

February 2014

# California Kids!

**Free!**

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Publishers of the Arden-Carmichael News, the East Sacramento News, The Land Park News, The Pocket News, and The Valley Shopper.



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**DAY**

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• **Sunday, February 9, I Heart Sacramento Zoo, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Bring your valentine to a special I Heart Sacramento Zoo day organized by the Sacramento Zoo Teen volunteers. The event features valentine-themed animal enrichments, informative talks and activity tables – all included with general admission. I Heart Sacramento Zoo will give the teen volunteers experience communicating with the public and offer visitors an opportunity to learn more about the Zoo's unique animals.

• **Birth of Coquerel's Sifaka Lemur - First Birth of 2014 at the Sacramento Zoo**

The Sacramento Zoo welcomes its newest resident, and the first baby born in 2014: an infant Coquerel's Sifaka Lemur discovered by keepers the morning of Sunday, January 5. The male weighed 121 grams at birth. Mother, father and infant are bonding in their habitat across from the Conservation Carousel. There are only nine Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited facilities in the U.S. that house fewer than 60 endangered Coquerel's Sifaka.

• Looking for the perfect Valentine's gift? A Zoo parent package is a great gift to show you care. It includes a personalized certificate of Zoo Parenthood, name recognition on Zoo Parent showcase for one year, invitation to Zoo Parent picnic and more for only \$50.



*The Sacramento Zoo is located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park. The zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.*

[www.valcomnews.com](http://www.valcomnews.com)

# Fairytale Town events

• **Lincoln's Birthday - Monday, February 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Fairytale Town will be open on Lincoln's Birthday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [www.fairytale-town.org](http://www.fairytale-town.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

• **Presidents Day - Monday, February 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Fairytale Town will be open on Presidents Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. Holiday admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit [www.fairytale-town.org](http://www.fairytale-town.org) or call (916) 808-7462.

*Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, visit [www.fairytale-town.org](http://www.fairytale-town.org) or call (916) 808-7462.*



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## Valentine's Day Specials

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- Vegetable Eggplant Lasagna Boursin Bechamel Sauce

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# California Kids!

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# sacramentoZOO

**Baby Coquerel's Sifaka Lemur**  
Born January 5, 2014



Sunday, February 9  
9 am - 4:00 pm

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## Maidu Museum & Historic Site events

- Volunteer Guide Training: To February 27, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. If you like working with kids and learning about local history and cultural heritage, join our team of volunteer guides. After training, volunteer docents lead tours of the museum and historic site to help teach children about native culture and the environment.
- 16th Annual Sacramento Museum Day, Saturday, February 1, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission, free guided tours and free children's activities all day.
- Night Out at the Museum, Saturday, February 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Museum doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cultural program starts at 7 p.m. FREE event. Light refreshments will be available.
- Holiday Closure, February 17, Maidu Museum & Historic Site will be closed, in observance of Presidents Day.

The Museum hours are; Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3rd Saturdays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Guided Tours Saturdays at 10 a.m. Self-guided tours on weekdays. Admission Fees: \$4.50 Adults, \$4 Senior/Child, \$2 after 2 p.m. The museum is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville. For more information, call (916) 774-5934 or visit [www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum](http://www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum).

## Pigeon Forge and Sevierville, The All Inclusive Family Destination of the Smokies

by CARMEL L. MOONEY

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee has long been one of our family favorites. In fact, the kids beg to return every year and we would if we could. We recently made our every-other-year pilgrimage and were delighted to see so much new excitement as well as some of our usual favorites.

One brand new attraction, the Smoky Mountain Alpine Coaster was a kick. We "rode the hill and we felt the thrill." Much like an alpine slide but on a roller coaster track, this one mile, 8 minute ride was exciting and exhilarating. As your alpine sled (built for 1-2 people) curves along the beautiful areas of the forest, it gradually gets faster, making it a rush of fun. If you ever feel like you're going to fast, no sweat as there are plenty of signs ahead showing you how to brake and when to break to control your coaster's speed. It's a lovely way to have a mild adrenaline rush while taking in the vistas.

Dollywood is always the pinnacle of our trips to Pigeon Forge. By far, our favorite theme park in the nation, and we've been to them all, it is a top quality, class act, through and through. It never disappoints in attraction quality, cleanliness and stellar customer service and hospitality.

We always enjoy the Dolly museum depicting the very interesting story and life of Dolly Parton, her background, movies, singing career, family and relationship with God. This museum is so heartwarming and certain to give you a new found respect for this amazing business woman and philanthropist.

While we were in the dazzling cute little lit-up town of Pigeon Forge, we also visited their Wax Museum, which was quite an adventure itself. The walkways meander past dozens of Hollywood celebrities made into wax mannequins, looking almost identical to the real celebrity. All way from Natalie Portman and Tom Hanks to Michael Jackson and Dolly Parton, herself, the likenesses are amazing.

Our other adventures included visiting the Titanic museum, which was truly a complete blast into the past. We learned very interesting history behind the Titanic, its plans and construction, captain, crew, fascinating passengers, route, and fateful sinking.

This museum included many real artifacts from the actual passengers on Titanic. We each received a small profile card of the passenger we were 'portraying'. It showed our class (1st, 2nd, or 3rd), our age, and what our lives were like before Titanic and aboard Titanic.

This museum also included real props and costumes from James Cameron's movie "Titanic," such as clothes worn by the actors and actresses from the movie, as well as the script, director's jacket, and even a film slate. The real 'Heart of the Ocean' necklace prop that was used in the movie was on display.

In Pigeon Forge, we also visited Wonderworks, which truly was a wonder in the works. We've visited before and they often add new exhibits. You will love so many bizarre, yet interesting and fun facts, hands-on exhibits and activities and education mixed with wonder. It is a perfect place to take any kid to learn about space, art, logic, and many other fun facts. They even have a rope climbing wall!

Our favorite restaurant in Pigeon Forge still cannot be beat. If you're looking for a restaurant with quality food and hospitality, check out Tony Gore's Smoky Mountain BBQ. This place will treat your family as if you're a friend of theirs, and the food is delicious. All recipes are from Gospel singer Tony Gore, himself. Pick anything off the menu and it will melt in your mouth with perfection.

The Dixie Stampede is a colorful, dazzling, and adventurous hour and a half. A perfect show to take your family, big or small, of all ages, it's heart-warming, and extremely exciting and fast-moving with endless show horses and their trick riders, music, and effects.

Throughout this entire beautiful show, they served us food at our seats. We were served each course one at a time: soup with biscuits, gravy and mashed potatoes, then roasted chicken. We would have eaten more if our stomachs hadn't been as full and satisfied from very large portions.

At the end of the show, a big side-show screen is lowered from the ceiling Dolly Parton appears



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# Send us your Photos!

California Kids! is looking for themed photos to use for our monthly publication. This is your BIG chance to land a cover shot! For more info please contact [kathleen@valcomnews.com](mailto:kathleen@valcomnews.com)

# Happy Valentine's Day!

Hey Kids! Valentine's Day is celebrated February 14 each year. It's fun making Valentine cards for your friends and family. YUM! love those candy hearts, too! Can you find hidden words relating to Valentine's Day? Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward and upside-down.

K C U O H D E R A T T E Y P T B C  
 N U E T A L O C O H C A L A F S A  
 I P E T E Y S O L M D K I P O E N  
 P I P F L O W E R S A T L E R S D  
 C D Y O L K F N E L C Y O R T S Y  
 S T R A E H O N D L A P V D S I H  
 G E L W R E I T O E N I E O E K E  
 S G U H I T M V A H D H Y I S Y A  
 H L N N N B E O C R Y S O L O D R  
 S W E E T H E A R T P D U I R N T  
 S P L T U P A A U S E N O E D A S  
 B A D E N I M E B A R E S S E C B  
 V E X E B W O P Y E A I C S R I I  
 B W C R A D L E D N E R C A R D S  
 F E B R U A R Y N I H F E E T P C

- |              |            |                 |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| Be mine      | February   | Love            |
| candy        | flowers    | Paper doilies   |
| candy hearts | friendship | Pink            |
| candy kisses | hearts     | Red             |
| cards        | hugs       | Red roses       |
| chocolate    | I love you | Sweetheart      |
| Cupid        |            | Valentine's Day |

# Effie Yeaw Nature Center events

## Free Weekend Activities

**February 1, Nighttime Hunters, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.**  
 Uncover the mysteries of owls: what they eat, where they sleep, how they find food and more. Get a close-up look at one of the Nature Center's owl residents.

**February 2, Critter Close-Up, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Get eye to eye with one of the furry, scaly, or feathered residents.

**February 8, Save the Frogs! Saturday, 10:30 a.m.**  
 Amphibian populations around the world are declining at an alarming rate and nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are on the verge of extinction. SAVE THE FROGS! Michael Starkey will share photos of amphibians from around the world, explain what is causing the Amphibian Extinction Crisis, and how we can help out amphibians around the globe.

**February 9, Squirrel, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Feeling a little nutty? Come join the staff for a relaxing stroll in the Nature Preserve to learn about our little bushy-tailed neighbors.

**February 15, Birding for Families, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.**  
 Bring the family out for a birding walk led by a Naturalist and our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. Make sure to bring your binoculars.

**February 16, Sensational Senses, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.**  
 How do humans and animals explore and get information from their environment? Come learn some fun facts about the function of your senses and compare them with the sensory ability of local wildlife. Meet a live animal.

**February 22, Duck, Duck, Goose, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.**  
 Winter is a great time to see waterfowl along the American River. Join a naturalist on a guided walk to look for herons, ducks, geese and other birds along the river. Bring your binoculars or borrow some from the staff. All ages welcome.

**February 23, Leapin' Lizards, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Come meet a skink, blue belly and other resident lizards and find out what make these cold-blooded critters so amazing.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located at California Avenue and Tarshes Drive, Carmichael. For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net). Donations gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car County entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman Park (free to members).

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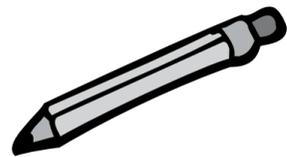
## Story Pirates

SUN, FEB 23 • 1PM & 3PM

Who knew literacy training could be such rambunctious fun?! Celebrating the words and ideas of local young authors, Story Pirates presents an hour-long sketch-comedy musical based entirely on stories written by local students. Based in New York City and Los Angeles, the Story Pirates take the show on the high seas to bring this spectacle to the Mondavi Center for the first time, with the audience and actors onstage at the same time!



# MAKE IT YOURSELF!



## Beaded ornament

This beaded ornament is fun for kids to make for Valentine's Day. It looks very pretty hung on a tree or in the window - or you could even make a miniature version as a pendant!

### You will need:

Craft wire, beads

### You will need to:

Bend your wire into a simple shape. Thread the beads onto the wire. Twist the ends together. Cut the wire so you are left with two over hanging pieces of wire. Twist the ends of these together to form a loop to hang.



## Felt Candy Bag

Here is a cute idea for a Valentine's Day craft to do with your kids. Older kids will be able to produce a really pretty bag on their own; younger children may need some help, or you can adapt the craft to make it appropriate for their age.

### You will need:

Red felt, fabric glue, large darning needle, pink ribbon (two different widths), embellishments (sequins, gems, etc.)

### You will need to:

Fold the felt in half and cut out a heart shape. Separate the felt so that you have two hearts. Thread some narrow ribbon through the needle and tie a knot in the end of the ribbon. Using the outside of the heart as a guide, sew a heart shape in the middle of one of the felt hearts. Use a dab of fabric glue to secure the end of the ribbon. It may help younger children if you draw the heart with chalk on to the fabric.

Use two lengths of wider ribbon to sew handles to both hearts. Tie the ends of the handles in knots to secure. Glue the two hearts together with fabric glue, making sure that you leave an opening at the top of the bag. Older children may like to sew the pieces together. Add some embellishments to the front of your bag. Leave to dry and then fill with candy and enjoy.



## Felt Heart Pillow

Children can practice their sewing skills to make this pretty felt heart pillow, then decorate it with odds and ends to make it really special. Perfect for Valentine's Day.

### You will need:

2 sheets of felt in pink or red, fabric glue, beads, sequins, fabric paint, etc. to decorate and a needle, thread and stuffing

### You will need to:

Cut two large hearts from the felt. Decorate the two hearts with anything that you can find in your craft cupboard. You may decide to decorate only one of the hearts, or you may prefer an all-over design. When the fabric-paint and glue is dry, use running stitch to sew the two hearts together. Leave a gap to stuff the pillow. Sew up the gap and knot the thread securely.



## Butterfly Magnet

This butterfly magnet makes a cute craft for kids for Valentine's Day - perfect for cheering up the front of the fridge!

### You will need:

4 large craft foam hearts, 7 small craft foam hearts, 2 tiny craft foam hearts, Pipe cleaner / chenille stem, 2 small wiggle eyes, red pen, magnet, glue

### You will need to:

Stick three of the small hearts in a column overlapping the point of one heart over the top of the heart below. This is the body. Stick a small heart into the middle of each large heart. Arrange the large hearts into the wing shape. Glue the top ones overlapping the bottom wing part. Glue the body to the center of the wings. Cut two short pieces of chenille stem. Stick these to the back of the top heart of the body, which is the head. Stick a tiny heart to the end of each piece of chenille stem. Stick the wiggle eyes to the head and draw on a mouth. Finish by gluing a magnet to the back of your butterfly.



Crafts courtesy of: [www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy

## Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring Margarita Engle

By Patricia Newman

Newbery Honor winning author Margarita Engle grew up in Los Angeles, the daughter of an American father and a Cuban mother. Her parents met when her artist-father visited Cuba to paint. They fell in love at first sight and married despite language obstacles. Engle recalls magical summer adventures in Cuba on her mother's family farm. Where Los Angeles was paved and gray, Cuba was green and natural. There was little opportunity for Engle to run wild at home, but in Cuba she spent much of her time outdoors. "For me, riding horses on the farm symbolizes the freedom that I felt during those summers," she says.

But in 1962 when Engle was eleven, the Cuban Missile Crisis brought her summer adventures to an abrupt halt. "Between the time of the missile crisis and the fall of the Soviet Union it was impossible [to travel to Cuba]," she says. "We weren't even able to maintain regular phone or written contact with family. It was a real separation of the two sides of the family. Even now [fifty-plus years later] there is not direct mail service to Cuba." Although family visits are now legal, letters can take up to a year or more to arrive if they arrive at all, and Internet access is nonexistent for the average Cuban.

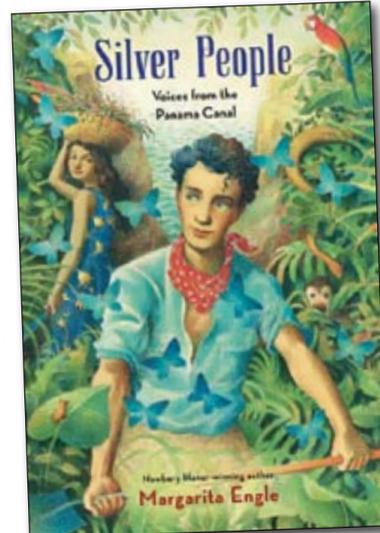
The loss of her extended family was so great a depriva-



tion at the age of eleven that Engle began to think of Cuba as an imaginary place. She describes it as "magic realistic where I could travel in memory and imagination." Even though she has visited Cuba several times since the collapse of the Soviet Union, she says, "Cuba remains both a real place and that world I created when I couldn't travel."

Engle's professional writing career began in the 1990s when she published prose novels for adults. "When I was a child at about age ten I started reading adult books instead of children's books," she says. "I was already writing poetry, and it never occurred to me that I would write for children. I wanted to read adult books and I wanted to write for adults. I remember as a teenager thinking that I wanted to write big, fat books." But her tastes changed when she had children, and she began to think about writing books for young readers. As her children grew up, her interest in children's books grew. "I kind of have done my reading and writing in reverse," she quips. "The older I get, the more I enjoy children's books."

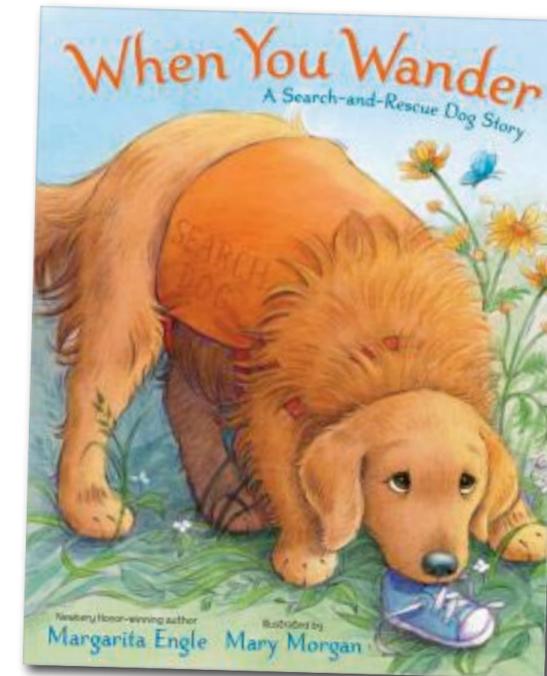
She turned to her beloved Cuba for her first book, *The Poet Slave of Cuba*, a biography of the slave Juan Francisco Manzano who escaped and became a celebrated poet. "I tried to write in prose, but it just never worked," Engle says. About that time, she read Karen Hesse's *Witness*—a verse novel in multiple voices—and it inspired Engle to reformat her



project. "When I switched to poetry, it flowed," she says. An editor at Henry Holt pulled *The Poet Slave of Cuba* from a pile of unsolicited manuscripts and launched Engle's career as a verse novelist.

Mining her family history, Engle remembered stories of a pirate ancestor from the 1700s. Many of his papers had been donated to Harvard, but the university would not grant her access because she was not affiliated with a research institution. Engle changed direction and became fascinated with a Caribbean pirate shipwreck in 1509 near her mother's hometown on the south central coast of Cuba—a shipwreck that brought Cuban Indians in touch with outsiders for the first time. "I am fascinated by points where cultures meet," Engle says, and she wove a peacekeeping theme into *Hurricane Dancers*. In an additional twist, she says, "I grew up believing that Cuban Indians were extinct." Because of her research on this project, she was invited to take part in a Cuban DNA Project. She discovered that not only were Cuban Indians not extinct, but that she shared their blood. "The story that had already captivated me was my own," she says. "It became very emotional for me to know there had been survivors, so *Hurricane Dancers* became a story about survival, too, not just peacekeeping."

In her newest picture book, Engle returns to Cuba once again, this time using the framework of a folktale for *Tiny Rabbit's BIG WISH*. "It's a story about learning to accept yourself," Engle says. In other new work, Engle veers away from Cuba for her middle-grades novel *Mountain Dog* and her picture book *When You Wander*, both based on her search and rescue dogs. *Silver People* explores the culture of Caribbean islanders recruited by the United States to dig the Panama Canal in the early 1900s. "They lived under a U.S. imposed system of apartheid," Engle says, "segregated until the middle of the 20th century." While American and European workers were paid in gold, the Caribbean islanders were paid in silver. "It's a visual image of what it means to be a second class citizen," she says. Her background in agronomy



and botany shines through in this verse novel as she takes on different voices for native plants and animals. "The book teaches rain forest biology as well as history," she says. "I think of it as my personal love letter to the rain forest."

Engle continues to hope for normalized relations between the U.S. and Cuba so she can be reunited with her family. It seems unlikely that the current generation is up to the task, so Engle writes for the next generation.

Patricia Newman visits schools! Her newest book *Plastic, Aboy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch* a Junior Library Guild Selection, is now available. Other titles include *Surviving Animal Attacks*; *Navy SEALs: Elite Operations*; *Army Special Forces: Elite Operations*; *Nugget on the Flight Deck*, recipient of the California Reading Association's *Eureka! Silver Honor Award for excellence in children's nonfiction*; and *Jungle the Brass*, *Junior Library Guild Selection* and recommended by the *Smithsonian National American History Museum*. Visit her website at [www.patriciannewman.com](http://www.patriciannewman.com) for more information.

Next month: Jim Averbeck

### LEARN MORE ABOUT MARGARITA ENGLE

Visit: <http://margaritaengle.com/>

#### SELECTIONS FROM MARGARITA ENGLE'S LIBRARY

- Mountain Dog*, Holt, 2013.
- When You Wander*, Holt, 2013.
- The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist*, Harcourt, 2013.
- The Wild Book*, Harcourt, 2012.
- Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck*, Holt, 2011.
- The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba*, Holt, 2010.
- Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian*, Holt, 2010.
- Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*, Holt, 2009.
- The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*, Holt, 2008.
- The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*, Holt, 2006.

#### UPCOMING

- Silver People*, Harcourt, March 2014.
- Tiny Rabbit's BIG WISH*, Harcourt, March 2014.
- The Drum Dream Girl*, Harcourt, Spring 2015.
- Orangutanka*, Holt, TBA.

# For Baby!

## Smart Glow TemporalScanner Thermometer

With the cold and flu season approaching, now is the time to make sure the medicine cabinet is stocked with all the essentials to help treat and comfort little ones.



Exergen introduces the NEW Smart Glow TemporalScanner Thermometer™, an updated version of their original TemporalScanner, with four ways to make it even easier to take a temperature:

- A softly illuminated display for easy reading in any light-- perfect for checking the temperature of a sleeping infant in a darkened room
- Beeping sound indicating scanning can be turned off or on to avoid waking a sleeping child
- Automatically retains the last eight temperature readings for instant recall to check on fever progression
- Ability to switch between Fahrenheit and Celsius modes

The Exergen Smart Glow TemporalScanner is the #1 recommend thermometer by pediatricians and is used in more hospitals than any other thermometer. The thermometer is an infrared thermometer which captures temperature by scanning the heat which is emitted from the forehead, via the temporal artery. The Exergen SmartGlow has been tested and has been found that its measurements is just as accurate as an anal thermometer but easier to use. Sold in major retailers including, the Smart Glow thermometer's suggested retail price is \$49.99.

Exergen markets two models of the TemporalScanner thermometer: a professional version for doctors' offices and hospitals, and a consumer model sold in major retailers including Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Costco, Babies "R" Us, Toys "R" Us, Kroger and BJ's.

To see real moms testing the Smart Glow thermometer and demonstrating the new features visit [www.exergensmartglow-thermometer.com](http://www.exergensmartglow-thermometer.com)

## Chicco NaturalFit Lemon & Grape Silicone Teethers

### Product Features:

- Gently massages gums to provide teething relief
  - Easy-grip & lightweight
  - Contains 2 teethers
  - BPA & PVC Free
- Recommended Use: 2 months +  
Suggested Retail Price: \$7.99  
Retailer: buybuy BABY



### Chicco NaturalFit Bottles

About NaturalFit™  
Engineered to be responsive to the changing feeding styles of babies. Three distinct nipple shapes adapt to the specific needs of growing babies as the natural suck-swallow action develops.

- BPA Free
- Clinically Tested
- Made in Italy

#### Stage 1 - Squeezing - 5 oz Bottle

- Wide base and soft, flexible nipple mimics mother's breast
- Ergonomically shaped bottle is easy to hold; the wider mouth is convenient to fill and clean
- Unique angled nipple with wider, rounded base for proper neck positioning
- Twin anti-colic valves help prevent air ingestion, gas and spit-up
- Flexors at the base of the nipple enhance elasticity

- Internal ridges prevent nipple collapse
  - Angled Newborn flow nipple
  - Always stays full of milk, reducing air intake
  - Soft Silicone is easy for baby to latch onto
- Recommended Use: 0 months +  
Suggested Retail Price: \$8.99  
Retailer: buybuy BABY



#### Stage 3 - Sucking - 11 oz Bottle

- Wide base and soft, flexible nipple mimics mother's breast
- Ergonomically shaped bottle is easy to hold. The wider mouth is convenient to fill and clean
- Twin anti-colic valves help prevent air ingestion, gas and spit-up

- Flexors at the base of the nipple enhance elasticity
  - Internal ridges prevent nipple collapse
  - Less rounded base for tighter lip support to help baby's sucking motion
  - Encourages correct swallowing
  - Designed for the way older babies feed
- Recommended Use: 6 months +  
Suggested Retail Price: \$8.99  
Retailer: buybuy BABY

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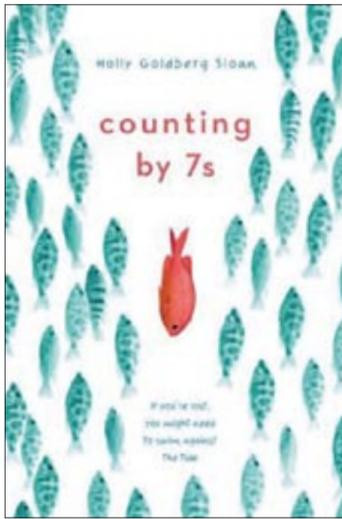
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**THE BOOK REPORT**

# Middle Grade Novels



By **Connie Goldsmith**

Middle grade novels are aimed at the voracious readers aged eight to twelve. Some of today's best writing is found in these books. If your young reader isn't quite up to the task, the stories are ideal for family read-aloud time.

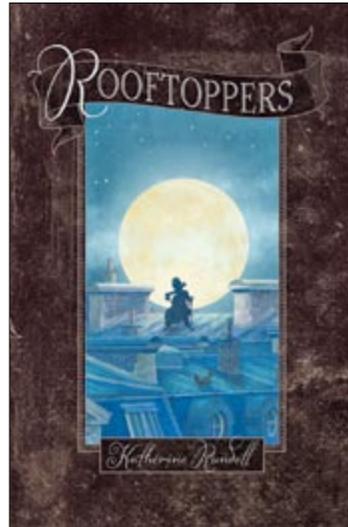
"*Lara's Gift*," by Annemarie O'Brien. (Knopf). This engaging novel is set a century ago in the Russian countryside where Lara's father is steward of a grand estate's borzoi kennels. These magnificent hunting dogs are meant only for tsar and other nobility. Lara has an uncanny ability to see the future of 'her' dogs, a problem in a land where Rasputin is feared by the people and venerated by the tsar and tsarina. Lara's dream of taking over as kennel steward from her father one day is lost when her baby brother is born and named future steward of the borzoi. The action mounts when Lara and her dog Zar challenge her father's rules and prove that Lara and Zar are meant to fulfill their very special futures. Fans of historical fiction are sure to enjoy this engrossing story of animal-human bonds, and of the struggle to make your dreams come true.

"*Doll Bones*," by Holly Black, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler. (McElderry). Friends Zach, Poppy and Alice are twelve years old, still playing role games until Zach's dad throws his action figures out. Zach tells the girls he's too old for such nonsense (but doesn't really mean it). Poppy's mother has a creepy antique bone china doll the kids call the Queen, locked in a cabinet. Poppy says the doll talks to her and that it's made from

the bones of a dead girl named Eleanor who demands to be taken to her grave and properly buried. The trio takes the doll and sets off on a slightly scary adventure involving a long bus trip and a ride across a river. The story is as much about friends leaving childhood as it is about taking a spooky doll on a quest, making it a perfect 'starter story' for young fans of ghost tales.

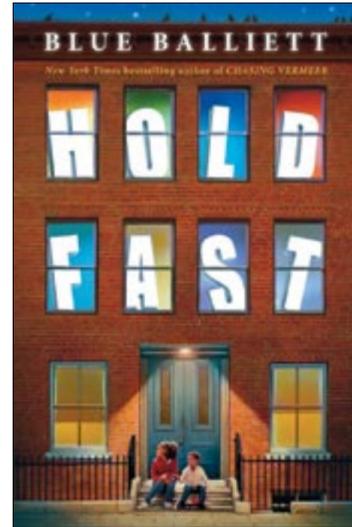
"*Counting by 7s*," by Holly Goldberg Sloan. (Dial). Offbeat. Poignant. Funny. Sad. These are some of the words that describe this amazing story. Willow is a suddenly orphaned twelve-year old genius, left without a family and in danger of being placed in a group home. Although Willow doesn't realize it, the sheer power of her personality encourages others to become better people, to do the right thing for others – and for her. There's Dell, Willow's slouch of a school counselor; Mai, her manicurist mother and semi-delinquent brother; and Jairo, the cabbie Willow befriends. The unique characters are well-drawn and complete their own journeys while sewing together a patchwork quilt family for Willow. This book resonates with themes of love, loss and friendship, and will live on in the heart long after it's over. \*\* Reviewer's pick of the month\*\*

"*Hold Fast*," by Blue Balliett. (Scholastic). The Pearls, dad Dash, mom Summer, daughter Early and son Jubilation have lives so enriched by words, books and poetry, they don't realize they're nearly destitute. Dash works at the Chicago library and takes on a job with an antique book dealer to bring in extra cash. He doesn't realize the books are part of a



criminal scheme. Dash disappears suddenly, and the Pearls lose everything after a violent home invasion forces them into a homeless shelter. The family's unexpected descent into shelter life and dependence on the social services system is heartbreaking, yet enlightening. Early is a brave and appealing heroine determined to solve the mystery of Dash's disappearance. Langston Hughes' poetry flows through this touching story and keeps Early's hope alive. Ms. Balliett, a talented writer of mysteries for young readers, is at the top of her craft in this book.

"*Rooftoppers*," by Katherine Rundell. (Simon & Schuster). Garnering a bevy of starred reviews, this lyrical story opens when a baby is found floating in a cello case in the English Channel after a shipwreck. Charles Maxwell, among those searching for survivors, decides to keep the little girl and raise her, an uncommon event in 1890s London. Charles calls her Sophie and fills her life



with love and imagination. When social workers decide Sophie must go to an orphanage because she's getting too old to live with a single gentleman, the pair flees to Paris. Sophie teams up with Matteo and his friends – rooftoppers who seldom set foot on the pavement. Readers may guess the story's happy ending, but the beauty of this book is the journey told in poetic words that shine with brightness and love.

Connie Goldsmith [www.connie-goldsmith.com](http://www.connie-goldsmith.com) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, "*Bombs over Bikini: the world's first nuclear disaster*," and "*Traumatic Brain Injury: from concussion to coma*," are now available. Other books include: "*Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer*," and "*Influenza*," one of the USA Today Health Reports series. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.

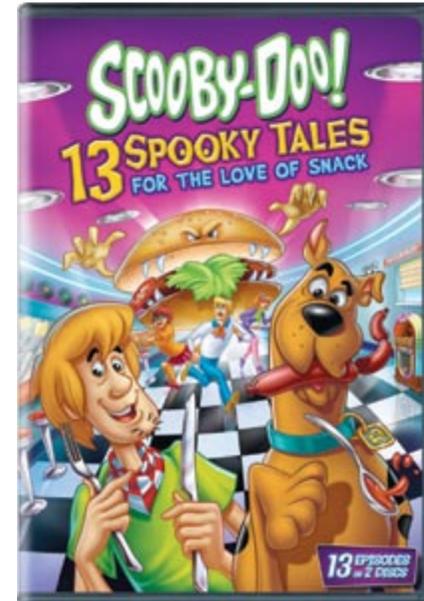
# Got an appetite for Scooby-Doo! hijinks?

Get set to take a bite out of Warner Bros. Home Entertainment's latest Scooby-Doo! collection: *Scooby-Doo! 13 Spooky Tales: For the Love of Snack!*

This entertaining release features 13 action-packed escapades centering on Scooby-Doo's favorite past time, food! Join the gang as they embark on exciting adventures in Hawaii, Alaska, Tokyo and several other fun destinations.

In *Wanted Cheddar Alive*, the gang faces a cheese monster who puts the Scooby Snacks factory out of business. The owner of a local burger house is haunted by a burger monster on *Night of the Living Burger*. *Big Appetite in Little Tokyo* has the Mystery Inc. crew traveling to Tokyo, where Shaggy eats a cursed pizza and grows into a Godzilla-like monster. On *Alaskan King Coward*, Scooby and his pals uncover a prehistoric creature. These and other captivating mysteries await viewers on this not-to-be-missed release.

Scooby-Doo! 13 Spooky Tales: For the Love of Snack! will retail for \$19.98 SRP. For more information about this and other titles distributed by Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, visit [www.whvdirect.com](http://www.whvdirect.com).



## Second Saturday Sensory Storytime

Join the staff at the Arden-Dimick Library, February 8, 11 a.m., for kids with Autism and/or sensory disorders, featuring songs, stories, sensory activities and interactive materials. Targeted for a developmental age of 2 years to 6 years old, there will be lots of fun and time to socialize as well. Behaviors and/or noise are no problem, and siblings are welcome. The library as developed this program for those children who may have difficulty in traditional Storytime and the presenter is also the parent of a child with autism. Arden-Dimick Library is located at 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

Save the Date:  
**Pig Day is March 1st**  
 9am-1pm

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 • Make free piggie crafts!

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## Don't Miss Spring and Summer at the Nature Center

- **Spring and Summer Nature Camps**  
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### Effie Yeaw Nature Center

A Community Service of the  
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 2850 San Lorenzo Way • Carmichael, CA 95608



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# Calendar of Events

## Arts & Crafts

**February 4, Valentine Cards and Crafts, 4 p.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento.** Join the staff at the Central Library to make valentines for your friends and family. Stop by Kids Place to create a festive card for all your sweethearts. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 8, Valentine Cards, 2 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Join the staff at the Carmichael Library for their sixth annual Valentine Card making party. The library will supply all the makings for a great card and you supply the creativity. Valentine candy for everyone. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 13, Make a Valentine, All Day, 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Come by the Arcade Library any time on Valentine's Day Eve and make a valentine for someone you love. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

one of the Nature Center's owl residents. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 2, Critter Close-up, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Get eye to eye with one of the furry, scaly, or feathered residents at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 8, Save the Frogs!, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Amphibian populations around the world are declining at an alarming rate and nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are on the verge of extinction. Michael Starkey will share photos of amphibians from around the world, explain what is causing the Amphibian Extinction Crisis, and how we can help out amphibians around the globe. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 9, Squirrel, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Feeling a little nutty? Come join the staff for a relaxing stroll in the Nature Preserve to learn about Effie Yeaw Nature Center's little busy-tailed neighbors. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

## Critter Events

**February 1, Nighttime Hunters, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Bring the family to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and uncover the mysteries of owls; what they eat, where they sleep, how they find food and more. Get a close-up look at

**February 15, Birding for Families, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Bring the family out for a birding walk led by a Naturalist and special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. Make sure to bring your binoculars. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 22, Duck, Duck, Goose, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Winter is a great time to see waterfowl along the American River. Join a naturalist from the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on a guided walk to look for herons, ducks, geese and other birds along the river. Bring your binoculars or borrow some from the staff. All ages are welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

**February 23, Leapin' Lizards, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael.** Come to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and meet a skunk, blue belly and other resident lizards and find out what make these cold blooded critters so amazing.

**February 1, Book Sale, 10 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library will hold a 2-day book sale. All books will be reasonably priced.

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, Stay and Play, 10:15 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.** "Stay and Play" at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers, ages 0 and up) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board books will be available. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 5, 12, 19, 26, Sing Along, 4 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join Mr. Cooper on Wednesdays for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for kids up to 7 years old at the Belle Cooledge Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 8, Food Preservation Demo, 10 a.m. to Noon, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.** The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers invites the public to a demonstration: "Step by Step! Basic introduction to safe water

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, Stay and Play, 11:45 a.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Parents and caregivers are invited to bring in their babies, toddlers and other children to the Carmichael Library to "stay and play." The staff will put out toys for the children to play with while the parents socialize. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 8, Food Preservation Demo, 10 a.m. to Noon, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento.** The Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers invites the public to a demonstration: "Step by Step! Basic introduction to safe water

See more Calendar, page 16

## Special Events

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[www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org](http://www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org)

# Calendar of Events

bath canning techniques.” This is a free event held at the Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office. No advanced registration is required. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

**February 11, Bricktastic Building Fun, 4 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Bring the kids to Belle Cooledge Library. They have piles of Legos, Duplos, and Megablocks for kids of all ages to try out their building skills. Join the fun in the community room. Please note, all creations will be taken down at the end of the program. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 21, Teen and Tween Gaming, 2:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Come to the Belle Cooledge Library and challenge a friend on the Wii or just hang out. Join the staff for fun and snacks. This program is for tweens and teens ages 9-17 years old. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 22, The Science Wizard, 2 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** You'll be laughing so hard at this entertainer and improv comic that you won't even realize that you're learning about science. Come to

the Arcade Library for this fun program. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 27, Game on!, 4 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Drop in to Arcade Library for some afternoon gaming. Grab a controller for free play, fight to the top of the leaderboard, or simply grab a snack and watch the action. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 8, Lego Building Bash, 2 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Do you love building things? Are Legos your passion? Come to this monthly Lego building party. We will provide the Legos and some ideas for how to use them. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**March 1 and 2, Passport to Eggventure, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 5321 Date Avenue, Sacramento.** Northern California Egg Artists invite the public to this show and sale. Talented artists from South Korea, Japan, South Africa, Canada, the Netherlands, the UK, and Australia to name a few. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza-Northeast. For more information, call (916) 338-5800.

## Storytime & Puppet Events

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, Baby Storytime, 12:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Join the staff at the Belle Cooledge Library for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program, babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, Baby Lapsit, 10:30 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Come to this new program at the Arcade Library designed for you and your baby (0-18 months). There will be parent/child interaction through stories, songs, rhymes, finger plays and more. Stay afterwards until 11:20 for play time with age-appropriate toys. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, Baby Storytime, Noon, 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove.** Join the library staff at the Elk Grove Library for an interactive experience focused on babies from birth through 18 months. This program encourages early literacy development through movement, songs and shared reading followed by stay and play activities. Additional parking is available south of the library at Journey Church, located at 9645 Elk Grove-Florin Road.

**February 4, 11, 18, 25, Toddler Storytime, 11:20 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and finger plays, designed for children ages 18 months to 3 years at the Arcade Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 5, 12, Toddler Storytime, 11:15 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays, designed for children ages 18 months to 3 years at the Arden-Dimick Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 5, 12, 19, 26, Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Sacramento.** Toddlers and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays at the Elk

Grove Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m., 828 I Street, Sacramento.** Come to the Central Library and join Miss Caitlin for stories, songs and lots of fun. The staff aims to have a good time while building pre-literacy skills. Wiggles are welcome; no need to sit still. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento.** Children ages 3 to 5, along with their favorite adults, will enjoy stories, fingerplays, songs and crafts in this free program at the Arcade Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 6, 13, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.** Children ages 3 to 6, along with their favorite adults, will enjoy stories, music, arts and crafts, play time and more in this free program at the Arden-Dimick Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, Toddler Storytime, 9:30 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Toddlers and their caregivers will enjoy stories, songs, and fingerplays. After storytime, stay and enjoy a play group or a simple craft. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, Preschool Storytime, 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.** Join Miss Angela for stories, songs and a craft at the Carmichael Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.** Children ages 3 and older, along with their favorite adults, will enjoy stories, music, arts and crafts, play time and more in this free program at the Belle Cooledge Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.



## Spot, Prevent, Smile! Oral Health Matters

A message brought to you by First 5 Sacramento



Oral health begins even before children start teething. Are you establishing positive dental habits early to ensure your child's teeth are healthy? Paying attention to your child's oral health early can prevent problems down the road such as chronic pain, impaired chewing and speech development, as well as reduced concentration and self-confidence.

First 5 Sacramento offers parents the following tips to help Spot, Prevent and Smile – establishing a lifetime of healthy teeth.

- Spot – Looking for Tooth Decay
- Check your baby's teeth and gums for tooth decay every day. Look for white, brown or black spots on the teeth. If you see any spots, visit the dentist right away. Also, check gums for swelling, bleeding and pimples.
- Take your baby to the dentist, starting at age one.

### Prevent – Early Prevention is Best

- Remember to wipe or brush your child's teeth daily with a clean washcloth, especially after eating. When your child is about two years old, help him or her brush using small circular motions.
- Give your child water rather than juice when he or she is thirsty. After six months of age, one small serving of juice daily is plenty.
- Once your baby is eating solid foods, limit the number of sweet and sticky foods he or she eats. Instead, offer healthy foods and snacks like fruits, vegetables and cheeses.

### Smile – Healthy Teeth for Happy Smiles

- Help your child brush his or her teeth at least twice a day and floss every day.
- Take your child to the dentist at least once a year. Remember your child's teeth and gums are important – even his or her baby teeth. A

child's first set of teeth is crucial for chewing, speaking and speech development, jaw development, self-esteem and are placeholders for permanent teeth. Smart oral health practices are just one step in preparing a child to begin school on the right track.

There are five pediatric dental centers accepting most insurances including Medi-cal. To Sacramento Native American Health Clinic in Midtown, (916) 341-0575 and WellSpace Health Oak Park, North Highlands, South Sacramento, and Rancho Cordova, (916) 737-555.

First 5 Sacramento encourages all parents to be aware of their child's development and share any concerns with a health care professional. For more information on parenting resources or other First 5 Sacramento programs, please call (916) 876-5865 or visit [www.first5sacramento.net](http://www.first5sacramento.net).

*About First 5 Sacramento*  
Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on tobacco products to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$14 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs. Each county has a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. Surrounding First 5's include: First 5 Yolo: 530-669-2475; First 5 Placer: 530-745-1304; and First 5 El Dorado: 530-672-8298.

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## Dragon birthday party ideas

### Dragon Invitation Ideas

- Print out party invitations in an Old English font on brown paper with a dragon clip art image at the top. Roll into scrolls and tie up with a ribbon or twine. Before rolling into scrolls lightly burn the edges of the paper so it looks like a dragon scorched the edges.
- Trace a large dragon footprint onto the front of a blank white card. Write party information on the inside.
- Print the Dinosaur party invitation information on paper - 5 to a 8 x 11 sheet. Cut them out

and roll into scrolls. Put them inside plastic eggs with some speckled jelly beans for a dragon egg invitation.

### Decoratation Ideas

- Cut out dragon footprints out of construction paper or poster board and tape to the driveway and walkways leading to the party (these can also be drawn with chalk). Make signs that say "Dragon Crossing" and place them near the entrance of the party. On a few of the signs lightly burn the posters to make it look like a dragon had scorched them.

- Decorate the party area in your favorite dragon colors.

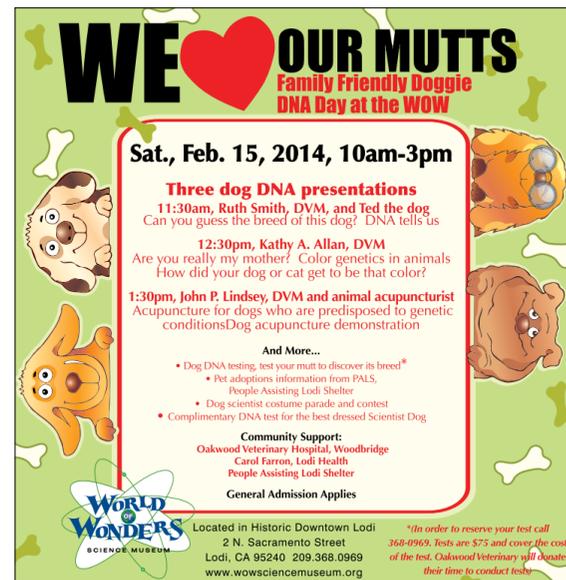
### Dragon Party Games

- Dragon Egg Treasure Hunt - Fill colorful plastic eggs with candies and small prizes - or buy larger prizes and assign them a number and write the numbers to the prizes on the plastic eggs before hiding them. Hide the dragon eggs before guests arrive. Tell party guests that there has been a dragon laying dragon eggs around the party area and then ask them to find them all. Give each guest a paper bag to hold their eggs.
- Dragon Tail Tag - Guests line up while holding hands. Players can't let their hands go for any reason. The 1st person in line tries tagging the very last person in line. After the 1st person tags the "dragon's tail" then the "tail" moves forward and then becomes the "tagger". Keep going so everyone gets to become the dragon's tail.
- Cross the Moat - Make 5 big shapes from poster board (about 14" x 14"). Divide the guests into teams. They have only the 5 stepping stones to get across the moat. Players take the pieces and have to move their whole team by team members standing on one piece of paper ... then they take the very back piece. and hand it down the line to the first person. If someone steps in the moat then the whole team goes back to start and begin again.



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Thank You

## This Little Piggy Birthday Party Ideas

www.birthdaypartyideas4kids.com

This Little Piggy is a favorite nursery rhyme for children. Bring it to life with these fun party ideas for your child's next birthday party.  
*This little piggy went to market,  
This little piggy stayed home,  
This little piggy had roast beef,  
This little piggy had none,  
This little piggy went wee wee wee all the way home!*

### Invitation Ideas

- Little piggy toe prints - On blank note cards make toe prints on the front of the card using the birthday child's toes. Paint their toes with a sponge in washable paint, dab off excess and then press the card to their feet or have them stand on the cards. After the paint is dry draw on small smiley faces on each toe with a black permanent marker.
- Pighead invitations - Cut a large 4" circle and a smaller 1" circle from pink card stock. Use foam tape to stick the smaller circle to the center of the larger circle to give it a 3D effect. Cut out two 1" triangles and glue them to the back of the larger circle near the top for ears. Draw on two black eyes and two circles in the center of the smaller pink circle for a nose. Cut out a 3" circle and print party information onto it and then glue to the back of the pig.

and napkins and black flatware. For an elegant way to serve snacks set out silver serving trays and bowls and place different sizes of candlesticks and candelabras on the table. Use pink tulle to weave around the serving bowls and candlesticks.

### This Little Piggy Party Games

- Pink Pig Pompom Relay - This game is played like the classic Egg and Spoon race only the kids will be carrying pink pompom balls instead of an egg on the spoon. To play each team will need a wooden spoon and a large pink pompom. Make teams and one at a time have 1 person from each team carry the pompom on the spoon to the other side of the room and back. When they get back to their team they give the spoon to the next person and they get to run the relay. If the pink pompom is dropped then that person has to start again.
- Pin the Tail on the Piggy - Play this just like you would Pin the Tail on the Donkey - except make pig tails from pink pipe cleaners (or pink curling ribbon) and pin them onto a large poster of a pig.
- This Little Piggy went to the Market relay - You will need two medium size

baskets and enough plastic food items for each team to run the relay ... about 20 items per team. Before the party mark the plastic food with either a pink or yellow mark - you can use stickers or make a small dot with a permanent marker. Set up the food items at one side of the playing area where the relay will take place and mix in some extra food items that don't have a mark. Divide the party guests into two teams and give the first person on the team the basket. One by one they must run to the "market" and find a food item with their teams color, put it in their basket and run back to the team and hand off the basket to the next player. First team to find all the food items at the market with their color wins!

- Piggy Bank Relay - For older children - over the age of 3. Fill a small plastic pool with sand and lots of pennies (150 or more) and mix the pennies into the sand. Choose teams and one by one a member from each team will run to the sand, find a penny and run back to their team where they will put the penny in their teams piggy bank. Set a time limit of 5 minutes per round and play several rounds. You can also play a round of kids

against adults. If you can find clear piggy banks the game is more fun because the kids can see them filling up. • Piggy Polish Spin - For younger kids have an adult paint their toes for this game. Place several colors of pink nail polish in the middle of a circle of girls. Have the first girl spin a bottle of nail polish. Who ever the cap is pointing to when it is done spinning paints one of her toenails Then that person spins the next color of nail polish .... and so on.

### Food Ideas:

Roast Beef sandwiches, mud pies, Pigs in a Blanket, marshmallows dipped in pink sprinkles (dip a large marshmallow in water, shake off the excess and then

roll in pink sprinkles. Place on the end of a wooden skewer and place in a pink jar. Chocolate covered strawberries, chocolate fountain (Mud fountain).

### Party Favor Ideas:

Piggy banks, pig ear headbands, pink nail polish, bubbles

### Goody/Loot Bag Ideas:

Pink paper sacks with a pig face (see invitation ideas) glued to the front and a pink curly pipe cleaner tail attached to the back. White paper sacks with the birthday child's toe prints. Pink bandanas (wrap party favors up and tie). Basket (this little piggy went to market!)

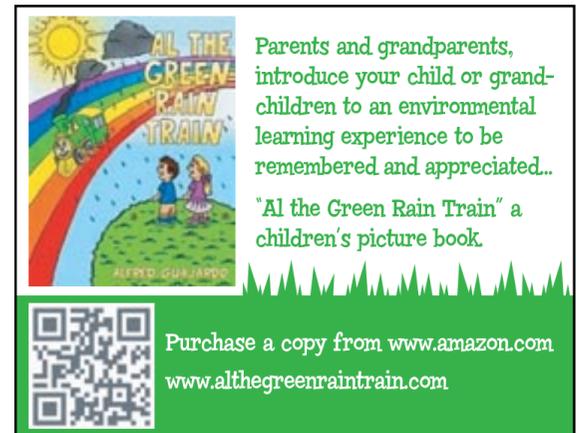


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### Decoratation Ideas

- Tie pink circles made from poster board in the trees and bushes and around the structures that lead to the party entrance. Cut out pink pig footprints from construction paper and tape down on the walkway to the party. Make a few signs from poster board that say "Wee wee wee!" and place them in the walkway to the party.
- Decorate the party table with white table cloths, pink plates, cups



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