

Wise and

Wonderful



Good news and information for our friends and families

Understanding The Beauty Of The Summer Sky: Teaching Kids Astronomy

Kids are naturally very curious about the earth and nature, and this curiosity extends into the sky above them. The summer is a perfect time to stay up a bit later and spend some time learning about stars, planets, and constellations in a fun and engaging way.

The Best Location

There is no specific location you have to be in, but a clear view of the complete night sky makes understanding the scope of the night sky much easier for children. It is also helpful if you can get away from the bright ambient lights of the city as you will have the ability to more clearly see the light from the stars.



Watch the Moon

One simple and short activity the entire family can do is to watch the phases of the moon over a month. Take the family outside at the same time each evening, or as often as you can, and look closely at the moon. Have the children talk about the change in shape and learn the different moon phases. They can then draw a picture of what they saw, allowing you to create a moon phase timeline.

You will also be able to see different planets, even with the naked eye. Teach children where to look for the planets and then use a graphic of the solar system for the big picture. NASA has some wonderful resources online for parents and kids about astronomy and moon phases.

Shooting Stars and Constellations

Shooting stars are always fun to watch. Have the children watch the sky and look for the telltale trail of the shooting star. At the same time, start teaching children the basic constellations. The Big Dipper and the Little Dipper are always easy to find as is Cygnus (The Swan), Canis Major (The Great Dog) as well as Scorpius (The Scorpion) and Taurus (The Bull).

Don't worry if you aren't up on your astronomy either. There are great apps for any smartphone or tablet that will use your GPS to display the night sky and allow you to find the constellations and stars. You can also read the myths that go along with the constellations, something kids enjoy.

Hello! We are pleased to send you this monthly issue of *Wise and Wonderful*. It is our way of saying that you are important to us and we truly value your business. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends and neighbors. Enjoy!

Monthly Joke



Once Word Gets Out...

A florist went to the barber for a haircut. When the barber was finished, he turned down any payment. "I'm dedicating this week to community service, so I'm not charging for haircuts."

Grateful, the florist went back to his shop and sent a basket of flowers to the barbershop.

The next day a baker walked in. He got a haircut, and again the barber refused payment, explaining his community service commitment. The baker responded by sending the shop a box of one dozen fresh doughnuts.

A day after that, a Congressman came in for a haircut. He tried to pay from his expense account, but the barber repeated his promise.

The next day 10 Congressmen lined up outside the door for free haircuts.

Monthly Quote

"True leaders bring out your personal best. They ignite your human potential."

— John Paul Warren

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GOOD NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

JULY 2015

Fabulous July!

World UFO Day, July 2. Have you had a close encounter? Spread the word on this day that explores the unexplained.

Independence Day, July 4. The United States declared its independence from Great Britain on this day in 1776.

Global Forgiveness Day, July 7. "To forgive is to offer opportunity for a new beginning to the offender, and provides a process of healing for the victim."

Shark Awareness Day, July 14. As much as we enjoy being frightened by this predator of the sea, remember that the shark has a key role to play in keeping marine ecosystems in balance.

From the desk of

*Jennifer Winters, Director, President of
CAEYC Pikes Peak Chapter*

*Dear friends,
July? How can it be possible? June is certainly flying
by I hope you are enjoying summertime in Colorado.
It is just amazing! Have you had the opportunity to
check out the greenhouse? The kids are working hard
on it! Feel free to take a stroll through it if you
haven't.*

*As President of the Pikes Peak Chapter of NAEYC I
have decided to partner with El Paso County Alliance
for Kids in brings outdoor classrooms to the forefront
in our county. You will see many new additions to our
playgrounds very soon. Further, I have decided to
partner with UCCS and the Early Childhood
Education department. Practicum students will be a
soon addition to several classrooms.*

*We are very blessed to have such wonderful
connections! THANK YOU!*

U.S. Government Lowers Amount of Fluoride In Water

The U.S. government has decided to cut down on the amount of fluoride in water because some children are getting splotches of white on their teeth as a result of having too much. The decision marks the first alteration to the levels of fluoride in drinking water since cities were first urged by the U.S. government to put fluoride into their drinking water to stop tooth decay over half a century ago. These days fluoride can also be found in mouthwash, toothpaste, and various other products.



A study discovered that two out of every five teenagers had spottiness or streaking on their teeth, with Boris Lushniak, the Deputy Surgeon General, pointing out that the issue is largely just cosmetic.

Around seventy-five percent of Americans receive fluoridated water today, although the practice remains controversial with some who believe that it is a form of unwanted medication, and that the overall health effects of fluoride are still not fully understood.