

# The Provider News: Early Learning = Lifelong Learning

## Contents:

Dear Providers	1
Upcoming Stat Holidays	1
Cooking	2
Funnies	3
Fun Activities	3&4
Visits & Reminders	5
Message from Donna	5
Reading Corner	6
Emergent Literacy	7&8
Easter	9

## Upcoming Statutory Holidays:

### Easter

April 6 & 8, 2012

Providers receive these days  
off and the office will be  
closed.

## Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday

8:00am ~ 4:30pm

Friday

8:30am ~ 4:00pm

# Frogs



Dear Providers,

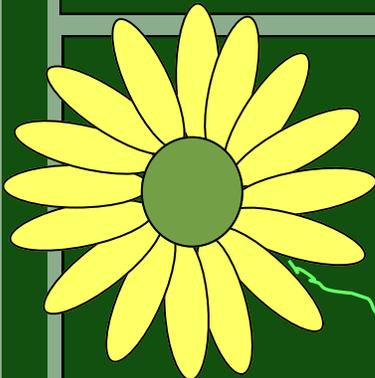
Spring is HERE! However, it seems as though it has been here since November or so, doesn't it. I hope you are all excited about all Spring has to offer, and there is so much to do with the children in this season.

Some of the fun things you can do is planting either in planters or in a garden space. This is a great activity to show children how everything grows and has a life cycle. You can also do some fun rainy day activities, lots of outdoor crafts like large painting activities. Of course we cannot forget all of the wonderful games that can be played outdoors. The list is really endless.

I hope you all have a marvellous April!



~ Angel



I love spring anywhere, but if I  
could choose I would always  
greet it in a garden.

~Ruth Stout





## Cooking Activities

### Frog Food

#### You will need:

Plain M&M's  
Raisins  
Chow Mein Noodles (Dry)  
Gold Fish Crackers



After talking about what frogs eat and how they live, you can make this snack. In a large bowl, have the children help you pour, M&M's (Bugs), Raisins (Flies), Chow Mein Noodles (Worms), & Gold Fish Crackers (Small Fish). Explain each item and see if the children remember the frogs in the pictures or story book eating these things. You can even have the children wear green that day to pretend they are frogs. Mix everything and then give each child a little bowl of the "frog food." Ribbbbit!



### Frog Cookies

#### You will need:

Oreo Cookies  
Green Melting Chocolate  
Pretzels  
Plain M&M's



Melt chocolate in a sauce pan or in the microwave. Set out two pretzels for each cookie on wax paper. Once chocolate is melted, dip cookies completely in chocolate until covered. Place chocolate covered Oreo on top of two pretzels. They will serve as the frog's feet. Before chocolate cools on the cookie, place two M&M's on the top of the cookie as the frogs eyes. Serve with milk!



### Frog on the Water

#### You will need:

Cream Cheese  
Blue Food Colour  
English Muffins  
Cucumber Slices  
Gummy Frogs

Mix food colour into cream cheese until it is blue. Spread cream cheese onto muffin to make the water. Place a cucumber slice on top for a lily pad. Add a gummy frog to the lily pad. Serve.



## Art Activities

### Tissue Frog

**You will need:**  
Paper  
Green Tissue Paper  
Glue  
Pencils



Give each child a piece of paper, a pencil and a few small squares of tissue paper. Place a bowl of glue in front of each child. Show the children how to place tissue on the eraser of the pencil and how to dip into glue and then place on paper. Explain to the children that you are going to make a frog on the paper. Allow them to use the tissue paper to form a frog.

### Cup Frogs

**You will need:**  
Yogurt Cup (empty & clean)  
Green Paint  
Google Eyes  
Red Paper  
Glue

Encourage child to paint their yogurt cups green. Allow them to add google eyes and give each a piece of red paper to cut out a long tongue. Have them glue the paper to the inside of the cup so it sticks way out like a frog's tongue. Let dry.

## Dramatic Activity

### Frog Marsh

Frog Stuffed Animals or Puppets  
Blue Blanket or Sheet  
Green Felt  
Toy Flies

Lay out a blue blanket or sheet (water) in your Dramatic Play area. Cut lily pads out of green felt. Lay the lily pads on the "water" and lay the frogs around. You can leave the flies in a container for easier pick up. The children can play with these materials in any way they can dream up.

## FUNNIES!



Q: Why did the frog cross the road?  
A: He wanted to see his flat mate!

Q: What's green & red?  
A: A very mad frog!

Q: What's black and white and green?  
A: A frog sitting on a newspaper!

Q: What kind of shoes do frogs wear?  
A: Open toad!

Q: How does a frog feel with a broken leg?  
A: Un-hoppy!

Q: What do you call a frog that crosses the road, jumps in a puddle and crosses the road again?  
A: A dirty double-crosser!

Q: What's green, green, green, green, green?  
A: A frog rolling down a hill!

## Sensory Activity

### Indoor Frog Pond

#### You will need:

Plastic or Rubber Frogs

Water

Rocks (large enough not to be swallowed)

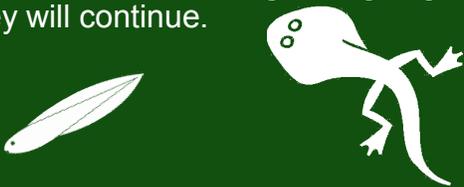
Foam

Fill your sensory table half with rocks and then pour in water. Place the frogs around the water. Cut out lily pad shapes from green foam and place them around the water. They should float and hold smaller frogs. Allow the children to play in the "pond."

## Science Activity

### Metamorphosis

In the Spring, find some tadpoles, either in a pet shop or in the wild. Set up the environment as you should (be sure to talk to your local pet shop.) Allow the children to watch the tadpole's metamorphosis. How do they change? How is this similar or different in other animals? Once the frogs are full grown, make sure to release them to a safe environment in your area. Explain to the children where the frogs are going and how they will continue.



## Songs & Finger Plays

### The Bullfrog's Song

The bullfrog sang the strangest song, he sang it  
night and day.

Ker-runk, ker-runk, ker-runk, ker-runk, ker-runk,  
was all it seemed to say.

A duck who liked to sing thought he would give  
the song a try:

Ker-runk, quack, quack, ker-runk, quack, quack,  
ker-runk, she sang as she went by.

The spotted cow had never heard a more de-  
lightful song.

Right then and there the spotted cow began to  
sing along. Ker-runk, moo, moo, ker-runk moo,  
moo.

The speckled hen, a mother hen, whose work  
was never done, began to sing for she knew  
when you sing your work is much more fun.

Ker-runk, cluck, cluck, ker-runk, cluck, cluck.



## A Message from:

D  
O  
N  
N  
A

Hello Everyone,

First of all, we would like to formally welcome our two new providers, Emma and Chantal. Emma's day home is located in Uplands, (Lethbridge) and Chantal's is in Coaldale. It's great to have you both on board.

As the weather is getting nicer, I am going to focus our April visits on Tips for Effective Outdoor Play. Many of us adults and children alike are craving the sun, and I have some interesting, effective and inexpensive suggestions that I'd love to share with you for outdoor play.

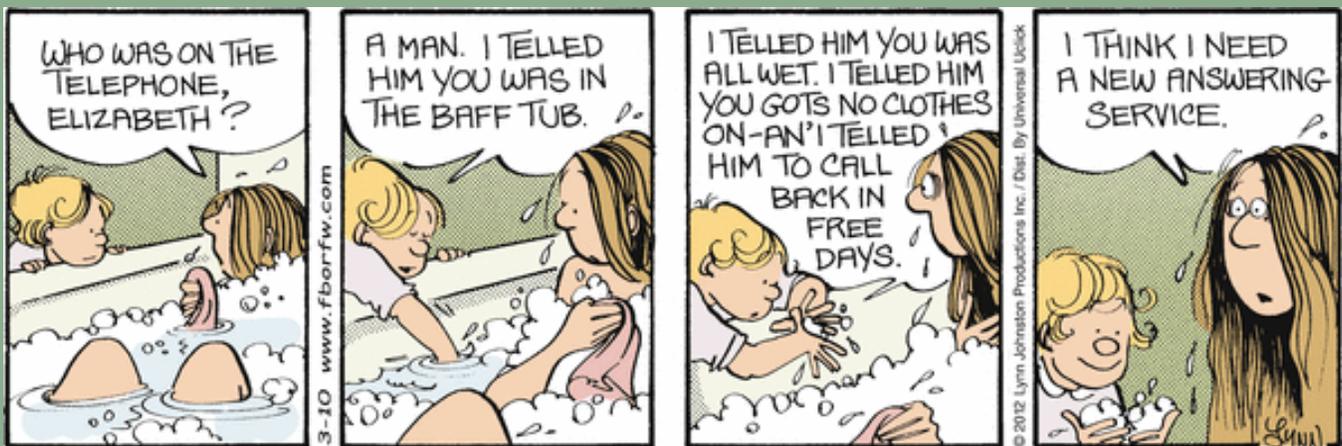
I just wanted to thank you all again for being so positive in response to the Ages and Stages developmental checklist we are going to be using in our agency. I think the parents will both benefit from it and appreciate it.

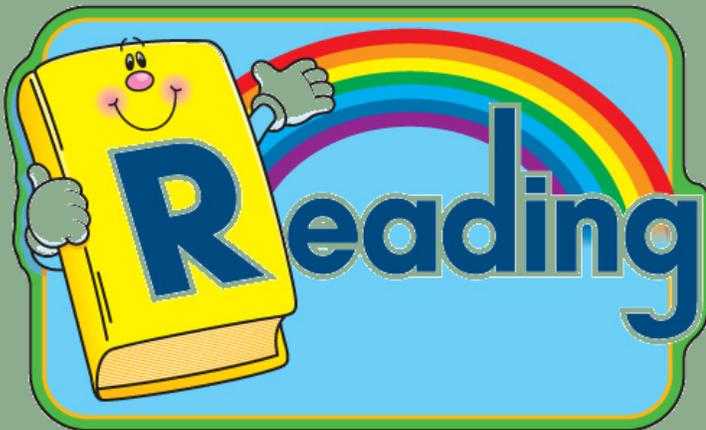
I realize March has felt like a long month as there were no long weekends. Hopefully you will enjoy a fun and restful four days off April 6-9 during the Easter break.

*Donna*

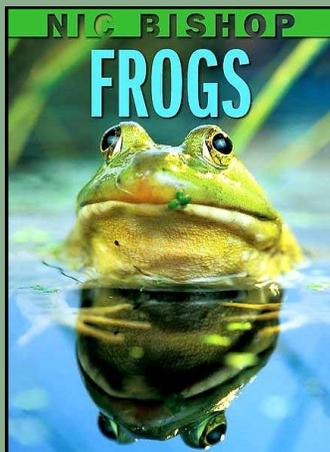


- Make sure to fill out a field trip form and have the parents sign it every time that you leave your home.
- Remember to document all illnesses even your own and your children's on the Alberta Health Form and submit a copy to the office at the end of each month with your time sheets.





# Corner



## Frogs

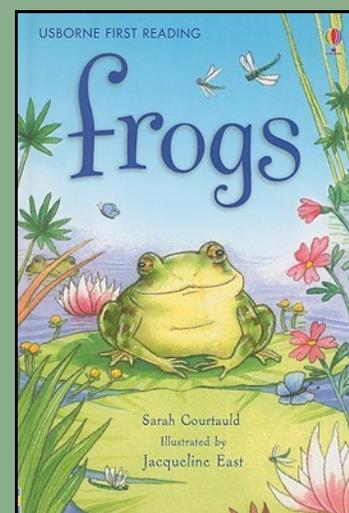
By Nic Bishop

For the first- to third-grade set, frogs are an endless source of fascination, especially when looked at VERY close up. See tiny poison dart frogs and mammoth bullfrogs, as Nic Bishop's amazing images show the beauty and diversity of frogs from around the globe. And simple, engaging text conveys basic information about frogs -- as well as cool and quirky facts.

## Frogs

By Sarah Courtauld

Splash into the slimy world of frogs, and find out how they feed, swim and keep safe from danger. Then watch as a tiny tadpole grows up into a frog and takes its first leap onto land.



Listed on this page are books that may be found in the Public Library, online or even in our Lending Library. If you have any other books that fit this theme, please let us know.



*By Kati Gilson and Verneice Cherry*

S.A.M.E.'s preschool program focuses on three process skills - observation, classification, and communication. The following science ideas can be taught to preschoolers and can be spiraled as needed.

A good early childhood science program develops the science process skills of observation, classification, and communication. Young children, because of their innate curiosity eagerly embrace all types of science activities. The easiest way to incorporate science into the early childhood classroom is to "find" the science in the activities you are already doing. A lesson about "me" can include making pasta skeletons with the children's pictures as the head. Color mixing, exploring which materials dissolve in water, comparing similarities and difference in objects, and cooking are all science activities.

#### **Set up a science center.**

This does not need to be expensive. Large and small magnifiers, prisms, balance scales, mirrors, magnets, color paddles, and a variety of objects to observe and measure are a great way to start. Models and animal puppets are always a hit. Throw in a few theme-related books, puzzles, and writing materials and you're set. Change the materials on a regular basis to keep things interesting.

#### **Teach what you know.**

If you like animals or plants, start there. Meal worms make great class pets. They are easy to care for and you can observe their life cycle. Plants come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and textures. They can be observed and measured. Lima bean seeds are easy to plant and grow. Don't forget to include "Jack and the Beanstalk" with this activity. Even teachers without a green thumb can provide plant science activities for their students by bringing in flowers and leaves for children to observe and take apart.

**Use your surroundings.**

Get pine needles from your Christmas tree vendor, dog fur from your local groomer, pick up pine cones, feathers, leaves, etc. whenever you find them. Ask your local pet shop for snakeskin, feathers, and other animal items. Once the word gets out that you collect these things, people will save them for you.

**Be a good observer.**

If your students start to do something unusual with an item or use it in a non-standard way, step back and watch. He/she may be making a new discovery and just might teach you a thing or two. Introduce new items and concepts to the group.

The children need to understand what things are for, and how to use and take care of them. Let them play. Children must have time to freely explore new things before participating in a structured activity.

**Answer their questions honestly.**

If you don't know an answer, find out. Then, tell the children where you found the answer. Even preschoolers understand looking up information in books, on computer programs, and on the Internet.

The best way to promote science literacy is to expose your students to a variety of books, from preschool level to adult. Just make sure the adult books have lots of pictures. You will need the information in the adult books to answer the children's questions.

A few simple additions to your classroom and curriculum will provide endless opportunities for creative thinking, problem solving, and exploration. Your students will be on their way to becoming "Super Scientists."

**Resources for Educators**

Online:

Jay Jay the Jet Plane <http://pbskids.org/jayjay/>

ZOOM <http://pbskids.org/zoom/>

Exploratorium Science Snacks <http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/index.html>

National Wildlife Federation <http://www.nwf.org/kids>

NSTA: Elementary Science Classroom: Science & Children <http://www.nsta.org/elementaryschool/>



## Cooking Activity

### Easter Egg Salad Sandwich

**You will need:**

Hard Boiled Eggs  
Mayonnaise  
Green Onion  
Food Colour

Peel and mash all of your hard boiled eggs. Separate eggs into four portions. In each bowl add mayonnaise, onions and one of your four food colours. Make each sandwich with a different coloured egg mixture. Cut sandwiches up and allow the children to pick one of each colour for lunch. You can also serve this with coloured milk and of course, carrots!



## Art Activity

### Tissue Eggs

**You will need:**

Eggs  
Tissue Paper  
Glue

Make holes at either end of the eggs, blow out the inside until empty. It is best that an adult does this. Once eggs are cleaned out and washed well, give each child one. Explain that the eggs are very breakable. Hand each child multiple tissue pieces. These should be cut into squares and you should have many Easter colours. Have them paste the tissues onto their eggs with glue until covered. Let dry. Each child can do more than one egg.

## Fun Activity

### Egg Hunt

**You will need:**

Plastic Eggs  
One basket for each child  
Prizes

Buy a bunch of plastic eggs from the dollar store. Hide eggs around the house or in the yard. Allow the children to pick a basket and send them off to find all of the eggs. Once they are done, Help them to count their eggs. Make sure you have prizes for each child. Give them for most eggs, most colourful eggs, happiest egg finder, etc.

