




# Introducing a new way to save!

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## February 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<p><b>Black History Month</b>  <b>National Children's Dental Health Month</b>  <b>Canned Food Month</b>  <b>National Cherry Month</b></p>		<p>1            Make a list of ways that you can help others. Choose at least one and do it this month.</p>	<p>2  <b>Ground Hog Day</b></p>	<p>3  <b>Feed The Birds Day</b></p>	<p>4  <b>Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day</b></p>
<p>5  <b>Superbowl Sunday</b></p>	<p>6            Find a book that makes you laugh out loud.</p>	<p>7  <b>Wave all your fingers at your neighbor Day</b></p>	<p>8  <b>Kite Flying Day (in the middle of winter?)</b></p>	<p>9            Read, sing, or say nursery rhymes from your childhood. Help your child learn them.</p>	<p>10            Begin a search for things that begin with the first letter of your child's name</p>	<p>11  <b>Make a Friend Day</b></p>
<p>12  <b>Plum Pudding Day</b></p>	<p>13  <b>Get a Different Name Day</b></p>	<p>14  <b>Valentine's Day</b></p>	<p>15  <b>National Gum Drop Day</b></p>	<p>16            Help your child make cutouts of favorite storybook characters. Your child can use them to dramatize the story as you read and reread it.</p>	<p>17  <b>Random Acts of Kindness Day</b></p>	<p>18            Label a few belongings with your child's name, for example, a cup or a favorite book. Read the labels together.</p>
<p>19  <b>National Chocolate Mint Day</b></p>	<p>20  <b>President's Day &amp; Cherry Pie Day</b></p>	<p>21            Make a book that has a page for each letter of the alphabet. Your child can draw or find a picture for each letter and paste it on the page.</p>	<p>22  <b>Walking the Dog Day</b></p>	<p>23            Cut out pictures of food and paste them on sheets of paper to make a menu. You might make pages for breakfast, lunch, and supper</p>	<p>24  <b>Tortilla Chip Day</b></p>	<p>25            Play simple naming games with your child. Ask, "What is This?" or "Where is he/she going?" when you go to the grocery store, go on a walk, or sit and look out the window.</p>
<p>26  <b>Carnival Day</b></p>	<p>27  <b>Polar Bear Day</b></p>	<p>28  <b>Public Sleeping Day</b></p>				

## Make an Alphabet Book

Let your child play with scissors! Put her to work, creating a book that will keep her busy, and help her practice her letters, too. Long after all those preschool finger paintings have left the front of your refrigerator, you can look back at this book, for a glimpse at what your preschooler thought was special.

### What You Need:

- Construction paper
- Glue stick
- Markers
- Magazines, newspapers, stickers, and other materials with pictures
- Binding material (a hole punch and yarn, staples, or whatever else you choose)



### What You Do:

1. Ask your child to pick 26 pages of construction paper. Take a marker and write one letter of the alphabet at the top of each page.
2. It's time to work that alphabet! Give your child a stack of newspapers, photos, magazines, and anything else with pictures that you don't mind cutting up. Start with the letter A and ask your child to go through the gathered materials in search of words that begin with that letter-- apples from the grocery store ad, Aunt Thelma's picture from last Easter, an alligator from a magazine, an ant sticker... If your child needs help, you can make the sound the letter makes, to help her in her quest. When she makes a mistake, gently correct her, but without criticizing. For example, "That word starts with "eh" and the letter A sounds like "ah".
3. After your child has collected all the images, ask him to help you label each one. Your child can tell you what the picture and you can write the name below. Or older preschoolers might want to take a crack at it themselves, writing the words with a little help from mom or dad.
4. Repeat this process with each letter of the alphabet. For tougher letters, like x, you may need to go to the computer and print out some pictures to have on hand.
5. Once you've finished with all the letters, stack the pages in order, from A to Z. Let your child decide on a title, for example, Michael's Alphabet Book, and then write the name on a cover page, with a byline beneath. Let your child decorate to his heart's content.
6. You've reached the final stretch! Now it's time to bind your book. The fastest and easiest way is to punch holes in all of the pages and use yarn to tie the book together. If you don't have yarn or a hole punch, you can use staples. Or, for a spill proof version, take your creation to the copy store and have them laminate and bind it for you.

Don't forget to read your book! As you look over the letters, both now and in the future, you'll remember how much fun it was to create (and how hard it was to find a picture of a xylophone!)

## pudding Face

When your child makes cute and delicious pudding cup faces, he has also created edible works of art!

### What You Need:

- Vanilla, chocolate, or butterscotch pudding mix or pre-made pudding cups
- Candy decorations (not all of these are needed, just enough to create faces on pudding surfaces) such as: licorice pieces, raisins, chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, coconut shavings, jelly beans, lifesavers, M&M's, gum drops, gummy worms, red dots, and sprinkles
- Bowls or small clear plastic cups
- Spoon and butter knife



### What You Do:

1. Tell your child he will use candy to create faces on pudding cups, and he'll get to eat the whole thing!
2. Your child can help you make pudding from a box of pudding mix (following package directions), or you can provide pudding already pre-made from purchasable pudding cups.
3. Have your child use a spoon to scoop pudding from the homemade batch or from pre-made cups into a larger bowl or clear plastic cup. After the child has filled the bowl, the parent can use a knife to smooth out the surface of the pudding.
4. Let your child pick out the candy decorations that he would like to use to create a pudding "face" on the surface of the pudding. He may want to use a red licorice piece, a gummy worm, or a red life saver for a mouth; M&M's, red dots, lifesavers or chocolate chips for eyes; and perhaps coconut shavings or gummy worms for hair. These are just suggestions; the final design is entirely up to your child!
5. You may wish to photograph the finished pudding face creation before your child eats it, as it's sure to be a one-of-a-kind face!
6. He may want to create more than one pudding face, for example as desserts for your whole family.

Let him eat and enjoy his pudding face creation!



## Valentine Photo Frame

Valentine's Day is all about celebrating people in your life that you love. Your child can join in by giving little tokens of her affection. This pretty frame makes a great gift for friends or family, and will last a lot longer than a box of chocolates. Plus, the process requires fine motor skills, which will help with pencil grip, and simple patterning ability, a key component to early math.

### What You Need:

- An inexpensive, plain white china picture frame
- Craft glue
- Conversation hearts

### What You Do:

1. Take a couple handfuls of conversation hearts. Let your child choose between sweet and silly messages, and varying colors.
2. Put dots of glue on the back of each conversation heart, and glue them to the frame in any pattern. Let dry.
3. Remind your child that these candies are no longer edible.
4. Add a photo of your child (of course!) Or, if your child is giving this frame as a gift to a friend, try finding a picture of your child and her friend doing something fun together.

