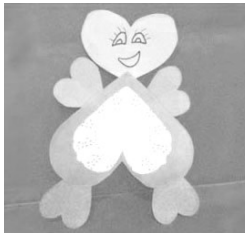




## Valentine's Day Fine Motor Activities for the Whole Family



**Laced Heart:** Need poster board/heavy construction paper in Valentine colors, hole punch, tape, ribbon. Cut a large heart shape out of the poster board. Let your child punch holes around the outside edge of the heart. Tape one end of the ribbon between two holes, leaving an inch or two free to make a bow later. Show your child how to weave the ribbon through the holes. Tie the ends in a bow.



**Heart People:** Need construction paper (red, white, pink) child safety scissors, glue stick. On the construction paper, draw hearts ranging in size from 2 to 6 inches. Let your child cut out the hearts. Glue the hearts together in different combinations to form Heart

People, using large hearts for heads and bodies, smaller ones for arms, legs, and so on.



**Handprint & Footprint Valentine:** Try this messy, but fun-filled sensory activity. Find all the instructions at:

<http://www.kiwicrate.com/projects/Handprint-and-Footprint-Valentines/739>

## COMING SOON!

### Get WILD About Reading! Parents As Reading Partners

Watch for PARP information and activities in your child's Backpack!



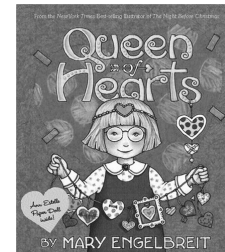
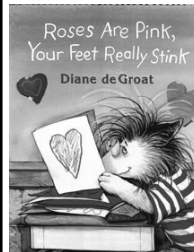
Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child's education. Studies show that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. PARP is a program that asks parents to read with their children for at least fifteen minutes daily, stressing the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative. The choice of reading materials can vary from books to anything with printed words. The daily activity of reading together strengthens reading and communication skills in the child and also strengthens the parent/child relationship. (Note: The term 'parents' may be interpreted broadly to include all adults who play an important role in a child's life.)

Return your signed PARP Reading Contract  
 to your child's teacher by WEDNESDAY, February 11th  
 Record your Reading beginning  
 Sunday February 15th

## Help your Child's Imagination Take FLIGHT! READ A BOOK!



Visit your local Library to find these  
 and other books about Valentine's Day



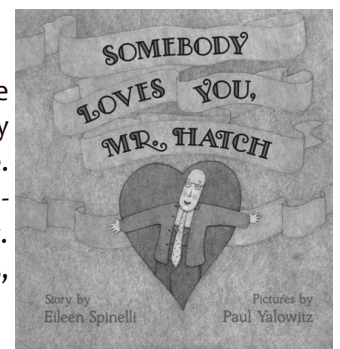
**Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink - by Diane de Groat** A story that deals with kindness and teasing. Teasing and hurt feelings are common among elementary school children. The author does a nice job of showing the consequences of both unkindness and kindness when exchanging Valentine's Day cards.

**Queen of Hearts - by Mary Engelbreit** Ann Estelle loves to make things. She spends hours and hours creating an extravagantly decorated Valentine's Day box to hold the cards she'll receive from her classmates. She focuses so much on the box that she forgets to make Valentine's Day cards to give to her classmates. How creative thinking by Ann Estelle saves the day makes an entertaining story.

**Love, Splat - by Rob Scotton** In Love, Splat, Splat has a crush on a Kitten, a pretty fluffy white kitten who is in his class. He makes her a Valentine despite the fact that every time she saw him, Kitten "pulled his ears and poked his belly, tied his tail and called him smelly." Shyness, insecurity, and a rival confront Splat, but he conquers them all and finds out, to his delight, the real reason Kitten keeps bothering him. Throughout his adventures, Splat is accompanied by his mouse friend Seymour. This is a funny, yet sweet, Valentine's Day story, recommended for 3- to 8-year-olds.

### Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli

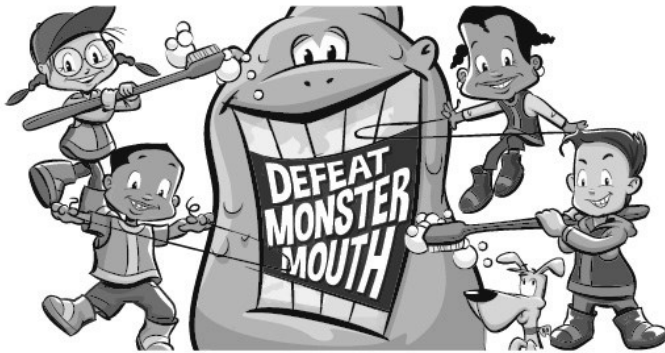
Mr. Hatch is a drab, predictable gentleman who leads a painfully ordered and uninteresting life. One Valentine's Day a giant candy-filled heart is delivered to Mr. Hatch with a note that reads, "Somebody loves you."



Follow the story online read by actor Hector Elizondo

<http://www.storylineonline.net/somebody-loves-you-mr-hatch/>

## Defeat Monster Mouth! February is Dental Health Month



You can visit the American Dental Association website for lots of fun dental health activities for the **WHOLE Family!**

<http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/national-childrens-dental-health-month/>

To make sure that your child is brushing long enough, you can sing this song twice as a timer!

### Brush Your Teeth (Tune: Jingle Bells)

Brush your teeth,  
Brush your teeth,  
Give your teeth a treat.  
Brush up and down and all around,  
To keep them clean and neat!  
Brush them once,  
Brush them twice,  
Brush three times a day.  
Brush up and down and all around,  
Keep cavities away!



### Download a Tooth Brushing Chart

[http://www.ada.org/sections/publicResources/pdfs/shining\\_materials\\_calendar.pdf](http://www.ada.org/sections/publicResources/pdfs/shining_materials_calendar.pdf)

## Developing Self Esteem in Young Children

**Listen:** You heard, but did you listen? Aren't we all guilty of this? Listen to your child; difficult we know. Your active listening lets your child know that he/she is important, that their activities are of interest to you. If you are distracted, your child realizes that. If you can't listen at a given time, explain to your child and make a point of listening to him/her as soon as you can.

YOU HEARD,  
BUT DID YOU  
LISTEN?

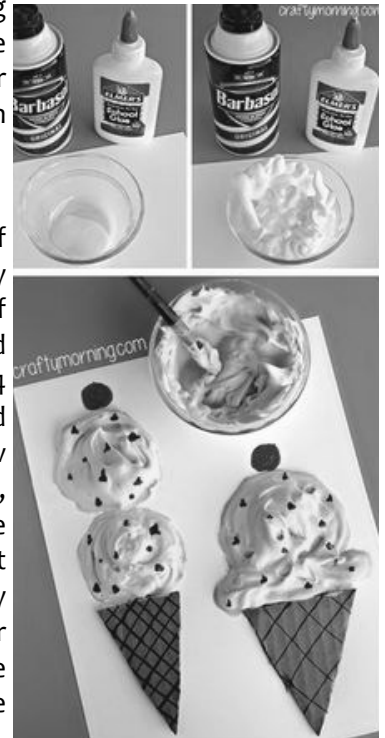
**Learning is a life-long experience and as parents, you are your child's first teacher. Positive time together, in a happy and relaxed situation is the best educational experience a child can derive from any activity.**

## Making Puffy Paint

**Materials Needed:** Shaving Cream, Elmer's White Glue, food coloring (optional), sponge brush, oak tag or heavy construction paper.

### Instructions:

To make a batch of puffy paint, simply mix equal parts of shaving cream and Elmer's glue, (1/4 cup of each). Add food coloring, a few drops at a time, until you get the desired color. Paint on oak tag or heavy construction paper using a sponge brush. Let the painting dry.

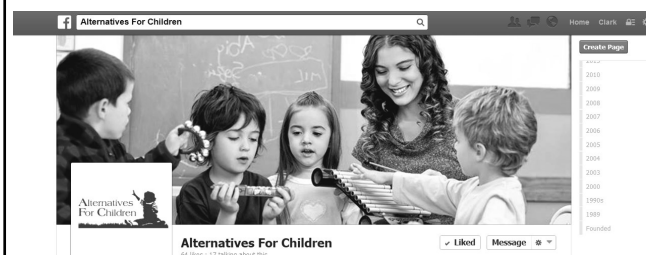


## Play Activities to Improve Balance & Coordination

- Walking on a balance beam - to do this at home take masking tape or blue painter's tape and "tape" a 4" wide balance beam on the floor.
- On the balance beam - practice walking backwards/sideways, etc.
- Pushing/pulling toys - Make toys heavier/lighter to make it easier/harder. Push along the lines on the balance beam.
- Let your child "push" the grocery cart.
- Catching/Throwing - Throw a ball to each other or into a bucket.



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## Tons of Tips & Treasures!

<https://www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren>