



# Ready To Learn



## The Learning Triangle

Engage children in these theme-related activities in any order and at any time. Point out the connections between the segment they VIEW, the book they READ, and the activity they DO. The repetition and variety of media used will reinforce the concepts and skills with children.

### Environment

April 2007

April is the month we celebrate Earth Day. Preschool and Kindergarten years are an important time to teach children how to take good care of the earth. Simple activities like picking up trash, nursing old things in new ways, and recycling cans are things they can do to take care of the earth. Another way children can help the earth is to plant a garden with you. Plants are very important to us. They make lots of oxygen for us to breathe. They make our earth a beautiful place.

### VIEW

**Arthur** – Arthur Cleans Up #125b

- Monday, April 23, 2007 at 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
Elwood City's park is in sad shape, and after grumbling about it, the kids find themselves volunteered to clean it up. And even though it's a lot of work, in the end they all decide it feels great to make a difference.

**Berenstain Bears** – Don't Pollute (Anymore) #125

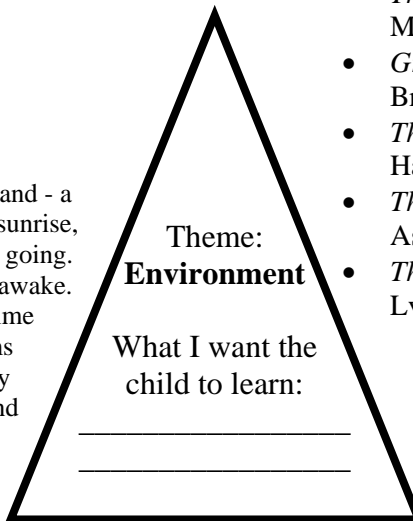
- Friday, April 27, 2007 at noon.  
The cubs learn about recycling and endangered species.

**Dragon Tales** – Rise and Bloom #302a

- Tuesday, April 30, 2007 at 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.  
Max really wants to see the Bursting Blossoms bloom in Dragon Land - a spectacular, once-a-year event. This special event only happens at sunrise, and Max just can't seem to shake off his sleepiness and get himself going. Luckily, Max's friends have some strategies to help him feel more awake. When they finally arrive (fully awake) on Blossom Ridge, just in time for the sunrise, they are surprised to find that the Bursting Blossoms need some help waking up. Max springs to action using his recently learned techniques to help the flowers shake off their sleepiness, and everyone celebrates as the amazing blossoms burst with color and shower sparkly pollen all around them.

### READ

- From Seed to Pumpkin* by Jan Kottke
- Dandelions: Stars in the Grass* by Mia Posada
- This is the Sunflower* by Lola M. Schaefer
- Grow Flower Grow!* by Lisa Bruce
- The Surprise Garden* by Zoe Hall
- The Earth and I* by Frank Asch
- The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry



### DO

- Help clean up a park or the neighborhood.
- Sing environment songs. **Pick It Up!! (Tune: London Bridge)**  

Keep our water safe and clean, safe and clean, safe and clean.	See the litter, pick it up, pick it up, pick it up.
Don't pollute your local stream, pick the trash up!	See the litter, pick it up, don't be a litter bug!
- Teach children counting by asking them to sort paper, plastic, and aluminum items that can be sorted into bins. Count how many are in each bin and put these items in order from big to little.
- Go on a nature walk. Have children pick up objects from nature such as rocks, bark, grass, leaves, flowers, nuts, etc., and put them into a bag. As you walk, encourage children to talk about what they see and hear in nature. Allow them to observe and ask questions. When you finish, work together to create a poster of items picked up on the nature walk.
- Talk to children about saving water when washing hands, and brushing teeth. Raise children's consciousness to recycle more at their child care center. Teach children to sing their ABC's while washing their hands, and turn the water off as soon as they are done.
- For more information and activities on Kids and Gardening go to [www.extention.iastate.edu/GrowingintheGarden/kids.html](http://www.extention.iastate.edu/GrowingintheGarden/kids.html).
- Plant an inside garden. Give children a small cup full of dirt. Have children plant seeds in the cup. Water the seeds daily. Keep a journal. Children can draw pictures of what they see and predict what they might see tomorrow.

### Tip of the Month

Set a good example. Take a look at your own T.V. habits. How much TV do you watch while working? What kinds of shows do you watch when children are in the room? Think about ways you could change your own habits to set a good example. Tape shows you enjoy watching that may be inappropriate for children to see and watch them at a later time.