

## Grandparents' Day – September 11, 2011

Grandparents' Day is celebrated annually on the Sunday after Labor Day.

### Puzzling Presents

#### Materials and Preparations:

- Heavy cardstock or tagboard
- Assorted art materials (glue, glitter, tissue paper, etc.)
- Crayons and markers
- Envelopes

#### Learning Experiences:

- Invite interested children to create pictures for their grandparents on a piece of cardstock/tagboard.
- Encourage children to dictate a simple message about their artwork. Print exactly what children say near the drawing.
- Cut the pictures into puzzle pieces and place inside envelopes. Children can present the puzzle to grandparents and assemble them together.



## Imprints of Nature

(Taken from [Curriculum for Twos, Eco-Exploring](#))

#### Materials and Preparations:

- Paper bags
- Playdough (mix together 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 2 cups water, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, and 4 teaspoons cream of tartar; cook in a heavy pot over medium heat until very thick; remove from heat; knead well; store tightly covered)

#### Learning Experiences:

- Provide nature objects or invite children outside to gather nature items that are of interest to them and place them in their paper bags.
- Encourage children to press their nature objects into the playdough and lift them to see the imprints.
- Encourage them to describe the imprints. Help them notice any changes to the playdough as well. Does it collect bits of bark or other materials?

September 23, 2011, marks the first day of autumn.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 – October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place from September 15 to October 15. The term *Hispanic* refers to people whose families come from Spanish-speaking countries. Explain that the word *heritage* refers to many things. It can include music, traditional clothing, games, language, and anything else handed down from family to family over many years. If any of your children come from Hispanic backgrounds, invite them to share some family traditions.

### Fun Facts to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month:

- Many Hispanic words have become a part of the American language, such as alligator, mosquito, chocolate, cafeteria, canoe, tornado, tomato, bronco, patio, and barbeque.
- Franklin R. Chang-Diaz was the first Hispanic person to become an astronaut and spent nearly 1,300 hours in space.
- Frida Kahlo is considered one of Mexico's greatest artists. She began painting at the age of 18.
- Flying on her first space shuttle mission in 1991, Ellen Ochoa became the first female Hispanic astronaut.
- Arturo Moreno became the first Hispanic owner of any major U.S. sports franchise in 2003 when he purchased the Anaheim Angels.

## Make Friends Smile

(Taken from [Curriculum for Pre-K, Traveling](#))

### Materials and Preparations:

- “We Make Friends Smile” chart (write each child’s name along left side of chart paper and title “We Make Friends Smile”)

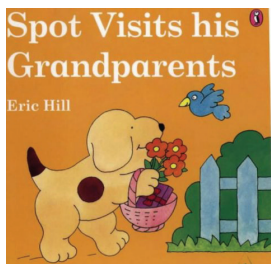
### Learning Experiences:

- Ask children what happens when someone notices something they are good at, or when someone recognizes that they helped another out. Maybe one child is great at zipping, another is a super stapler, someone may give hugs at the right time, or knows how to write a special word. When someone points out something we’re good at, they are giving a compliment. For example, “You are a great shoe-tier,” or “If you need help zipping, ask James. He is a great zipper-upper.” Compliments build self-concept when they are honest and true, and they create smiles! Observe children to see what each is good at. Keep notes to mark on the chart.
- Gather interested children and tell them you have been watching them and have seen all kinds of things they are getting so good at! (Did you know that James can zip really well?)
- Think together about something that each child does that could help someone else. Write it on the chart next to the name. (Use your notes if children get stuck.) Refer to the chart often; refer children to each other. Make sure there is a compliment listed for each child.

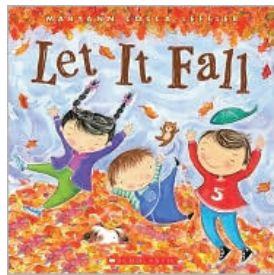
## Classroom Energizers

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 could win a \$25 HighReach Learning gift certificate. Just email your ideas to [classroomenergizers@highreach.com](mailto:classroomenergizers@highreach.com). We will feature submitted entries each month in the Idea Toolbox.

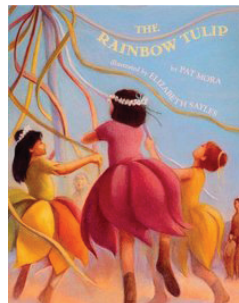
## Books to Share



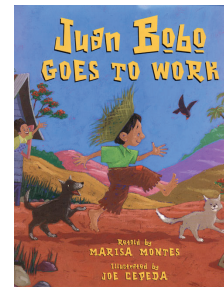
*Spot Visits His Grandparents* by Eric Hill



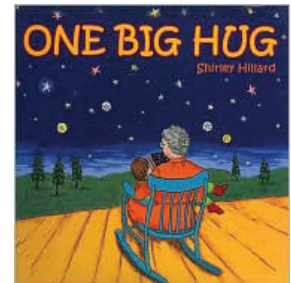
*Let It Fall* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler



*The Rainbow Tulip* by Pat Mora



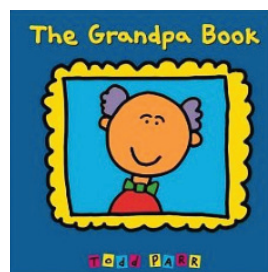
*Juan Bobo Goes to Work: A Puerto Rican Folktale* by Marisa Montes



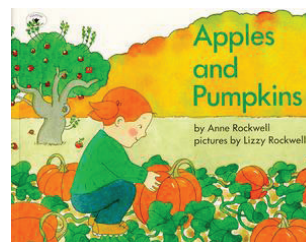
*One Big Hug* by Shirley Hilliard



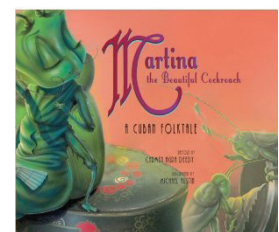
*I See Fall* by Charles Ghigna



*The Grandpa Book* by Todd Parr



*Apples and Pumpkins* by Anne Rockwell



*Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* by Carmen Agra Deedy