

# Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

## Desert Discovery

Pull up your boots, put on your cowboy hat and head to the Experience Early Learning Rodeo! After practicing your rope skills, wander out into the dunes of the Sahara Desert. Explore the Mojave Desert while riding your bumpy burro. Sit for a while in the shade of a cactus, but be careful not to fall asleep because the desert comes to life at night.

Look for the daily notes about your child's art projects!

Today I made a cowboy hat.

Cowboy hats help protect people from the sun and rain. Instead of a pair of shoes, I made a pair of cowboy boots with twine. It is fun to play with art tools. Now I can wear I'm a cowboy.



Today I designed a boot.

Cowboy boots are made for riding horses. I created my own boot design using a pokey tool. My cowboy boot is special because I used my own creative ideas.



ASK ME: What other art materials did you use? Do you own a pair of boots?

preschool

## Confidence Building

To help your child learn and grow, she needs to feel safe, secure and connected to her learning environment. A child who feels comfortable and secure is more willing to risk failure during the learning process.

Here are some key ideas to help your child build confidence:

- **Smile, laugh and express yourself often.** Modeling positive expressions will allow your child to feel free to express herself.
- **Take time to be involved in the activities** as much as you expect your child to be involved in them. She will develop an appreciation for effort, perseverance and dedication.
- **Have open conversations that are personal and casual.** Encourage her to share her likes, dislikes and opinions without judgment. Find out and follow her interests.
- **Offer positive non-verbal communication** whenever possible (high fives, hugs, kisses, etc.).
- **Offer support without doing it all for your child.** Give just enough help to make sure your child feels successful or alleviate her frustration but leave enough room for your child to continue to learn and eventually celebrate the accomplishment.

When you foster a caring climate, you open up a world of safe learning for your child. This is a wonderful tool to encourage her to take risks, which ultimately fosters a joy and love for discovery and learning.



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CONCEPTS

**Letters** Ww, Zz & Nn

**Shape** Star

**Numbers** 13 & 14

**Color** Black

**Character Trait** Honest

**Letter Ww** watermelon, water & wolf

**Letter Zz** zipper, zero & zebra

**Letter Nn** nest, net & nut

Topics your child will explore this month:

# Desert Discovery

## Wild West

- 1 Cowboy Boots
- 2 Cowboy Hat
- 3 Lasso
- 4 Horse
- 5 At the Rodeo

## Sahara Desert

- 6 Sahara Desert
- 7 Camel
- 8 Small Desert Animals
- 9 The Great Pyramid
- 10 Plants of the Sahara

## Desert Night

- 16 Desert Cottontail
- 17 Desert Night
- 18 Coyote
- 19 Rattlesnake
- 20 Campfire

## Mojave Desert

- 11 Mojave Desert
- 12 Desert Tortoise
- 13 Burro
- 14 Cactus
- 15 Plants of the Mojave



## RECOMMENDED READS

# Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

**Cowboys**  
by Lucille Recht Penner

**I Want to Be a Cowboy**  
by Dan Liebman

**Rodeo Day**  
by Jonelle Toriseva & Robert Casilla

**A Desert Habitat**  
by Kelley MacAulay & Bobbie Kalman

**Creatures of the Desert World**  
by National Geographic Society

**My Cowboy Boots**  
by Crystal Bowman

**The Desert Alphabet Book**  
by Jerry Pallotta



## I am a Cowboy

*(To the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")*  
Invite your child to choose where to pretend to ride, for example "rodeo" or "desert," and insert it in the song as you pretend to ride a horse together.

**I am a cowboy,  
I love to ride,  
Hat on my head,  
Rope on my side.  
In the rodeo, my horse is best,  
"Yeehaw!" We yell with all the rest.**

## Family Activities

### Desert Adventures

Check out local dunes, beaches or sandy areas. Try to find patterns in the sand caused by wind and water. Is the sand you find dry or wet? Search for signs of life such as plants and animals. Visit a horse farm and experience the wonder of horse riding together. End the family night with stories and songs by your own campfire.

