses**

CD 1243 Health, Safety & Nutrition Online McCain

**Fall 2016** (August 15<sup>th</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>)

**University Center of Southern Oklahoma - Ardmore**

CD 2543 Creative Activities for Children Mon. 4:30 – 6:20 McCain

CD 2553 Cognitive Activities for Children Mon. 6:30 – 8:20 Carrigan

**Murray State College – Tishomingo**

CD 2543 Creative Activities for Children Tues. 4:30 – 6:20 McCain

CD 2553 Cognitive Activities for Children Tues. 6:30 – 8:20 Carrigan

**East Central University - Ada**

CD 2583 Language & Physical Skills Tues. 6:00 – 7:50 Harper

\*CD 2533 Guidance of Young Children Tues. 8:00 – 9:50 Harper

**Internet option for all campuses**

CD 2573 Children with Special Needs Online McCain

\*CD 2463 Administration of Child Care Centers Online McCain

\* *Approved ELG courses (Once successfully completed, classes will count towards the required DHS Early Learning Guidelines Training.)*

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Amy McCain,  
Chair / Instructor, Education & Behavioral Science  
580-387-7411 / [amccain@mscok.edu](mailto:amccain@mscok.edu)

## TRAINING DATES

May 23, 2016, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

I am Moving, I am Learning

Pauls Valley Library, Pauls Valley, Oklahoma  
2 Hours of FORMAL Training; Vikki Dobbins, Trainer  
Must register at [www.okregistry.org](http://www.okregistry.org)

June 2 and June 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

10 Steps to Positive Discipline

East Central University—Ada

Regents Room

Vikki Dobbins, Trainer

4 Hours of FORMAL Training — must attend both sessions  
Must register at [www.okregistry.org](http://www.okregistry.org)

June 4 & June 11, 9:00-4:30 p.m.

Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers & Two

Madill Community Day Care, Madill, Oklahoma

Trainer: Jana Cornelius

Cost: \$20

Must register at [www.okregistry.org](http://www.okregistry.org)

### 2016 Play Institute

June 24-25, 2016

Doubletree by Hilton, Tulsa, OK

The Play Institute is a professional development training for teachers and child care providers on the importance of uninterrupted play and how it helps children learn to self-regulate. The trainers are world renowned trainers Toni and Robin Christie from the Childspace Early Childhood Institute in Wellington,

New Zealand. The Play Institute will be held:

Friday, June 24, 2016 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

through

Saturday, June 25, 2016 9:00 am-4:00 pm

#### Learning objectives

- To better understand the importance of uninterrupted play for children;
- To be respectful of children and the time they spend engaged in play; and
- To support and encourage self-regulation among children.

For more information, email [jcyiza@nicca.us](mailto:jcyiza@nicca.us)

or

<http://www.nicca.us/#!2016-play-institute/em7qm>

# Good Health Handbook Available Online!

The long awaited 2015 revised Good Health Handbook is now available online. [Click here](#) to access it or copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<https://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/GHHB%202015.pdf>

If you work with young children or you are a parent of young children, you know the importance of keeping every child healthy and safe. The revised ***Good Health Handbook: A Guide for Those Caring for Children*** provides up-to-date information on health, safety, and developmental issues. If you have trouble accessing it through the link above, just go to the Oklahoma State Department of Health website, <https://www.health.ok.gov>, and search for ***Good Health Handbook 2015***.

Licensed child care programs will receive a printed copy in mail.