April 2020- Edition #4

**There are so many wonderful creative ideas and websites circulating but here are a few of our favorites for ARK families to consider & explore! Parents…… We encourage you to post your favorites on class Shutterfly sites!**

sheppardpratt.org/coronavirus/

Check out COVID-19 Updated and Resources. These are excellent online resources for mental health and include downloadable activities to do with kids. Why not play BINGO or make a HOPE flag to share your thanks and appreciation to essential workers and health professionals!

***April 22 is Earth Day…. Some ways to investigate with your children…***

* Some great read aloud books or search for eBooks:
  + Something from Nothing
  + I Stink
  + Sam Helps Recycle
  + Radio Man
  + Don’t Lose It- Reuse It
  + Peter’s Chair
* What do people throw away?
  + What did we throw away at home? At school?
  + Does all trash stink?
  + “I Spy” trash cans on your walk today
  + Bury an apple core or banana peel and make the special place you buried it? Predict what might happen to it
  + What letters and numbers do you see on discarded trash? Environmental print on signs and discarded boxes?
* Why isn’t it safe to touch trash with our bare hands?
  + Share plastic gloves with your kids and create a recycle collage with a message to recycle! Post it in an area that might be littered with plastics☹
* Where does trash go? What do workers do there?
  + Look for the recycling symbol on throw away objects
  + Discover different shaped objects and discuss which object holds more, the same, less
  + Discover links to Recycling Centers to see what happens at these businesses
  + What type of questions would you like to ask a sanitation worker?
  + Make a sign “thanking” your sanitation worker for their hard work
  + Create book about where trash might go? Which of these places are real? Imaginary?
  + Provide a box of safe trash items for kids to sort. Which items can be thrown away? Recycled?
  + Make a can crusher! Talk about how this saves space in recycle centers.
  + Sing, “Who are the people in our neighborhood?” Add workers, neighbors, friends, etc.
  + Fill a couple of big boxes with a mix of clean trash and recyclables. Have a trash relay to trash can vs. recycling bin.
* How do trash and garbage affect our community?
  + Poem: “The Litter Monster”
  + How can we create less trash? Use boxes and cardboard trash to stack within one another, cans of different sizes to condense space used in a recycle bin, use recycled objects to repurpose/create art
  + “Litter” is trash that is not where it belongs. Instead of being in a garbage can or recycling bin, it’s on the ground.” Look for litter around your community.
    - Plan and empower others to have a litter clean-up time taking safety precautions and using gloves!
    - We did this in our neighborhood and collected 9 bags of plastics and metal cans litter!
    - Stress safe ways to collect litter and the importance of washing hands afterwards
    - Make something useful out of what might be considered “trash”
  + How can we reuse junk?
    - Reusing broken toy parts/ making “mystery bags” full of things that can make a new creation. Always asking, “Why did you choose that bottle? What will you choose next?”
    - Make letters and shapes using cardboard straws. Explore 3-dimensional shapes!
    - Have fun with outdoor bowling using recycled water bottles. Incorporate numbers into the fun!
    - Can you make musical instruments out of clean reusable junk?
    - Melt broken crayons into new colorful ones!
    - Hang a clothesline with newly created reusable junk. Have a show explaining the re-purposed items, why they were created, how they were made, what they will be used for!
  + How can we create less trash?
    - What can we give away to others? Clothes…. Toys…. Shoes…. Electronics….
    - Might we make a family quilt from old clothes?
    - Remind kids about the banana peel and apple core you buried. Go observe it!
      * Composting is food garbage that breaks into tiny pieces and changes in other ways. Some people don’t throw their fruit and vegetable scraps in the trash. Instead, they put them in a special container or place in their yard called a composting bin. Every few days they stir in yard waste, such as leaves and grass clippings. When the mixture decomposes, it becomes soil.

***HAVE FUN LOVING OUR EARTH!***

**PARENTS… Please continue to share great ideas for engagement and your favorite links on Classroom Shutterfly sites!**