

Beyond the Book Activities

I Stink By Kate and Jim McMullan

Parents/Caregivers: Why do books matter? It all comes down to ABCs.

- **A child deserves to be prepared:** Educators emphasize that reading with your preschool child is one of the most important activities to prepare them for kindergarten.
- **Books are essential:** Studies by the National Assessment of Educational Progress organization have consistently found that the more reading material available in the home, the better students' reading levels are likely to be.
- **Cost of children not being prepared:** According to the Wilder Research, in Minnesota, the cost of children entering kindergarten unprepared is approximately \$113 million annually to school systems due to increased:
 - Student aid
 - Special education and grade repetition
 - Teacher related costs
 - Impact on school safety due to delinquent behavior

Utilize the following activities to take you and your child(ren) beyond the book you just read.

These activities were developed through the cooperation of United Way Success By 6, Marshall Lyon County Public Library and Marshall ECFE Little Cubs.

Supplies Needed

Activity 1

- Towel or blanket
- Shoe box
- Paper
- Scissors
- Small pieces of clean garbage

Activity 2

- Scissors
- Glue
- Colored construction paper

Activity 3

- Notecards
- Shoe box
- Random small objects

Activity 4

- Newspaper
- Laundry basket or other container

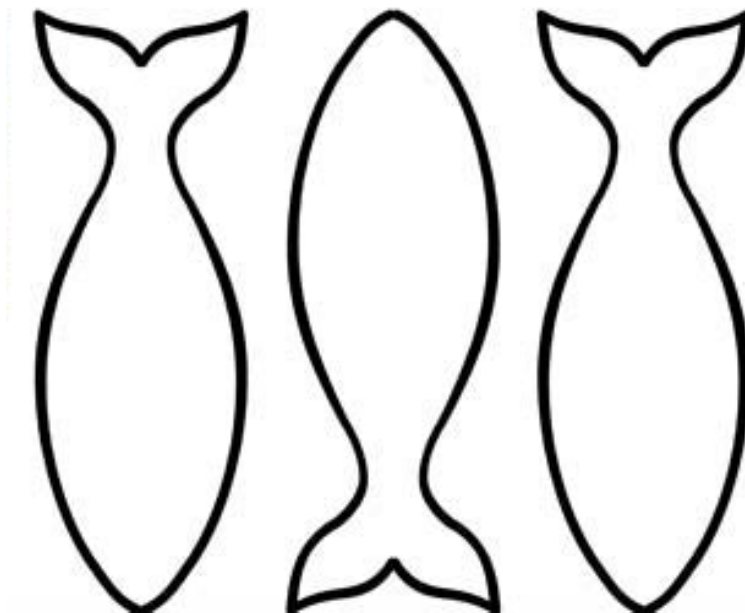
***Read book before getting ready for each activity.**

Activity 1: Dirty Pond-Clean Pond

Supplies you'll need: Fish outline (provided), 5-10 sheets of paper, scissors, towel or blanket, small pieces of clean garbage and a shoe box.

Directions:

- Have either you or child trace the fish on blank paper.
- Have your child practice cutting out the fish.
- Lay the towel or blanket on the floor to represent your pond.
- Place the paper fish onto the pond.
- Invite your child to come and sit around the fish pond with you.
- Tell your child a story about a beautiful pond surrounded by woods. Explain that these woods are very popular for family picnics, and every weekend lots of families visit the woods to have fun. However, the families begin to throw their garbage in the water.
- Discuss why this is harmful. Invite the kids to act out the story by throwing trash in the pond.
- For each piece of trash your child throws in, have them take one fish out. Explain that trash in the pond can kill the fish.
- After all the garbage is thrown in the pond introduce a garbage can (shoe box).
- Direct your child to remove the trash from the pond and throw it away in the garbage can.
- As the garbage is removed, your child can put the fish back into the pond.
- Discuss the reasons everyone should help keep ponds, lakes and oceans clean.



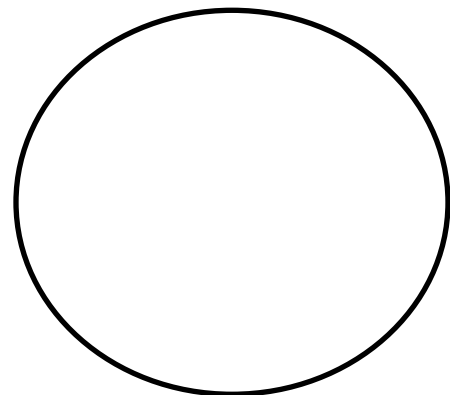
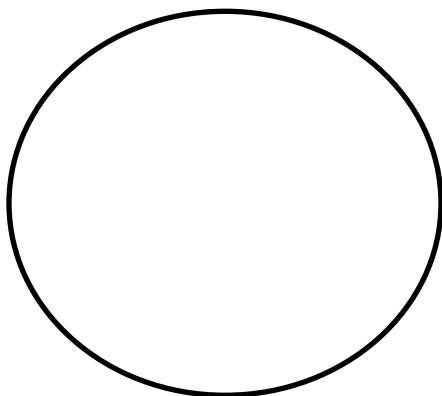
Activity 2: Garbage Truck

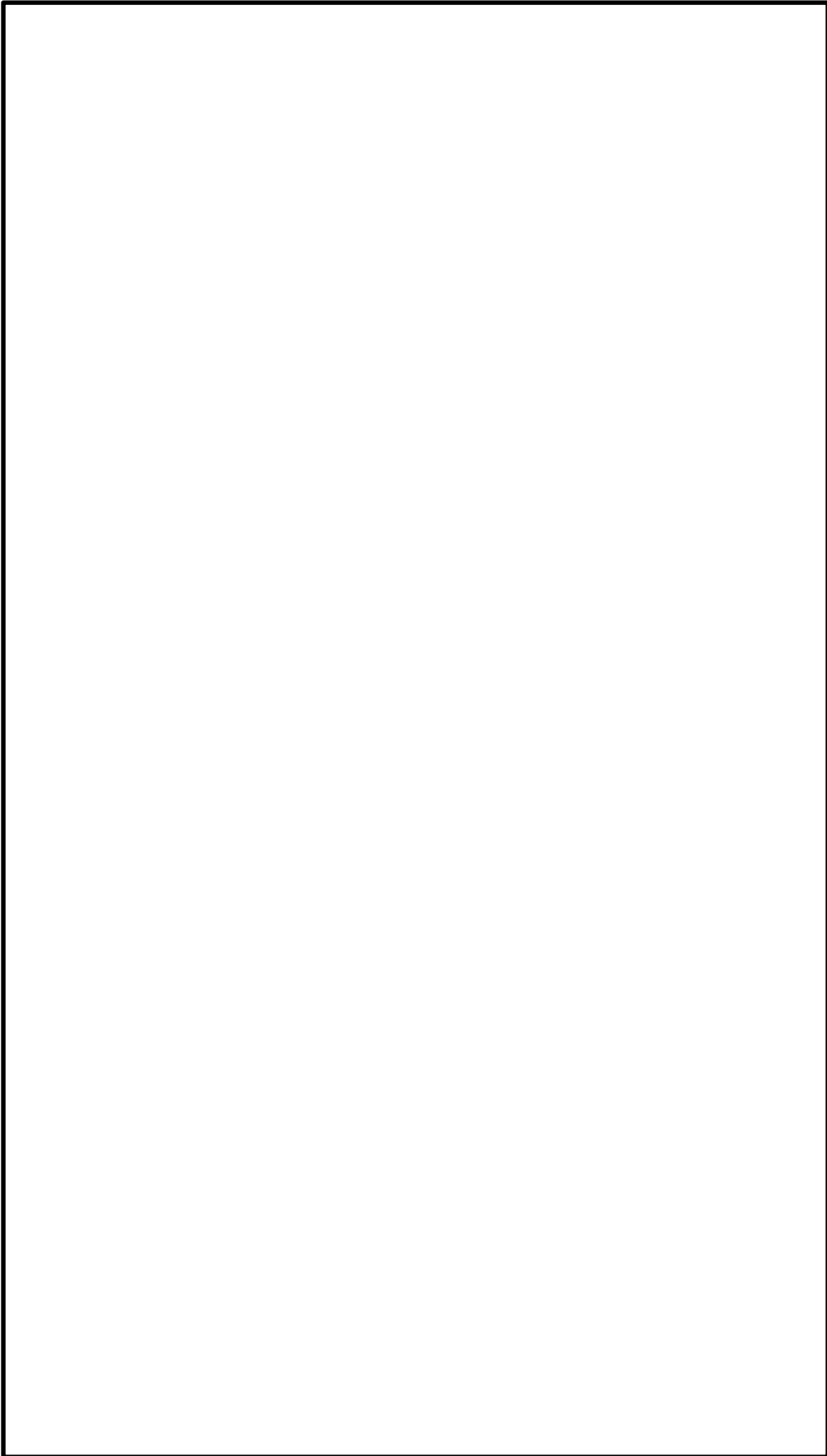
Supplies you'll need: Truck stencils (provided), scissors, glue, colored construction paper



Directions:

- Copy each stencil on colored construction paper for your child.
- Explain to your child that you are going to give them directions on how to create a garbage truck using the materials you have given them.
- Tell your child they will need to listen to the directions and follow each step carefully.
- Have your child cut out the shapes you copied onto the construction paper.
- Next, have your child glue the rectangle (hopper part of garbage truck) to the paper.
- Then have them glue the square (cab of the garbage truck) to the left side of the rectangle.
- Have them glue two circles (wheels) under the rectangle.
- Ask your child to tear the scraps of construction paper into smaller pieces.
- Instruct your child to glue the pieces onto the top of the rectangle to look like trash sticking up out of the hopper.





Uniting people and resources to improve lives and strengthen communities in southwest Minnesota.

**United Way
of Southwest Minnesota**



Activity 3: Don't Dump the Garbage

Supplies you'll need: Notecards, random small items and a shoe box (to serve as a dump truck)

Directions:

- Print a letter of the alphabet on each notecard (or use alphabet flashcards).
- Explain to your child that he/she is going to play a game called "Don't Dump the Garbage!"
- Shuffle the alphabet cards and turn them over.
- Have your child choose the card from the top of the pile and look at the card to identify the letter.
- If your child correctly identifies the letter, he can add a "piece of trash" (one small item) to the back of the truck.
- If your child is incorrect, he must dump out the contents of the truck.
- The game continues until all of the letters have been identified (with lots of trash in the truck).

Activity 4: Toss it in the Trash

Supplies you'll need: Newspaper, laundry basket or other container

Directions:

- Give your child some newspaper and have them crunch it into balls.
- Once the balls are made take turns trying to toss the newspaper balls into the laundry basket or other container.
- **Optional:** Continue playing with the container moved back further and see if your child can still make the container.