Thank You, CBJ!

Thanks to the CBJ Youth Activity Grant funded from the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenues, all licensed child care programs and Head Starts have access to the Turf for Tots program at the Dimond Park Field House Monday through Friday. So far the tally of children participating from over 30 programs is 1360! Families also have a chance to experience the fun at Fieldhouse Family Nights hosted by AEYC and partner organizations Head Start, REACH, AWARE, JYS, Alaska Center for Resource Families, Juneau Public Health, and Bartlett Beginnings. So far this year there have been nearly 1,000 visits by parents and children! This is a great chance for children and parents to be active together, and connect with other families, and one more way Juneau is a great place to live and raise a family!

Early Learning Fair a Success!

On April 21st, 2016 from 4:30-6:30 pm over 80 families were part of the 8th Annual Early Learning Fair. The event was held at the new Valley Public Library. The fair is focuses on informing families about the community supports and resources available to help their children get ready for kindergarten or preschool in the fall. Over 20 presenters from The Partnerships for Families & Children were present to provide screenings, information, and enrollment opportunities. A big thank you to the agency members and volunteers who made this such a valuable community event for families and children! As an added special activity, Mayor Koelsch gathered an audience from toddlers to parents in the children’s reading area of the library for a short story time. Thank you Mayor Koelsch for reading at the Early Learning Fair!

Apple Pizza

This recipe is a great one to share with your child, especially if they like the concept of pizza and enjoy the taste of apples. It also makes a great Father’s Day brunch! Baking together is a wonderful sensory activity that combines the visuals (sights) with the sounds, smells, tastes and textures (touch) of being in the kitchen. It is also a terrific opportunity to build memories that you and your child will never forget.

What You Need:
- 6 slices of bread
- 6 cheese slices or shredded cheese (marble, cheddar or mozzarella)
- 4 of your favorite apples, washed, cut and diced with the skin on
- Margarine or butter
- A cookie sheet
- A butter knife
- Bacon bits (optional)

What You Do:
- Lay out the cookie sheet (do not grease)
- Have your child use a butter knife to put butter or margarine on the slices of bread
- Now, she can put the cheese slices or shredded cheese on each piece of bread! (If you are choosing to shred the cheese, you may wish to help younger children with this, as little fingers may get too close to the grater.)
- Have your child sprinkle the chopped apples on the cheese-covered slices.
- Sprinkle bacon bits over the apples (if you feel like them!)

Bake in the oven at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes, until cheese is melted.
Cool for a couple of minutes and it’s time to eat!

Thank your little chef for a quick, easy meal that’s a whole lot healthier than traditional pizza. Recipe by Renna Bruce. For more recipe ideas visit www.education.com.

Cooking with kids is not just about ingredients, recipes, and cooking. It's about harnessing imagination, empowerment, and creativity.
Guy Fieri
BOOK TITLE: **Spot Goes to the Farm**

**AUTHOR:** Eric Hill

**SUMMARY OF BOOK:** Spot’s dad takes him around the farm, looking for baby animals. They look all over in this lift-the-flap board book, meeting many animals along the way.

**BEFORE READING** Ask questions and use what the child already knows to add to the discussion.

1. Talk to your child about baby animals. Which ones is he familiar with?
2. Look at the cover of the book together: “Who is sitting with Spot?”
3. Talk about colors, the ones you see on the cover.

**DURING READING**

1. As you go through the book, point out the different names for baby animals compared to the adult ones: calf, foal, chicks. At each page, ask “What animal might live in the barn, under the straw, etc.?”
2. Have your child lift the flaps. Talk about the animals behind the flaps: make their sounds with your child.
3. “What joke is the rabbit playing? Who really makes the tweet-tweet sound?”
4. Talk about the colors: “Is Spot looking in the green barn? Behind the orange barrel?”
5. Try counting things you see: how many sheep? piglets? kittens? How many socks on the clothesline?

**AFTER READING**

1. Next time you see a baby animal, relate it back to the story. “Remember when we read about Spot…”
2. Go on a search to find baby animals outside just like Spot did. Talk about where they might be living, what sounds they might make.
3. Ask your child what other animals might live on a farm, in the water, in different locations?

**Compliments of:** Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

**Compliments of the Rasmuson Foundation with funding support from Best Beginnings.** This activity created by students at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and used by permission of the United Way of Greater Chattanooga. For additional activities, visit [www.AlaskaImaginationLibrary.org](http://www.AlaskaImaginationLibrary.org).