

# The Preschool Press

Volume 2, Issue 6

February 2011

## Themes: Love In the Mail & What Big Teeth You Have!

This month your child will be participating in a variety of fun and educational activities and experiences as they learn about Valentine's Day and sending letters in the mail. Your child will also learn about some important life lessons using Fairy Tales!

These activities include: stories, songs, poems, art, science, and much more!  
Your child will also be introduced to, work with, and learn about:

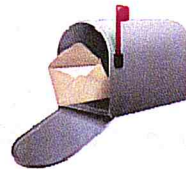
**Letters:** Dd, Tt, Xx

**Shape:** Heart

**Number:** 7

**Pattern:** A-A-B-C

**Colors:** Pink, White, and Red



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## Some of February's Songs, Poems, & Fingerplays

### "Keep Safe"

Tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb?"

How can you keep safe, keep safe, keep safe?  
 How can you keep safe, each and every day?  
 Don't talk to a stranger, to a stranger,  
 to a stranger.  
 Don't talk to a stranger  
 that will keep you safe!

### "I'm a Little Groundhog"

Tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little groundhog, I live underground.  
 February 2<sup>nd</sup> I come up and look around.  
 If I see my shadow, down I'll go.  
 Six more weeks of winter, oh, oh, no!

I'm a little groundhog, I live underground.  
 February 2<sup>nd</sup> I come up and look around.  
 If there is no shadow for me to see,  
 Spring is coming, yi-i-pee!



### "A Letter"

Tune of "London Bridges"

Write a letter to a friend, to a friend,  
 to a friend.  
 Write a letter to a friend, send it in the mail.  
 To write a letter to a friend,  
 it needs to have the date and greeting.  
 Add the body and the closing.  
 End with your signature.  
 Your friend will get it in the  
 mail, in the mail, in the mail.  
 Your friend will get it in the  
 mail and have a happy day!



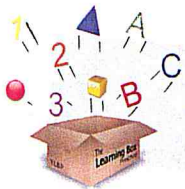
### "A Valentine"

Tune of "The Muffin Man"

Have you seen my Valentine, Valentine, Valentine?  
 Have you seen my Valentine? I made it for my Grandpa!  
 I will send it in the mail, in the mail, in the mail.  
 I will send it in the mail, send it to my Grandpa!  
 My Grandpa will get it in the mail, in the mail, in the mail.  
 My Grandpa will get it in the mail and have a happy day!

Change the underlined word to other people the Valentine could be for such as:

Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Grandma, Aunt, Uncle, Friend, etc.



## Art - Scribblers Just Can't Help Themselves

Scribblers just can't help themselves. They've just got to close their fists around those fat crayons and scribble. Around and around they go, in circles, zigzags, blurs, and blobs. Unfortunately, scribblers sometimes like to use walls for their canvases.

If you provide an alternative for the scribbler, like a large chalkboard and colored chalk, an easel with newspaper and paint, or lots of plain paper (the back of computer print-outs, recycled paper, or a roll of shelf paper) you'll have fewer pictures on your walls.

Scribbling may look like nonsense to adults, but there is

some sense in it for a child. When children learn to stop their arm movements in time, those big circles becomes faces.

Tight, round scribbles make eyes, looser ones make curly hair. Sweeping lines stop short for arms, fingers, mouths, and spiky hair. Pounding with the point of the crayon makes snow.

Scribbling is necessary preparation for drawing—and writing, too. But it's hard to know what to say when you're presented with a scribbled work of art. "I really like purple scribbles" is probably the most honest, appreciative and gracious thing you can say!

## Games - Big or Little

Here's a game you can play anywhere, anytime — riding in the car, waiting in line or at the doctor's office.

Think of two common objects and ask your child which one is bigger"

A grape or an apple?

A cat or a cow?

A house or a bicycle?

When this gets old, or you can't think of any more objects, switch the game by asking which is littler?

Finally, give your child a turn and be patient at some of the more bizarre combinations. That's the way kids learn.

## Parenting - Praise Shows You Care

One way to foster better parenting skills is to praise more than you criticize. Praise a job well done, but don't dole out "false" praise.

If, for example, your son is struggling to become an average tee-ball player, don't praise him by saying, "You're such a great ball player," just to make him feel good. Instead say, "Your batting has really improved" or "You did a good job." Be specific and fair in your praise. Kids are pretty good at knowing where they stand, and they appreciate an honest appraisal.

Praise developmental milestones and academics, but don't forget to praise attitudes as well. You reinforce good behavior when you tell your daughter, "That was very nice of you to share with Molly." The behavior that gets rewarded gets repeated—so make sure you're praising the positive behaviors you want to see more of.

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Articles in **Growing Together** refer to both boys and girls. For simplicity, the pronouns "he" and "she" are used interchangeably unless otherwise noted.

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