



IHS **A**spires FRIDAY!

COVID-19 Creative Corner

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors--in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." ~Fred Rogers

INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM: **RPC Early Childhood Education Center**

Tita (with RPC Early Childhood Education Center) says to take a look at this eye-catching (and sure to get your children's attention) simple craft . . the whole family can enjoy. . hmm, already thinking of more ways to use!

How To Create Fairy Lanterns With Mason Jars



INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM: **Catholic Charities of Joliet**

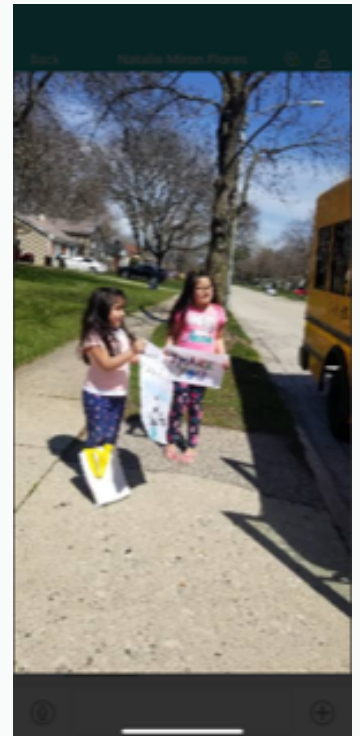
Add a little I have attached a picture of a drawing created by a 4 year old. I received permission from Mom, but I will not use names. Mom sent me this and asked me to guess what it was. Of course, it looked like something to me but I brushed it aside and guessed it to be a map or the people this little one loves. When Mom replied and said it was 'the Corona virus', I froze in my tracks. To be honest, this is what I thought it looked like but I could not bring myself to think a 4 year old would draw this. So, what does this tell me? It tells me that our children are listening to all this from everywhere and their little brains are wanting to process it and understand. It tells me if we are feeling anxious and scared, so are they. This is a perfect reminder to reach out to our families and provide them with emotional support and resources. This parent is a very proactive parent and has been a participant of a Home Visiting program for the past 4 ½ years. I met this little one at 2 days old when she was on my caseload. Mom needed reassurance as she worried about what her child was thinking and feeling about this situation. Mom stated she thought because her child was young that she wasn't really paying attention to what Mom was talking about or listening to. But after her child showed her the drawing and told her what it was, Mom began to wonder if her child felt anxious and scared like she did. If her child was worried if normal was ever going to be normal again. Mom worried if her child felt overwhelmed by the situation and all she hears like she does. We talked about how her child's thinking process difference from Mom's and ways Mom can provide that reassurance to her that are age appropriate. Through contacts, please inquire on the family's mental health and how the children are handling this, as well as the parents. What supports they may need or if they just need to talk about it. It really was a wakeup call for me and a reminder that I need to talk to my own children about this. Just because they aren't talking or asking questions, does not mean this is not weighing on their little brains and emotions. I hope everyone is doing well. Let's be sure to reach out to each other if we are in need of support.



INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM:

Community Action Agency of McHenry County
Crystal Lake South

Gotta love those Thank You signs out in Community Action Agency of McHenry County Crystal Lake South for those special deliveries by their school bus drivers!



INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM:**Catholic Charities Alexandria Early Childhood Center**

In celebration of the Week of the Young Child, the staff of the Alexandria Center worked with parents to engage with their children in completing a wide variety of creative activities. [THIS SLIDE SHOW](#) depicts the wonderful engagement that took place during the week of April 13, 2020. The Alexandria Early Childhood Center provides care for 86 infants, toddlers and preschool children in a licensed center-based setting. The program receives Early Head Start, Head Start and Child Care funding. Alexandria Center is accredited through the National Association of the Education of Young Children and the center has achieved the Gold Circle of Quality through the ExceleRate Illinois quality rating system. I want to acknowledge the staff who are working diligently with families to implement the remote service delivery system ensuring children are continuing to receive developmentally appropriate and engaging interactions with their parents that promotes their role of being their child's first teacher and primary educator. Alexandria Center is supervised and managed under the direction of Dorothy Bertram who has worked at Catholic Charities for over 15 years in the roles of Toddler Teacher, Education Coordinator and Site Supervisor. Dorothy is passionate and dedicated to the field of early childhood education. Dorothy serves as a leader, mentor and supervisor. Andrea Munoz, Teacher at Alexandria has worked in the roles of Toddler and Preschool Teacher at Catholic Charities for 7 years. Andrea accepted the coordination responsibility for this wonderful power point presentation. It is with great pleasure that I share the work of the Catholic Charities Alexandria Early Childhood Center staff with you.