



Pre-K Press

February 2024



Cultivate a Culture of Kindness

We know **kindness** is something we need to continue to model and teach our students... especially in this day and age. How about turning your students into published authors to cultivate that kindness culture in your classroom? Visit **Studenttreasures Publishing** to see how you can create and publish a FREE classroom book! This will become a class treasure that students will love reading over and over in the Library Center!

****Families will have the option to order a copy for their child to keep, as well.***



Check out these sample books to see what a completed publication looks like.



February = Random Acts of Kindness Week!

February 11th - 17th, 2024 is Random Acts of Kindness Week. What a great time to focus on social and emotional learning - particularly what it means to be kind and how our own kindness impacts others. I'd like to share a resource to support this, BUT **please** hear this part: *If at all possible*, find the hard copies of the books to complete the read aloud rather than showing the videos via YouTube! **Evidence shows that working memory is overstimulated during these types of videos, causing children to be unable to process what they are taking in.** That being said, The [Random Acts of Kindness Foundation](#) has Kindness in the Classroom for Pre-K, which includes great book suggestions AND activity ideas that support your content areas while working on things like respect, responsibility, caring, etc.

I would love to hear from anyone who implements this program! :)



DAP CENTRAL

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

Dramatic Play

Post Office

Create a dramatic play experience that encourages your students to write while learning more about a community helper and kindness! Provide plenty of writing materials and model playing with your students as you show them how to write a note or letter, place it in an envelope, add a stamp, and send it at the post office. Encourage students to send kindness notes to classmates, other teachers, or helpers in your own community.

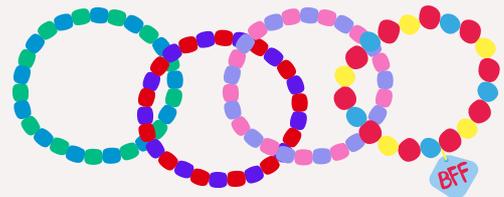
Check out [these photos](#) from Stephanie Middleton's classroom at Irion County ISD. The labeling, authentic print, and writing materials create a wonderful and inviting place to play and learn!



Math

Friendship Bracelets

Since February is International Friendship Month, take advantage of that **and** work on math skills by making friendship bracelets during small group and/or in the Math Center. Incorporate math skills such as **measuring** the yarn or string to the appropriate size and **comparing** the lengths needed to fit different people. Provide pony beads and have children choose 2 colors to create a **pattern** on their bracelet. Keep the patterning to simple AB, AABB, AAB patterns. Children can make one for themselves and then one for a friend, family member, or someone on campus such as the secretary, cafeteria workers, principal, etc.



Literacy

Alliteration Hearts

Help children work on listening for the same beginning sound with this heart-felt alliteration activity! Print the hearts, cut them out, cut along the middle, and work on matching those beginning sounds during small group. Once the students have the hang of it, put it in the ABC or ABC & Writing Center and encourage them to draw/write more words that begin with the matching sounds.

Click [HERE](#) for the full-color version. Click [HERE](#) if you need to print in black and white.



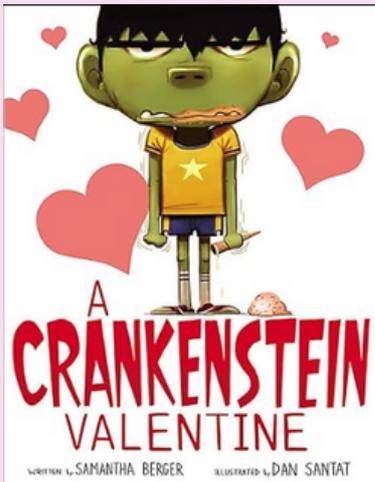
Discovery

Rescue the Hearts

Place loose petals from artificial roses, tissue paper, crinkled paper, etc. into a bin and add heart erasers. Place a web of washi tape or ribbon across the top of the bin. Have children use tongs to "rescue" the hearts through the web and place them in a muffin tin. Expand the activity by asking children to count how many hearts they rescue, sort them according to color or design, and talk about math vocabulary such as "more, less, equal." Take it one step further and help them graph the hearts they rescued! Click the pic to see more at [Happy Toddler Playtime!](#)

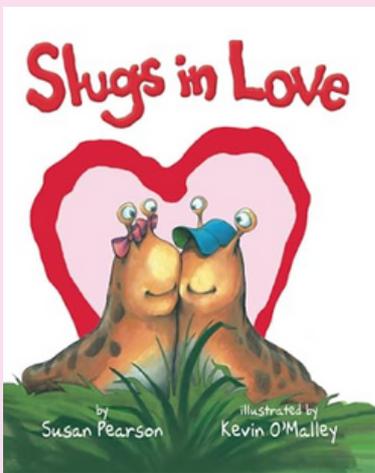


PRE-K BOOK NOOK



A Crankenstein Valentine

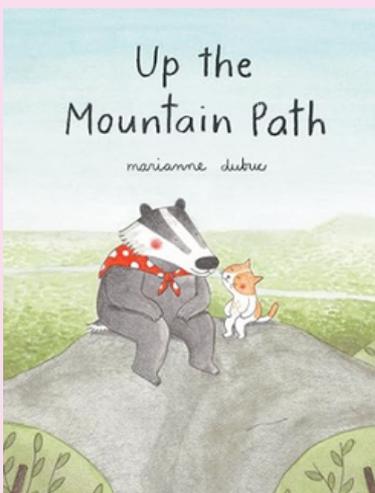
An ordinary kid becomes Crankenstein on the most lovey-dovey, yuckiest day of the year: Valentine's Day. Cheesy cards, allergy-inducing bouquets, and heart-shaped everything? YECHHHH! It's enough to turn anyone into a monster! Fear not! Even the crankiest monsters have hearts in this monstrously funny Valentine tale.



Slugs in Love



Marylou loves everything about Herbie—how his slime trail glistens in the dark, how he can stretch himself thin to squeeze inside the cellar window, and how he always finds the juiciest tomatoes. But Marylou is a shy slug. How can she get Herbie to notice her? Find out how Marylou woos her beloved in this must-have love story that's perfect for Valentine's Day.



Up the Mountain Path

Mrs. Badger is a wise old lady who greets old friends and helps creatures in need. She also teaches others how to be kind and brave, how to listen to intuition, and how to have faith. Read this with your kids more than once and emphasize different aspects of the story. There is so much to discuss: opening your eyes, lending a helping hand, harmony with nature, enjoying the journey, passing on traditions, encouragement, friendships, and the cycle of life.

This is a GREAT read for International Friendship Month!





PD OPPORTUNITIES



“What to Do?”

Virtual Lunch & Learn Series presented by ESC 15's Mental Health Department
Sessions will run January - May, with 2 dates for each session:

What to do about...

- **Suicide Intervention:**
2/8/24 (#304309) **or** 4/12/24 (#304310)
- **Everything! (Helpful Cognitive-Behavioral Tools):**
2/16/24 (#304311) **or** 3/7/24 (#304313)
- **Addictive Behaviors:**
2/22/24 (#304301) **or** 3/28/24 (#304306)
- **Self-Injury:**
3/1/24 (#304300)
- **Grief & Trauma:**
3/22/24 (#304439) **or** 5/2/24 (#304446)
- **Anxiety:**
4/18/24 (#304288)
- **Challenging Behaviors:**
4/25/24 (#304293) *repeat of 2/2/24

Each session is from 12:00 - 1:00. Come to any or all sessions that fit your needs and schedule. Click the session # to register.

What's in a Name?

Friday, March 1st (9:00 - 4:00)

Session #310531

Teach letter knowledge through the most important words ever - **children's names!** Come learn the importance of using names to teach letter knowledge, rethink Letter-of-the-Week, AND take away some quick, easy, and FUN activities to teach one of the most important skills necessary to read.



ATYC
Where the
ADVENTURE
Begins

Save THE Date

The **ADVENTURE** is set
for **July 10th - 12th** at
ESC 17 in Lubbock!

We can't wait to see you!

Registration information coming soon!



PD OPPORTUNITIES



Little Changes = Big Results Conference

Session #236181

After you register for the conference, you can choose a track that works for you, or you can choose sessions from multiple tracks.

LITTLE CHANGES = BIG RESULTS CONFERENCE 2024

June 25th & 26th

THE TEACHERS, ME, AND ADHD!
with Mike Desparrois

Two Speakers!

Where?
San Angelo Region 15 ESC

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
HOW TO USE VIDEO MODELING TO TEACH A NEW SKILL!
with Joanie Garro & Alex McFerren

Sign Up Early and Pick Your Break Out Sessions

Supporting Diverse Learners

Tips for Parent Involvement, Homelessness, and MTSS

Behavior and Mental Health

SCAN AND REGISTER

Example Tracks:

Early Childhood Track

- 01** APPLYING A TRAUMA INCLUSIVE APPROACH: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM
WITH LISA SOMBERO
- 02** EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES FOR AGGRESSIVE AND OFF THE WALL BEHAVIORS
WITH MIKE DESPARROIS
- 03** STUDENT BEHAVIORS IN THE INCLUSIVE SETTING
WITH KARI CALCOTE
- 04** BUILDING BLOCKS OF PLAY
WITH ROSTIA ORTEGA
- 05** LISTEN UP! UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING YOUR NON-SPEAKING STUDENTS
WITH CLARISA ELLIOTT

New Teacher Track

- 01** ONE SMALL STEP IN INSTRUCTION - ONE GIANT LEAP IN STUDENT SUCCESS
WITH VALERIE MOOS & TORREY CLAY
- 02** EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES FOR AGGRESSIVE AND OFF THE WALL BEHAVIORS
WITH MIKE DESPARROIS
- 03** ANCHOR CHARTS FOR NEURODIVERGENT LEARNERS
WITH TORREY CLAY
- 04** STUDENT BEHAVIORS IN THE INCLUSIVE SETTINGS
WITH KARI CALCOTE
- 05** ENHANCING PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT WITH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
WITH MONICA DIAZ

LITERACY ON THE CONCHO 2024

The Sweet Taste OF LITERACY!

JULY 17, 2024

Register HERE!

Region 15

- Trevor Green
- Thea Woodruff
- Amy Cushner
- Jennifer Schnakenberg
- Maria Walther
- M. Colleen Cruz
- Devin Siebold
The Bored Teachers Comedy Tour

Take a journey through the sweet land of literacy at Lit Con 2024! We'll kick off with giggles galore thanks to Devin Siebold, the comedy genius from The Bored Teachers Comedy Tour. The sweetness will continue with Maria Walther, M. Colleen Cruz, and many others providing masterfully crafted ideas for effective and engaging instruction. We hope you come sweeten up your reading and writing at Literacy on the Concho 2024!





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