

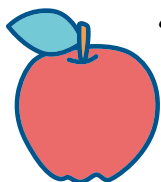
# Stories Abound

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



## Upcoming Events

- September 30th @ 7pm Movie Night at Zwingli United Church
- October 5th- World Teacher's Day
- October 7th- Walk to School Day
- October 7th @ 3:30 pm Zoom Animal Ambassadors
- October 12th @ 6 pm Wisconsin's Most Haunted Locations with Chad Lewis
- October 14th @ 3:30 pm Zoom Animal Ambassadors
- October 17th @ 6:30 pm Movie Night at Zwingli United Church
- October 21st @ 3:30 pm Zoom Animal Ambassadors
- October 28th @ 6pm Movie Night at Zwingli United Church
- October 29th- National Cat Day
- October 31st- Halloween



## School Readiness Tip:

Enjoy time for play alongside children. Try drawing, building with blocks, or pretending together. They will learn from watching and talking with you.



## Did You Know?

Sleep is critical to the growing brain! Studies have shown that kids who regularly get an adequate amount of sleep have improved attention, behavior, learning, memory, and overall mental and physical health. Not getting enough sleep can lead to high blood pressure, obesity and even depression. If you are concerned about a child's sleep, be sure to talk to a doctor about strategies.



## News You Can Use

Our 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. A computer/printer station will also be available by appointment. Don't hesitate to call or email the library with your requests! We are happy to help fulfill your needs.

We have a lot of upcoming events, great for all ages! We will be hosting a weekly Zoom session from the Wildlife in Need Center. They will be assisted by adorable animal ambassadors. We will also have a special spooky presentation from Chad Lewis about Wisconsin's Most Haunted Locations just in time for Halloween. We are also doing two more drive in or walk in movies over at Zwingli United Church in October. Please don't hesitate to contact the library if you have any questions about these events! Check our Facebook page or website for the most up to date information.

Check our free resource links. They are perfect for a cold, rainy day or to supplement your online learning. They are all free and don't require any login information. The site is updated frequently, so keep checking back!  
[www.prek-12resources.com](http://www.prek-12resources.com)

Have a safe and happy October! Remember to wear your masks and wash your hands.



## Try It At Home: Silly Symmetry

### You will need:

Leaves of various sizes/colors  
Colored construction paper and scissors  
Small rectangular mirrors  
Glue sticks  
White construction paper  
Pens/markers/colored pencils/crayons



### Instructions

Gather large symmetrical leaves of different varieties. Carefully cut each leaf in half down its line of symmetry. If leaves are not available, cut shapes out of construction paper (e.g. stars, hearts, circles, or leaves), and then cut them in half. Ask children what they already know about symmetry: What does it mean when something is symmetrical? Can you think of something symmetrical in nature? Ask children to pick one leaf half and visualize what the other half of the leaf could look like. Have children set a mirror on the table and press the stem-side of the leaf against it. Let them describe what they see in the mirror. They can also experiment with holding up the half-hearts or half-stars against the mirror and observing the reflected shape. Invite children to use the glue sticks to secure a leaf half onto their paper (it is recommended that they put glue stick on paper and press leaf down, instead of trying to put glue on leaf). Exercising their visualization skills, let children use pens and markers to complete the missing half of the leaf. After the children have tried mirroring the original leaf half, try it again, only this time encourage them to make the second half completely different than the original. How wacky can this leaf look? Be imaginative and create a unique leaf.

### Try these add-on activities:

Ask children: What other natural objects (e.g. butterfly) can you think of that have symmetry? Gather them outside if possible and use the mirrors to explore symmetry, create the other half, and then create a wacky second half. Lead a discussion about symmetry in design: When do designers or artists intentionally choose to use symmetry, and when do they intentionally choose not to use symmetry? What are some reasons they might make each choice? If children are not familiar with the concept of symmetry, make sure to highlight the term: Symmetry: the quality of being made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis.

### Links to Creativity

Creativity often occurs in spite of clear rules or well-defined problems. Observing and recognizing patterns is one way that our minds discover rules and understand what is the norm. Once we understand this, creativity includes generating what Arthur Cropley called effective novelty (1999), where we take into consideration what is appropriate, but also generate unconventional solutions. Playing with the symmetry of leaves is an elegant practice for engaging in pattern recognition, which can free children to manipulate those patterns creatively (Root-Bernstein & Root-Bernstein, 1999). More explicitly, the additional steps of this activity, where children (and adults!) interpret what could be the mirrored side of a symmetrical image, is a clever way to be creative.