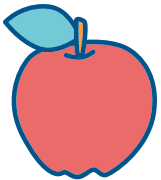


Stories Abound

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



School Readiness Tip:

(Best for ages 2-8)

Pretend play helps children develop key social skills. When children imagine being someone else, it boosts their ability to think from another person's perspective.



In Case you Missed it

In January, we held a fun family dance in celebration of the New Year, Homecoming and as a fun break from the winter routine. We also had a coding day for all ages where kids got to play games and practiced coding without it being overwhelming. Thanks to all the kids and families who came! We loved seeing you there.



Upcoming events

February 2020 (all month long)

Take and make a craft grab bags
We will have a new craft to take home with you that you can do on your own time with supplies you have at home!

Wed, February 12th @ 5 pm

Pop up Valentine's Day Card Come in and make your own Valentine's Day card!

Thurs, February 13th @ 4 pm

Child Development Days at Monticello Elementary
Stop by and talk to us about early literacy and school readiness!

Fri, February 14th @ 8 am & 1 pm

Child Development days at Monticello Elementary
Stop by and talk to us about early literacy and school readiness!

Fri, February 21st @ 1 pm

Snowman Donuts Come in and make a snowman out of donuts!



Try it at Home:

Shadow Shadow (suitable for all ages):

You will need:

No Materials are needed!

How to do this:

1. Find a partner. Decide who is the leader and who is the shadow.
2. The leader moves around. The shadow continuously follows each and every move of the leader without running into him or her. Leaders, try to make big and funny movements to add difficulty to the game! Movements might include: walking, fast walking, crawling, skipping, running, etc. Shadows, keep in mind that the leader's movements can change at any moment. Be ready. Think about balance, distance, and pacing while copying the leader's moves. Be careful not to run into the leader!
3. After a few minutes, switch roles.

How can I make this more challenging for my child?

- Try having two or more shadows follow one leader. Can you all move together?
- Vary speeds of movements to make it more challenging or easy.

What is my child learning?

This activity addresses a handful of powerful attributes improvisation through playful mimicry, openness to experience, and both physical and cognitive flexibility. While the activity ultimately asks one child to copy another child (seemingly the opposite of creativity), empathy is essential for following the leader. This activity also extends participation beyond merely observing another participant's behavior and asks us to re-create that motion in a rather rapid fashion, which is not easy and is more than just simply copying.



Did You Know?

Social skills matter in school! Children who get along well with others are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to get in trouble.