

Flag Day – June 14, 2011

Tell children that Flag Day celebrates the day our nation's flag was chosen. Explain that when our country first began, we didn't have a flag, but many people had ideas about how the flag should look. On June 14, 1777, the leaders of the country finally decided which flag to use. At that time, there were only thirteen stars on the flag, one for each state. As our country grew, more stars were added. Quick Facts about the American Flag:

- The flag is also called the "Stars and Stripes," the "Red, White, and Blue," and "Old Glory."
- Our flag has seven red stripes, six white stripes, and 50 stars – one for each state.
- The colors of our flag stand for bravery (red), goodness (white), and fairness (blue).
- People show respect for the flag in different ways. Sometimes people put their right hands over their hearts, and men often remove their hats when the flag passes by. Soldiers and sailors salute.



Father's Day – June 19, 2011

Father's Day Books

Material and Preparations:

- File folders
- Assorted art materials (markers, crayons, glitter glue, doilies, etc.)
- Drawing paper
- Construction paper

Learning Experiences:

- Invite children to make booklets about their fathers (or significant adult men in their lives). Encourage children to dictate and illustrate a response (one per page) that finishes the following sentences:
 - My father likes to . . .
 - I like it when my dad and I . . .
 - My dad helps me when . . .
 - I like it when my dad takes me . . .
 - My favorite time of day with my dad is . . . because . . .
 - My dad is the best because . . .
 - My dad and I act silly by . . .
- Collect each child's pages and store in a file folder. When all pages are complete, staple the booklet pages between two sheets of construction paper.
- Invite children to decorate the covers of their books.

First Day of Summer – June 21

During summer, there is more daylight and temperatures rise, providing lots of opportunities for outdoor fun. Summer is a time to play and take learning outside, explore nature, and enjoy cooling off with a run through a sprinkler or hose. Have fun this summer!

Shape Blowers

(Taken from [Curriculum for Threes, Summer Fun](#))

Materials and Preparations:

- Chenille stems
- Shape display or examples
- Large pail or plastic tub
- Distilled water
- Good-quality dishwashing liquid
- Glycerin or light corn syrup
- Long-handled spoon
- Measuring cups and spoons

Learning Experiences:

- Make shape bubble blowers. Bend chenille stems into circles, squares, triangles, hearts, and other shapes.
- How many sides does a triangle have? a rectangle? How can we bend the stems to make the shapes? Look at a shape display or other examples of shapes for help.
- Take the shaped bubble blowers outside and mix up some bubble solution. In a large pail or plastic tub, measure 1 gallon distilled water, 2/3 cup dishwashing liquid, and 3 tablespoons glycerin or 1 cup light corn syrup. Stir gently with spoon.
- Wonder together what shapes the bubble blowers will make. Experiment to find out. What happens? Whatever shape the bubble blowers are, the bubbles are still round!
- Watch to see where the bubbles go. What do they go over? What do they go under? What are they near?

Adaptation: To form shapes, wrap chenille stems around shaped cookie cutters, shapes from a shape sorter, or other thick shapes.

Toddler Time

Below are some great ways to build gross motor skills in your toddlers.

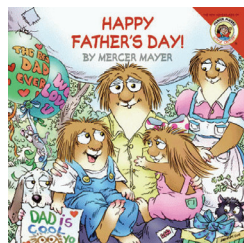
(Taken from [Toddler Time: Activities for Active Toddlers](#))

- Encourage children to build block towers. They may take turns knocking down the towers.
- On a sunny day, take children outside for a shadow hunt. How many shadows can they find? Which shadow is the longest? What happens when someone steps on a shadow?
- Children love digging for treasure. Place small toys in a sandbox and cover with sand. Invite children to take turns digging for treasures using small shovels.
- Ask children to pretend they are spiders. How would they move? Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" and encourage children to move around the room like spiders.

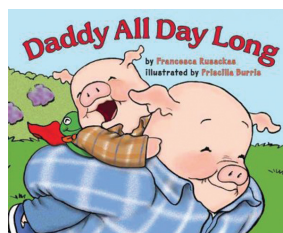
Classroom Energizers

Do you have a helpful classroom tip? It could be a way to communicate with families, manage transitions, save planning time, or other useful idea that works for you. Or maybe you'd like to show us our curriculum in action in your classroom! Share your ideas with us and you'll be entered to win a \$25 HighReach Learning gift certificate. Just email your ideas to classroomenergizers@highreach.com. We will feature submitted entries each month in the Idea Toolbox.

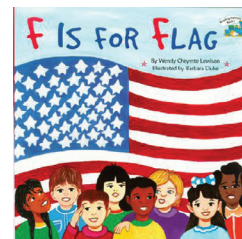
Books to Share



Happy Father's Day!
by Mercer Mayer



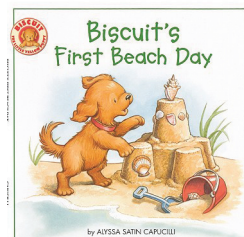
Daddy All Day Long by
Francesca Rusackas



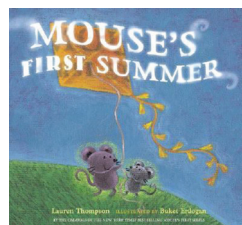
F is for Flag by Wendy
Cheyette Lewison



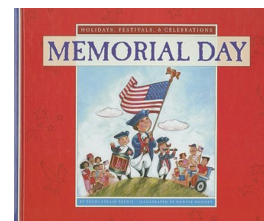
Flag Day by Robin Nelson



Biscuit's First Beach Day
by Alyssa Satin Capucilli



Mouse's First Summer
by Lauren Thompson



Memorial Day by
Trudi Strain Trueit