



A publication of  
Child Care Choices



A United Way Agency

# Child Care Chat

December 2011

*HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS*



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**TO OUR PROVIDERS:**

Thank you for modeling for our children with

- Your love
- Your patience and kindness
- Your creativity and ingenuity
- Your perseverance

*Our community is blessed because of what you do*

## STORY LADY OPPORTUNITIES

For **home care providers only**, there are still a few openings for the first session of this year's Story Lady theme, "How does it work?"

"How does it work?" is a physics based project to acquaint preschoolers with the relationship between force and matter—a great introduction to kindergarten and elementary school science! If you would like a visit the first couple of weeks in January, please call Miss Dawn at 524-2725. The second visits will start shortly thereafter.

**Save the Date!**  
**CCC Annual Benefit Auction**  
**April 21, 2012 at The Crystal Room in Troy**  
**"Mystery on the Orient Express with Child Care Choices"**



## Five 15-Minute Activities To Help Children Get Ready To Read!

1. **Read** to your children everyday. Holiday related books are always a favorite.

### 2. **Make a clove pomander**

Help children put whole cloves all over a thin-skinned orange. You may make holes in the orange first with an ice pick or other similar pointed object. Tie the ball with a gold string. It will keep its scent for a year or two.



### 3. **Make Banana Bake**

6 large peeled bananas

3 Tbs. Butter

3 Tbs. Brown sugar

2 TS. Cinnamon



Cut each banana in half lengthwise. Place cut-side-up in baking dish

Melt butter in a pan over low heat. Mix cinnamon and sugar into butter, then pour over the tops of the bananas. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes. When cool, cut each in two and serve.

### 4. **Mr. Ho Ho Ho**

Use red tempera paint to paint a Styrofoam cone. Cut a circle from pink construction paper for Santa's face. Glue a red pom-pom in the center of the circle to resemble a nose: then cut out black eyes to put on the face. Glue the face near the top of the cone. Then glue cotton balls around the face to resemble Santa's beard, hair, and mustache. Put a cotton ball on the top of the cone for his hat. Can be used as a tree ornament or stand alone decoration.

### 5. **Oh! Christmas Tree**

Legend has it that the custom of decorating a tree for Christmas began in the early 1600's with Martin Luther. Being inspired by the sight of an evergreen surrounded by twinkling stars in the sky, Martin Luther cut a similar tree and took it into his home. He then decorated it with lighted candles to resemble the stars. To celebrate the tradition of the Christmas tree, provide each child with a portion of refrigerated sugar cookie dough. After washing their hands, have each child flatten or roll the dough into a patty. Cut a tree from the patty using a tree shaped cookie cutter. Decorate with green and star-shaped sprinkles. Place on a foil lined cookie sheet, write each child's name on the foil beside her cookie, and bake according to directions. Serve for snack.



## January 2012 Workshops

Workshop Name	Date	Location	Time	Trainer	Fee
Communicable Diseases Part 1	1/5/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p - 9:30p	Hila Collins	\$35/ 2 parts
Communicable Diseases Part 2	1/12/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p - 9:30p	Hila Collins	"
Big Books: Big Fun and Big Return	1/12/2012	Riverside, Troy	6:30p-8:30p	Elisha Hicks	\$10
Head. . . Shoulders, Knees & Toes! Making the Brain & Body Connection	1/17/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p-8:30p	Lynn Ratliff	\$10
Healthy Lifestyles	1/24/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p-8:30 p	Elizabeth Studebaker	\$10
Communicable Diseases Recertification	1/26/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p - 9:30p	Hila Collins	\$22

**Snowflake Letters**  
*Developing letter recognition*

You'll see a blizzard of activity around this snowy center! Write a desired letter on a sheet of copy paper. Then make a blue construction paper copy for each child. Place the letters at a center along with a shallow pan of white tempera paint and several empty thread spools. A youngster visits the center and takes a paper. She says the name of the letter. Then she presses the end of a spool into the paint and makes snowflake prints on the letter. That's simply splendid!

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## February 2012 Workshops

Workshop Name	Date	Location	Time	Trainer	Fee
Hands on Science	2/7/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p-8:30p	Dawn Oates	\$10
First Aid Part 1	2/9/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p - 9:30p	Hila Collins	\$35/ 2 parts
First Aid Part 2	2/16/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p - 9:30p	Hila Collins	"
ORTL 1: Social & Emotional Developmental Field Guide	2/21/2012	West Charleston CoB	7:00p-9:00p	Think TV	0
First Aid Recertification	2/23/2012	West Charleston CoB	6:30p - 9:30p	Hila Collins	\$22

**SONG**

### LITTLE RED HEARTS

Teach youngsters this simple song and invite them to play along with the help of their ten fingers! Before singing, affix a red heart sticker to each of a child's ten fingertips. Or use a washable marker to draw a red heart on each one. Then have each student hold up one finger at a time as the song progresses. At the end, have children wiggle those little red hearts! 📺

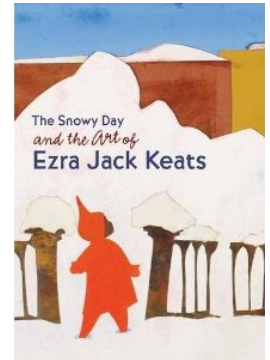
*(sung to the tune of "Ten Little Indians")*

One little, two little, three little red hearts,  
 Four little, five little, six little red hearts,  
 Seven little, eight little, nine little red hearts,  
 Ten little wiggling red hearts!

## The Child Care Choices Story Lady loves activities related to books.

Her following suggestions will be fun for the children as well as important in building their literacy skills.

Read Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day*, or another favorite winter book, to your children, and then have fun with the following snowy activities.



Build snowy sculptures with sugar cubes.

Beat Ivory Snow detergent and water to make a snowy finger-paint. Put on black or blue construction paper and children will have fun making puffy creations.

Enjoy the *5 Little Snowflakes* finger-play. Let children act out the parts of snowflakes and the sun.

One little snowflake with nothing to do.  
Along came another and  
Then there were two.

Four little snowflakes dancing a jive.  
Along came another, and  
Then there were five.

Two little snowflakes laughing with me.  
Along came another, and  
Then there were three.

Five little snowflakes having so much fun.  
Out came the sun, and  
Then there were none!

Three little snowflakes looking for some  
more.  
Along came another, and  
Then there were four.




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## Happy Hoppo Holidays!

School is out for two weeks! You don't want the children just sitting around all day watching television and movies or playing video games, but what else can you do?

Get them moving! Here are a few ideas to get those kids up out of their seats!

**Jingle Bell Jump**—The leader (you or a child) rings the bell once. All the children jump once. The leader rings the bell five times and all the children jump five times. Keep going up to 10. Ring to higher numbers for older children. Mix it up. This is a great activity for both auditory discrimination and math.

**Reindeer Run**—Play some holiday music. Children run in place. When the music stops they FREEZE. Start music again and repeat over and over with a variety of locomotor movements! (hop, skip, jump, walk)

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**January—February 2012  
CCC Workshops  
scheduled!**

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## Upcoming Events—2012!

### **CCC Benefit / Auction 2012**

*April 21, 2012 at The Crystal Room in Troy—“Mystery on the Orient Express” with Child Care Choices*

### **The Kid Whisperer is Coming to Miami County**

Scott Ervin, the Kid Whisperer, is an independent facilitator for Love and Logic programs for teachers and parents. Love and Logic is designed to provide simple and practical techniques to help parents and teachers raise responsible kids, have more fun in their roles, and easily and immediately change their children's behavior.

Scott will be presenting a two hour work shop on **March 8, 2012**, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Upper Valley JVS.

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