

Stories Abound

Upcoming events, ideas and activities for families to do at home from the Monticello Public Library



News You Can Use

---During the month of January, we are doing a winter reading challenge. It's not too late to join and is open to ALL ages! Register for the challenge at <https://monticellopubliclibrary.beanstack.com>

-- Beginning January 6th at 10:30 am, we will be hosting a weekly art class for all ages. If you can't make the session we will be sending a link to registered patrons. Please contact the library at 608-938-4011 or at mntpublib.info@gmail.com if you have any questions or need more information.

--Our activity kits have been moved inside to the entryway. We have kits available for all ages and they change weekly. Stop in and pick up yours today.

--The entryway is open for Express Services Monday thru Friday from 10 am to 7pm to speak with a librarian, pick-up holds, or request other items. Appointments can be made for browsing, computer usage and curbside pickup.

--Check our free resource links. They are perfect for a cold, snowy day or to supplement your online learning. They are all completely free and don't require any login or sign up information. The site is updated frequently, so keep checking back!

www.prek-12resources.com



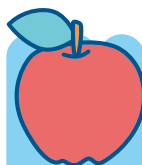
Upcoming Events

- January 1st- New Year's Day
- January 1st- Winter Reading Challenge Kick Off
- January 4th- National Trivia Day
- January 6th- Mix It Up Art Class @10:30 am
- January 13th- National Rubber Ducky Day
- January 13th- Mix It Up Art Class @10:30 am
- January 18th- Martin Luther King Jr Day
- January 20th- Mix It Up Art Class @10:30 am
- January 24th- National Compliment Day
- January 27th- Mix It Up Art Class @ 10:30 am
- January 31st- Winter Reading Challenge Ends



Did You Know?

Building (blocks, forts, magnet tiles, cardboard) helps children develop 3D reasoning skills.



School Readiness Tip:

Asking young children "what do you see?" builds the science skill of observation. You can do this anywhere-- out in nature, while driving, or even while shopping. To keep their observations going, follow up with "tell me more."

Don't forget to wash your hands and wear your masks!



Try It At Home: Fort Building

Materials Required:

- Furniture (like table, chairs, desk, couch, or bed)
- Blankets, towels, sheets, or other fabric
- Clothespins, binder clips, chip clips, or tape
- String (optional)
- Decorations (optional)
- Paper and something to write with (optional)



Instructions:

- Start by planning the fort. Think about how much space is needed and where you can build it. What everyday objects can be used? What activities are done in the fort? Sketch out a plan for the fort and make a list of materials.
- Gather materials, furniture, and decorations for the fort. Adults can help children move furniture or other large, heavy objects around.
- Build the fort. Try putting materials together to create the design. If something falls or slips, think about ways to secure it in a different way to make it stay. Add decorations to make it unique.
- Enter the fort. How does it feel in the fort? Is there anything missing? How can it be improved? Does it need to be bigger?
- Improve the fort. Keep working and changing the design.

Try these add-on activities:

After the fort is complete, try building beyond the fort. Try adding a bridge: from one carpet to another, one toy bin to another, or from the couch to a chair. Create a smaller fort for a teddy bear or a super tiny fort for a family of lady bugs. What new tools or materials are needed to make a smaller fort?

Links to Creativity:

Creativity doesn't require the "right supplies," or happen only when people have a full collection of materials (e.g., a carpenter's toolbox). This activity is great for showing children how they can be creative with materials they already have lying around their house or school. Having constraints or limited resources can often help us be more creative because we may need to find different uses for materials or objects we usually use in the same way. For example, a blanket can keep you warm, but it can also be used as a roof, a flag, or a path to your fort—imagine the possibilities!