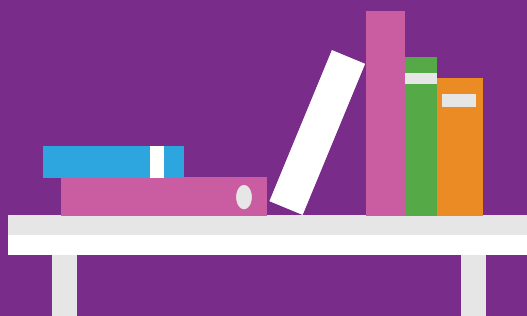


BUZZ WORD

PGH.ORG

Talk & Play with Words

An Activity Book: Volume III



About this book!

This adventure book is designed to build on your child's natural curiosity to grow vocabulary.

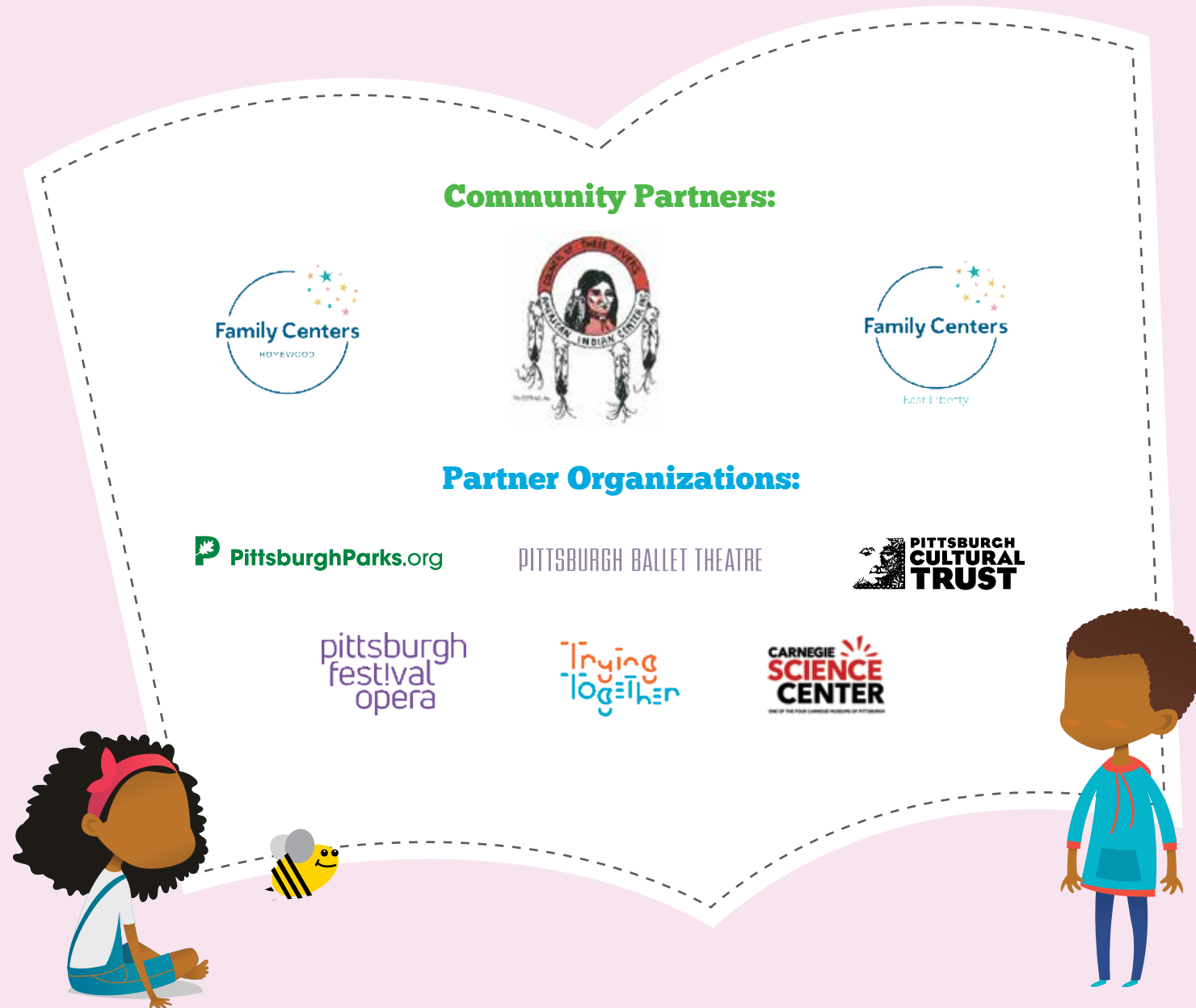
The words and definitions will help you talk about your surroundings. Try some of the fun activities and tips created by Buzzword Pittsburgh partners to explain the meaning of the words and connect them to your child's experiences. Pick a different vocabulary word every few days. Use it in context, and encourage your child to use it too.



Who Are We?

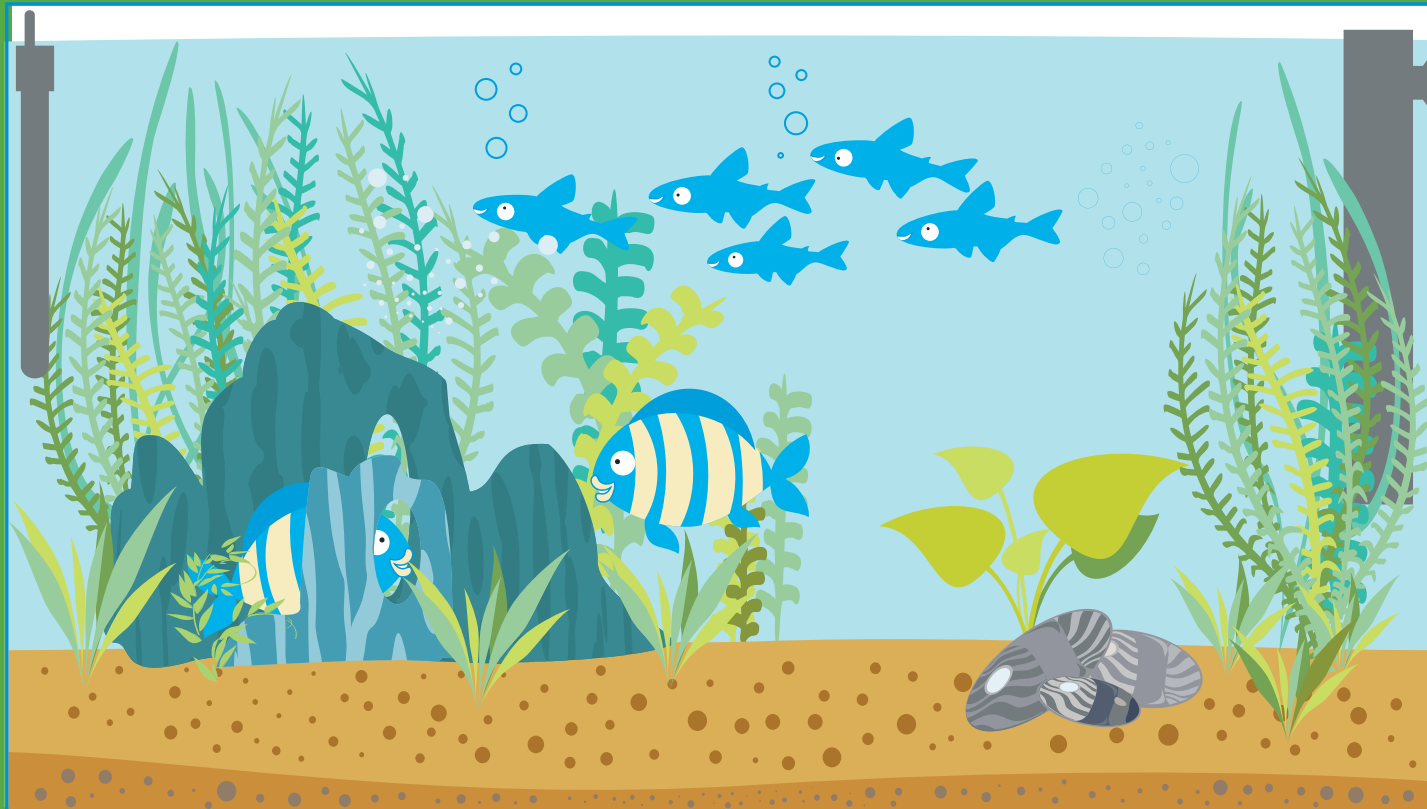
Buzzword Pittsburgh excites children and families as they experience the words that are all around them. Through talk and play about math, science, and art, young children will expand their vocabularies and conversation skills. The program engages families and community organizations in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood and the greater community.

The Buzzword Pittsburgh collaborative consists of partner organizations with expertise in the arts and sciences and local family centers. These partners provide interactive learning opportunities that encourage imagination, investigation, creation, and reflection. Buzzword Pittsburgh is supported by PNC Grow Up Great®.



Aquarium

A tank or other container filled with water where water animals and plants live



Activity

Find the matches! Look at this busy aquarium and find the animals that are the same.

Family Tip!

Take your child to visit a real aquarium by visiting the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. You can visit for free on a RADical Day and children under 2 are always free.



Assemble

To gather into a group



Activity

Assemble a kazoo with items in your house. Gather the materials together with your child: a paper towel roll, wax paper, a rubber band and a pencil. Cover the end of the paper towel roll with the wax paper and secure it with the rubber band. Use a pencil to poke holes into the side of the tube. You may like to decorate or paint your kazoo. Then, blow into the open end and make some music!

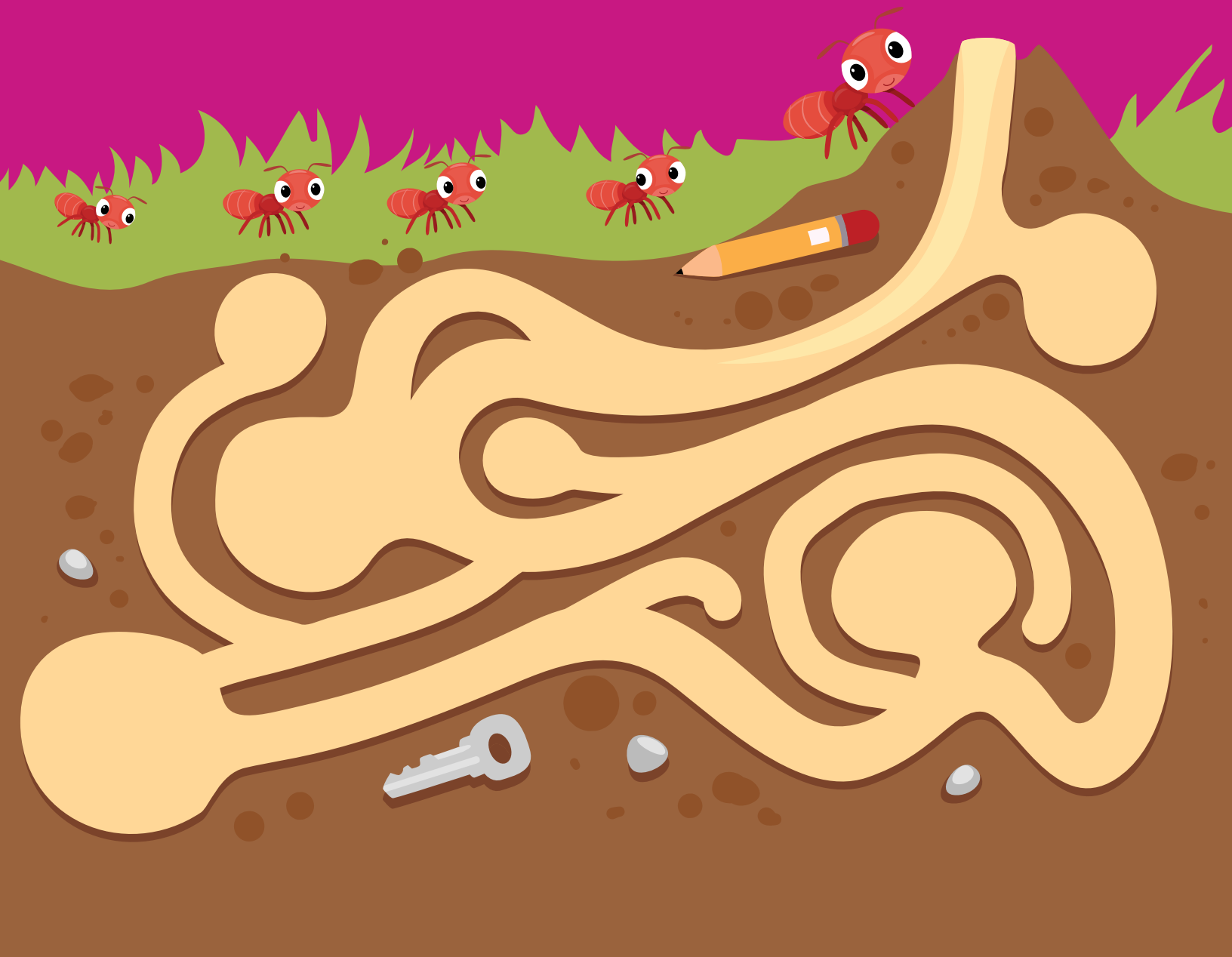
Family Tip!

Assemble the people in your family to create a kazoo band. Make a kazoo for each person, then choose or invent a song to play together. Talk about other reasons your family assembles, or gathers together.



Colony

A group of people or animals
that live and work together



Activity

Ants live in large groups called colonies. Practice using the word 'colony' by adapting the familiar song, 'The Ants Go Marching.' Pretend to be a colony of ants by marching in a line. Challenge your child to make up their own rhyming verse and movements!

**The ants live in a colony, hurrah, hurrah
The ants live in a colony, hurrah, hurrah
The ants live in a colony,
The little one stops to climb a tree
And they all go marching down to the ground
To get out of the rain, BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
...The little one falls and bumps her knee.
...The little one sails across the sea.
...The little one plays in a symphony.**

Family Tip!

People and animals who live in a colony help each other. Young children love to be helpful (even if the process is slow and the results are less than perfect.) Talk about the ways that your family helps each other and identify ways your child can be helpful to others.



Crescendo

A gradual increase in the loudness of a sound or music



Activity

Create a thunderstorm sound scape. Begin by tapping on your hand quietly with one finger to create a gentle rain sound. Crescendo (get louder) by tapping with more fingers, then patting with both hands on your lap, and finally stomping your feet loudly to create booming thunder. Decrescendo (get quieter) by reversing the sounds until the storm comes to an end.

Family Tip!

Children need practice to regulate the volume of their voice. Some children need to practice speaking loudly enough to be heard, while others need to practice whispering. Creating vocal sound scapes that get louder and quieter is a fun way to help children develop control of their voice. Try making the sounds of a passing fire truck, or of busy jungle animals that finally fall asleep.



Erupt

To force out or release suddenly



Activity

Create your own eruption at home with baking soda, dish soap and vinegar! Go outside and pile dirt around a large plastic cup to make a volcano. Fill the cup with water until it is 2/3 full. Add 1 tsp. dish soap and 3-4 tbsp. baking soda. Carefully, pour 1 cup vinegar in the cup and watch it erupt!

Family Tip!

Talk to your child about how the eruption made them feel. Were they excited? Scared?



Fossil

The remains of plants and animals that lived long ago



Activity

Humans learned about dinosaurs by discovering their fossils. Make your own dinosaur by piecing together the fossil stickers below.

Family Tip!

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History has a lot of fossils and dinosaur skeletons. Take your child on a trip to the museum to see some real fossils.



Gather

To collect and bring together

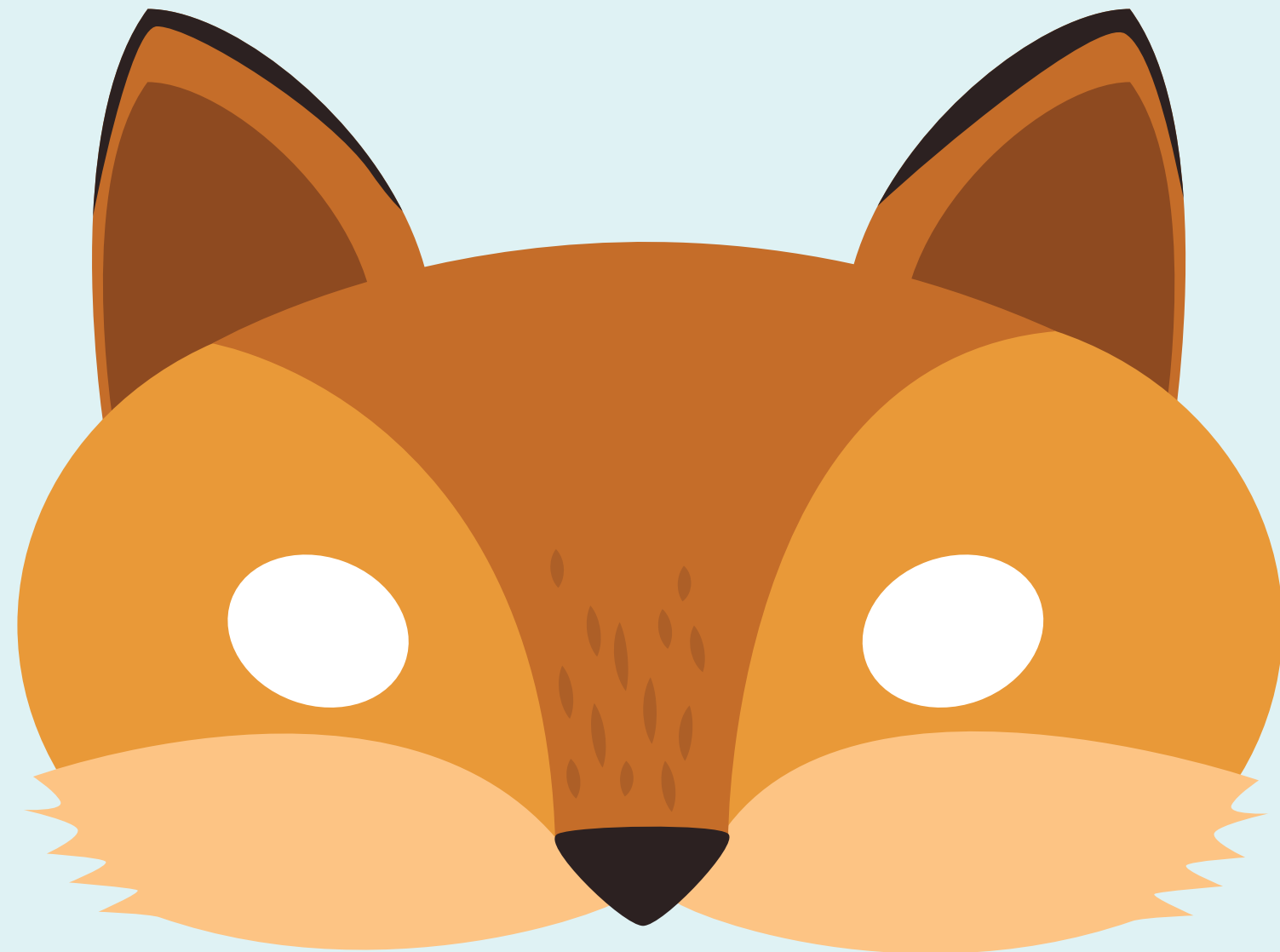


Activity

Go on a nature walk at a local park and gather items related to the season. Gather flowers in the spring or summer. Gather different colored leaves in the fall and pine cones in the winter. At the end of the walk reflect on the many objects you've gathered.

Family Tip!

Did you know that many chipmunk species gather food such as nuts, berries and grains to keep during the winter? Use your imagination by putting on the squirrel mask and gather the toys around your house!



Poetry

The art of written or spoken rhythmic composition that expresses beautiful and imaginative thought



Activity

Read this poem outloud with your child. Ask: How is a cloud like a boat or ship? How is a rainbow same or different than a bridge? Read the poem again and ask your child to draw the images.

**Boats sail on the rivers,
And ships sail on the seas;
But clouds that sail across the sky
Are prettier than these.**

**There are bridges on the rivers,
As pretty as you please;
But the bow that bridges heaven,
And overtops the trees,
And builds a road from earth to sky,
Is prettier far than these.**

Then, make up movements to some of the words and make a dance to the poem.

Family Tip!

Reading and singing nursery rhymes together helps your child strengthen speaking, listening and reading skills.



Quest

A journey made in search of something

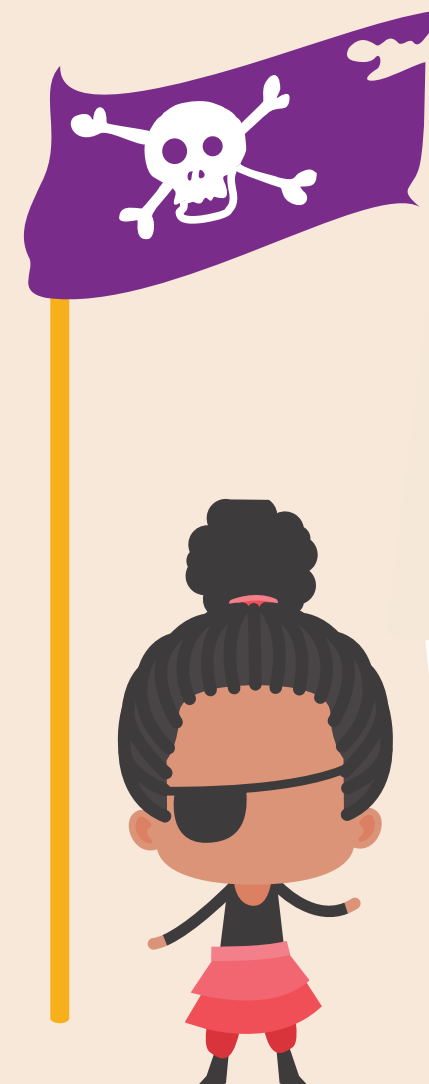


Activity

Take a quest through your home! Secretly place a toy or object in a surprising location, then go with your child to try to find it. Then go on an outdoor quest! Visit a local park and search for something fun, such as animals with tails, things that grow, or something red. Bring along some paper and work with your child to draw a map of discoveries you find.

Family Tip!

Next time you take your child on an errand, tell them you are on a quest together. This will make it exciting while reinforcing the new vocabulary. Tell them what you are searching for and ask for their help in completing your mission.



Salutation

The act of greeting someone,
either spoken or written in a letter



Activity

In yoga, a Sun Salutation means greeting the sun. Say hello to the sun by following the movements below. Doing this routine every morning can be a great way to prepare your mind and body for the day ahead.

Family Tip!

People wave, high five, hug or say 'hello' as a salutation. Create your own family salutation. What are special movements, words or gestures that you can use to greet each other?



Soar

To fly or glide up high through the air



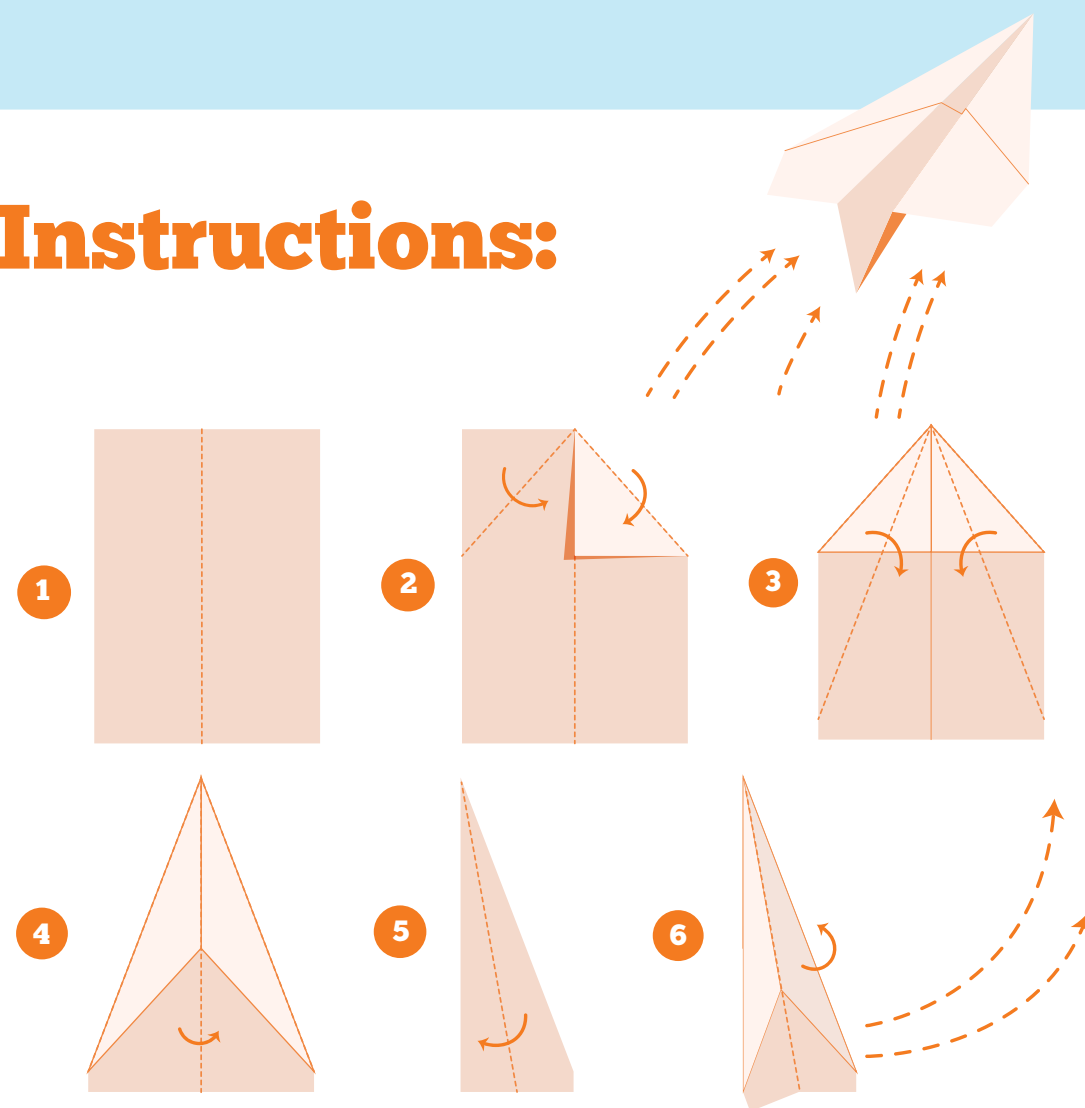
Activity

Color a blank piece of paper and use the instructions below to fold the paper into an airplane. Watch your airplane soar through the sky and see how far it will go.

Family Tip!

Children learn new ideas through movement. Ask them to imitate the soaring movement of their paper airplane. Talk about it: "Did you move fast or slow?" "I noticed your arms were very straight." Observe how other things move through the air – a falling leaf, clouds, a sparrow, a hawk, a real airplane. Imitate their movements and compare how it feels to move like each one. How does soaring feel different than floating, flapping, or drifting?

Instructions:



Spiderweb

A network of sticky threads made by a spider and used as a resting place and a trap for food



Activity

Set up a Spiderweb game outside. For this activity you will need chalk and a pretend spider (or other object you can toss). Draw a spider web with the chalk on the ground large enough for your child to jump between the spaces. Use the spider web to play the following games:

Spiderweb balance beam: Have your child walk along the lines with the spider on their head. Try not to drop it!

Spiderweb search: Write numbers, letters, or shapes in the spaces of the web. Toss the spider into a square, then invite your child to “hopscotch” to that space and name what is written inside.

Family Tip!

Spiders are important helpers in the environment! Talk with children about how spiders use their webs to catch harmful insects. Notice and describe the different kinds of spiderwebs you see outdoors.



Research Says

From birth to age five years, young children's brains are rapidly developing. During this time, little ones are more open to learning and becoming inspired. Talking with a child helps increase vocabulary development and communication skills needed throughout life.

A child's early vocabulary skills grow in real-life settings through positive interactions and conversations about the world.



Remember the 3 B's

Be Present

Use pictures, words, and definitions to investigate math, science, and art! Engage your child's curiosity by saying new words, repeating them, and explaining their meanings.

Be Playful

Have fun with vocabulary! To make words come to life, you can talk, write, read, play, and sing with your child.

Be Proactive

Explore fun and easy activities that use one word and build upon it. Your child's world will open up – there will always be new words with fresh meanings and exciting ways to apply them daily.



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