

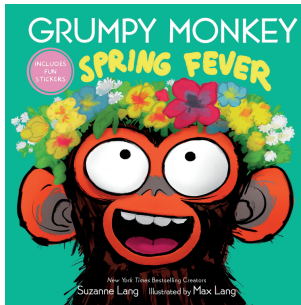
# The Scoop in Family Child Care

April 2025 | Issue 46

## Featured Book

When Jim runs through the jungle laughing and shouting with glee, the other animals are very concerned.

This just isn't the grumpy Jim they know. Soon, Norman diagnoses Jim with a bad case of spring fever and tells Jim that he needs to find a cure. The other jungle animals offer suggestions: take a calming breath, sniff lavender, take a nap, or try a time-out! Jim tries everything to get his grump back, but nothing works! It becomes contagious and the other animals catch spring fever too! Soon, the jungle erupts into a silly celebration of springtime as they all join in the fun.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIWQFSLiZY>

## Sensory

### Spring-Themed Sensory Bin

#### Materials

- Plastic box or other container
- Green split peas
- Colorful straws
- Flower sequins
- Little clay pots
- Popsicle stick flowers
- Mini Shovels



#### Possible Ways to Interact with the Materials

Children can put the split peas through the straws, run their hands through the peas, plant the flowers in the mini clay pots, and more!

## Art Project

### Spring Paper Towel Art

#### Materials Needed

- Markers (permanent and washable)
- Paper towels
- Water in a small tray
- Scissors



#### Instructions

Layer two paper towels. Draw any spring picture with a permanent marker. Lift the top paper towel off of the bottom one. Then, take the washable markers and color in your design on the bottom paper. Place the paper towel slowly in a tray of water. Watch as the water soaks through the two layers of paper towel!

## Finger Play

### I'm a Little Rainbow

To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"



I'm a little rainbow (point to self)  
Way up high (point to the ceiling)  
After it rains, (wiggle fingers down like rain)  
Look to the sky (shade eyes with hand, look up)  
You will see my colors (point to eyes)  
Oh, so bright (put both hands up, fingers spread)  
From end to end (use index finger to trace an arch in the air)  
I'm a lovely sight (put both hands up, fingers spread)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veRy0zgw16M>

## Nutrition

### Rainbow Veggie Wraps

#### Ingredients

- 4 multigrain tortillas or wraps
- 1 cup prepared olive hummus
- 2 oz thinly sliced cheddar cheese
- 1 1/3 cups baby spinach
- 1 cup sliced red bell pepper
- 1 cup broccoli sprouts
- 1 cup thinly shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup julienned carrots



#### Directions

Spread each tortilla with 1/4 cup hummus. Top each with 1/4 of the cheddar, spinach, bell pepper, sprouts, cabbage, and carrots. Roll up each wrap. Serve with dressing, if desired.

## 12 Books to Celebrate Spring



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## Referral Services

### Submit Your Complete Update Survey

It's that time of year for you to fill out the Complete Update Survey! You should have received an email and paper copies over the past several weeks. You can also scan this QR code to fill out the form. The form should take about 15 minutes to complete.



If you have any questions, contact our Referral Specialist, Jessi, at [jjuzman@salccc.org](mailto:jjuzman@salccc.org) or (309) 686-3750, Option 3.

## Trainings

### Smart Start Workforce Grant Information Sessions

This training seeks to provide programs with a comprehensive understanding of the development process and parameters of Smart Start Workforce Grants. **All applicants are REQUIRED to attend an orientation before submitting an application.**

Friday, April 11 | 1 - 2:30 p.m. | Zoom

Monday, April 21 | 5:30 - 7 p.m. | 633 E Masonic, Princeton

Monday, April 28 | 6:30 - 8 p.m. | 111 N Avenue A, Canton

Register at [www.salccc.org/provider-services/training](http://www.salccc.org/provider-services/training).

## Health & Safety

### Playing Outside: Why It's So Important for Children

There is scientific evidence that playing outside improves physical and mental health. The more time a child spends in nature, the more likely they are to grow up to be good stewards of our planet. Below are a few activities you can do with children outdoors.

- Allow infants outdoor tummy time on a blanket.
- Take children on a guided tour of your neighborhood or outdoor play area.
- Take story time outside and read them a book to help them make connections with nature.
- Roll, bounce, or kick a ball back and forth.

## Grants

Quality Improvement Funds ExceleRate Illinois Training Stipends are available now!

Licensed child care programs working towards/maintaining an ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality may apply for a training stipend. The stipend applies only to the trainings required within the ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality that the program is working towards/maintaining and is available only to the minimum staff required to attend.

Learn more about how to apply for these funds and what they cover by going to [www.salccc.org/provider-services/grant-opportunities](http://www.salccc.org/provider-services/grant-opportunities).

## Home Child Care Network

Home Child Care Network is seeking licensed home care providers to join their **free** program. Their program offers free monthly training, technical support for grants and budgets, mental health support including screenings, and add-on rates for 2nd and 3rd shifts and weekends, with monthly payments guaranteed by the 15th of the month.

For more information, call (309) 685-8064.

## Higher Education Navigation

### Thinking about advancing your Early Education Career?

Contact a Higher Education Navigator for Help:

1. Determining your educational goals
2. Identifying which programs are available to best fit your needs
3. Connecting you with Early Childhood Education scholarship opportunities
4. Acting as a point of contact with Higher Education Institutions
5. Completing your Gateways membership
6. CDA cohort
7. Other assistance as needed

Call (309) 686-3750 Option 7

## Home Daycare Professional Group

Third Tuesday of the Month  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting



For more information on any of our programs and services  
Call: (309) 686-3750 | Fax: (309) 686-3850 | Visit: [www.salccc.org](http://www.salccc.org)  
Child Care Assistance Program Option 2  
Referrals Option 3  
Training Registration Option 4  
Grants Option 5  
Smart Start Grant Expert Option 6  
Higher Education Navigation Option 7  
Quality Visits or Information on ExceleRate Option 9

**SAL** COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

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