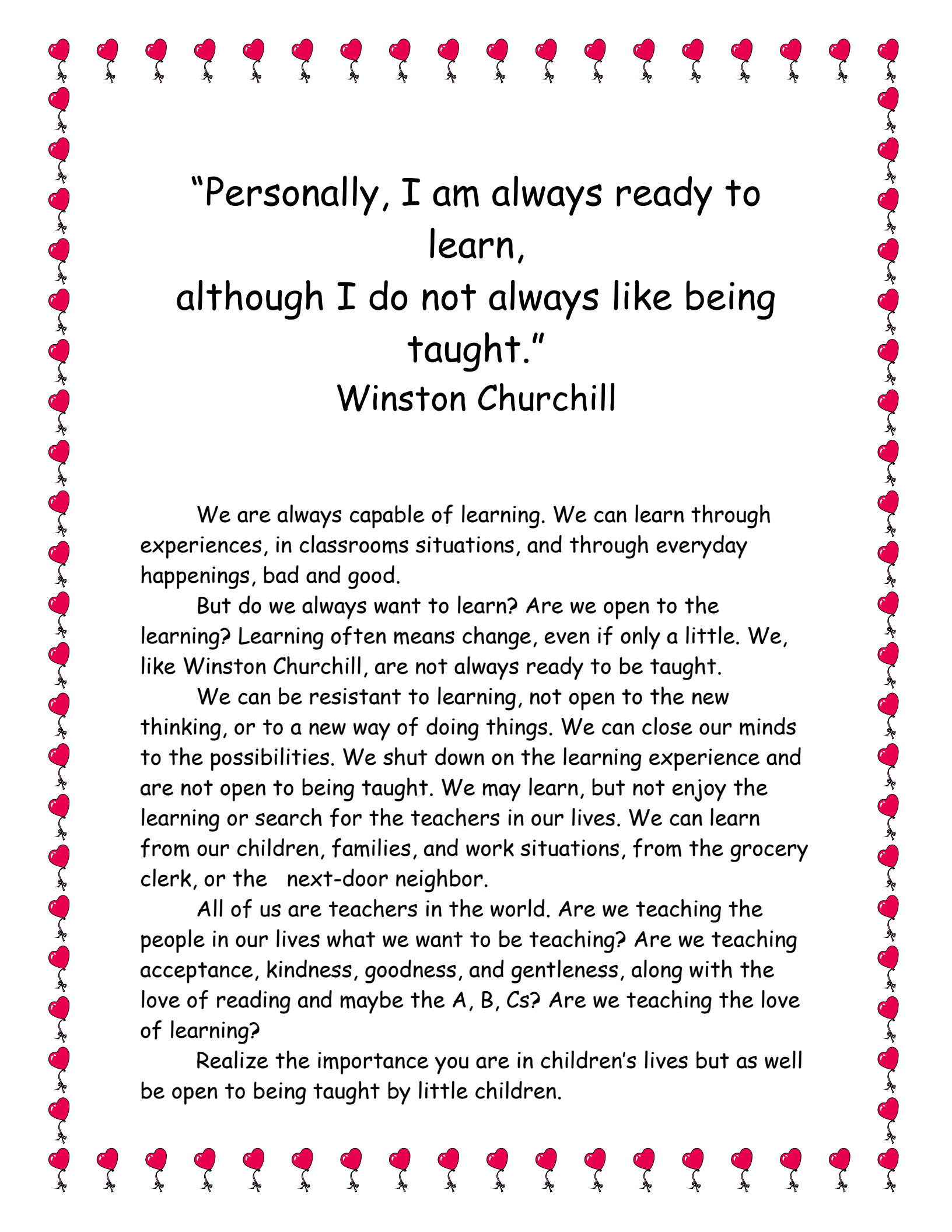


February Activity Packet For Children

Lassen Child and Family Resources
472-013 Johnstonville Rd, North
Susanville, Ca 96130

(530) 257-9781



"Personally, I am always ready to
learn,
although I do not always like being
taught."
Winston Churchill

We are always capable of learning. We can learn through experiences, in classrooms situations, and through everyday happenings, bad and good.

But do we always want to learn? Are we open to the learning? Learning often means change, even if only a little. We, like Winston Churchill, are not always ready to be taught.

We can be resistant to learning, not open to the new thinking, or to a new way of doing things. We can close our minds to the possibilities. We shut down on the learning experience and are not open to being taught. We may learn, but not enjoy the learning or search for the teachers in our lives. We can learn from our children, families, and work situations, from the grocery clerk, or the next-door neighbor.

All of us are teachers in the world. Are we teaching the people in our lives what we want to be teaching? Are we teaching acceptance, kindness, goodness, and gentleness, along with the love of reading and maybe the A, B, Cs? Are we teaching the love of learning?

Realize the importance you are in children's lives but as well be open to being taught by little children.



Infant and Toddler Activities

Make a game and learning time while doing routines with infants and toddlers. When changing them sing a song. While putting items away, count as you put items in a bucket or basket. While buttoning or snapping, count the snaps, slowly and in correct order. The toddler will be counting in order very soon. While putting items away, the toddler will begin to understand the concept of three things and the correspondence with the spoken word 'three'. Make it fun rather than a chore, and involve the child so there is positive interaction.

Counting Buttons

Materials:

- Anything that buttons or snaps on a coat
- Time to interact

Procedure:

- Talk to the child; let them know what 'we' are doing.
"It is time to put on your coat, it is cold outside."
- Start at the bottom of the coat, count slowly, so he or she might be able to see.
- Give the child time to repeat if he or she is inclined.
- When you are done buttoning you may say, "All done; now you are all ready to go out in the cold."

Extenders:

- ❖ Count buttons while buttoning a shirt.
- ❖ Count any apparel such as socks, shoes, mittens and a hat.
- ❖ Count things around the room, count slow let toddler repeat if inclined.



Preschool and Kindergarten Activities

February is the month for heart shapes. There are many activities that utilize heart shapes in February. Here is an activity that is also recycling heart shaped boxes.

Candy Box Painting

Materials:

- Tops and bottoms of different sized heart-shaped boxes
- Shallow pan
- Paint
- Big paper
- Easel if you have it

Procedure:

- Pour a little paint into a shallow pan.
- Place heart-shaped box tops or bottoms into pan.
- A child may then press the heart-shape onto the paper, over and over.
- Different sizes and different colors of paint may be offered.
- Let dry.

Extenders:

- ❖ Heart-shaped cookie cutters may be substituted.
- ❖ Heart-shaped boxes may be added to the play dough play area, children may form candy sized dough pieces to fill the box.
- ❖ Pictures of items that begin with the letter 'H' may be placed in a heart-shaped box and placed in the reading area.
- ❖ Put several heart-shaped boxes on a table and encourage a child to match tops and bottoms together.

Kindergarten and School-age Activities

Prints can be an engaging activity. Tissue paper can be used in several different ways. Tissue printing is where the tissue paper is peeled off to leave the color behind.

Tissue Paper Prints

Materials:

- Multi-colored tissue paper sheets
- Clean paint brushes
- Water
- Scissors
- White paper
- Newspaper
- Markers

Procedure:

- Put newspaper down to protect the table.
- Set out tissue paper, and scissors.
- A child may cut shapes or objects out of the tissue paper.
- The child may place cut out tissue paper shapes on the white paper.
- With clean paint brushes dipped in the water, the child paints over the tissue paper.
- Be careful to not use too much water so the tissue tears.
- Peel off the tissue paper slowly and throw it away.
- The color from the tissue paper will print onto the paper.
- When the paper is completely dry, the child may want to trace around the shapes to complete the project.

Extenders:

- ❖ A child may draw to include the shapes to make a completed picture instead of tracing the shapes.

Art and Activities

February activities for child's portfolio - These activities should be put into the child's file folder with the child's name and dated. Children should be encouraged to write numbers and letters or their version of them.

Provide children opportunities to trace numbers and letters or copy letters from a name card. It doesn't have to be perfect or near perfect but an experience. Date the paper and put the child's name on it and place in his or her portfolio. Children may also free form their name or other writing. There is no correct look to this paper; it is the child's interpretation. The papers are fun for the parent to look at later and see the development of a two-year-old's interpretation of writing, compared to the same child at four and a half.

Letter and number writing can only happen after the child had adequate writing opportunities to experiment and create. Opportunities should be given with a variety of tools; pencils (fat ones are easier for younger children), markers and crayons. The environment should be print-rich, which means words, numbers and names should be available and displayed for children to encounter. They may ask questions and name letters and numbers as well as copy, compare and interact with them.

Doily rubbings - Collect paper doilies, fold in half and cut a heart shape, or just use as they come. Children place the heart shape doily flat on the table and a piece of thin white paper over the doily. Rub with a crayon, pencil, or chalk. Interesting designs will appear.

Lace edged valentines - Draw a heart shape or shapes on a piece of colored construction paper. Older children may draw the heart shapes. Provide self-stick reinforcements (circles to reinforce notebook paper holes) for children to stick around the edge of the heart shape. Young children may place reinforcements everywhere on the heart shape. Let the creativity flow. Glitter and glue would add a nice touch to this lace heart.