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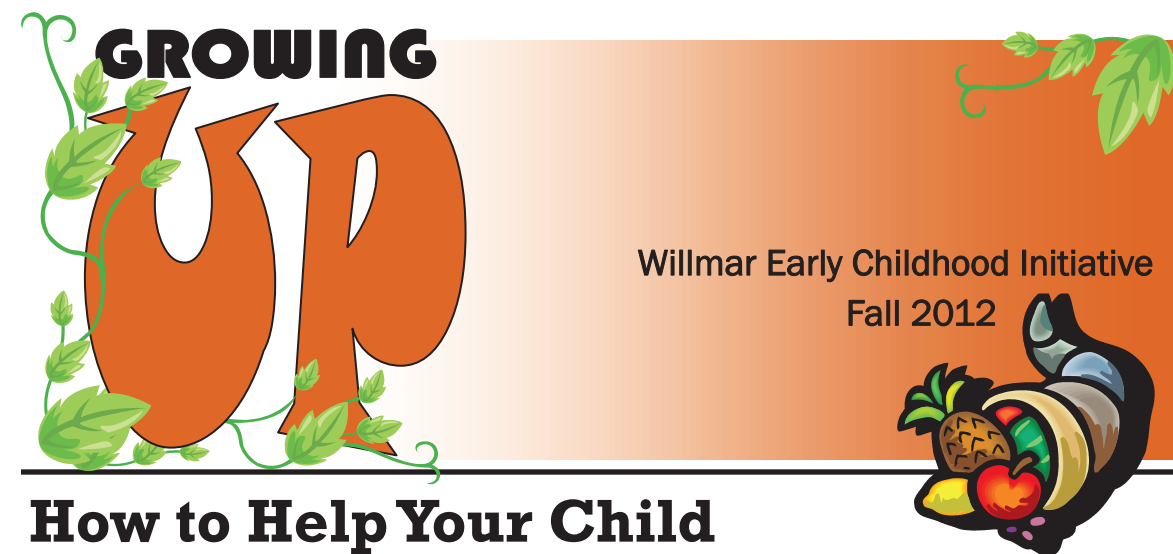
Willmar Early Childhood Initiative Vision

The Willmar Early Childhood Initiative is committed to increase school readiness and improve the literacy skills of children in Willmar through partnerships that encourage a community environment that supports the growth and development of young children.



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How to Help Your Child Understand and Label Emotions

Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini

You can help your child expand her emotional vocabulary by teaching her words for different feelings. Once she knows and understands these words you can help her to label her own feelings and the feelings of others. For example, do you remember a time when your child had a meltdown at the grocery store or other public place? Perhaps you tried soothing your child by telling her to “calm down” and felt confused and unsure of what to do next when she continued the tantrum. Next time you can better help your child understand and deal with the emotions she is feeling by saying, “You look sad and disappointed. Sometimes I feel that way too. I wonder what we can do to feel better?” Teaching your child about her emotions can be a fun and rewarding experience and prevent challenging behavior from occurring in the first place.

Try This at Home

Simply state how your child is feeling. “You look really excited! I see your eyes are big and your mouth is open.

State how others are feeling, “Wow, that little boy is really mad. I see he is crying and making fists with his hands. I wonder why?”

State how you are feeling. “I am really frustrated that the lawn mower is broken. I think I’m going to take a break and come up with some solutions to this problem.”

Use books as teaching tools. There is a huge selection of children’s books that focus on emotional literacy. Visit <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#list> where you will find a book list, book activities and other resources for teaching emotional literacy.

Practice at School

Talk with your child’s teacher to see how they are teaching your child about emotions at school. Many emotions are seen and experienced at school. With adult help, children are taught how emotions look and feel on our bodies. Through books and real experiences, teachers show that a child looks sad because he is crying or mad because her fists are tight. As children begin to recognize what emotions look like, they can begin to manage their own emotions and show empathy toward others.

The Bottom Line

Children with a strong emotional vocabulary:

- ◆ Tolerate frustration better
- ◆ Get into fewer fights
- ◆ Engage in less destructive behavior
- ◆ Are healthier
- ◆ Are less lonely
- ◆ Are less impulsive
- ◆ Are more focused
- ◆ Have greater academic achievement

www.challengingbehavior.org

How the Minnesota Reading Corps Works



Minnesota Reading Corps, a strategic initiative of ServeMinnesota, is a statewide program to help every Minnesota child become a successful reader. The program matches trained AmeriCorps members with children from age 3 to grade 3 who need an extra boost to catch up to grade level targets. Minnesota Reading Corps partners with school districts and pre-school

agencies to place highly trained and professionally supported AmeriCorps members in early childhood education (including Head Start) and elementary schools. Reading Corps members are trained in specific research-based, literacy instructional protocols, and are supported by both site-based educational staff (Internal Coaches) as well as Master Coaches who are among Minnesota’s top literacy experts.

In 2010-2011, Minnesota Reading Corps:

Served a total of **19,135 students, age 3 to grade 3, across Minnesota** with below grade level literacy skills.

Worked with **264 elementary schools and 171 PreK sites** to put cutting edge literacy research into practice to make literacy tutoring more effective.



Library Happenings

Play Spot

The date is quickly approaching for the installation of the Children's Museum Smart Play Spot. The installation is tentatively scheduled to begin in November. The Willmar Library is one of six sites selected to be a permanent Smart Play Spot Literacy Environment, and is being funded in part with money from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and with \$25,000 in local matching funds.

Partners in securing the local matching funds have been the Willmar Early Childhood Initiative, the Willmar Public Schools, the Southwest Initiative Foundation and the United Way of West Central Minnesota. Funding is also being sought for yearly maintenance and repair. If you would like to help support this project, or if you know of a community organization that would be interested in supporting this community wide project, please contact Jodi at 231-8490 or Ryan at 235-3162.



Thanksgiving Story Hour

November 21
10:00 - 10:45
What are you thankful for? This story hour is about giving thanks and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Children will hear Thanksgiving stories, fingerplays and do crafts. This program is for children age 2 1/2 to 6 years old. No registration is necessary.

Bringing Stories to Life

Early Childhood Family Education and Willmar Public Library are working together to bring you and your 2 1/2 to 5 year old an evening of fun. Each night there will be a new story, which will be brought to life with the help of your child. There will be music, activities, and much more for you and your child.

Call Community Education at 231-8490 to register.
For Ages: Parents and children 2 1/2 - 5 years old
Class Dates: Tuesdays, November 20 and December 18.
Class Times: 6:00 7:00



Holidazzle Afternoon

December 21
4:00 - 5:00
Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa are December celebrations and are different ways to bond with one's family and community. We will read stories about each celebration and do crafts. This is a family event for children ages 3 - 10. No registration is necessary.

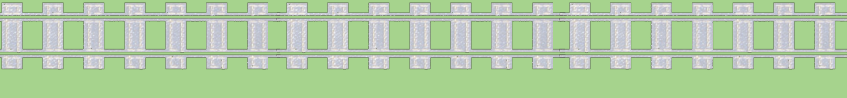
World of Wonder



Get on TRACK- Teaching Responsible And Caring Kids

Tuesday, November 13th 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Jefferson Learning Center

This special event will be an introduction to our program wide social emotional model called TRACK, as well as provide insight and knowledge into helping our children and parents recognize and label emotions and implementing different strategies at home. We are excited to help parents gain a better understanding of this program and how it can be a benefit in the home life of our families too. Parent presentation, parent and child activities and child separation with teachers for story time in classrooms are scheduled for this fun event.

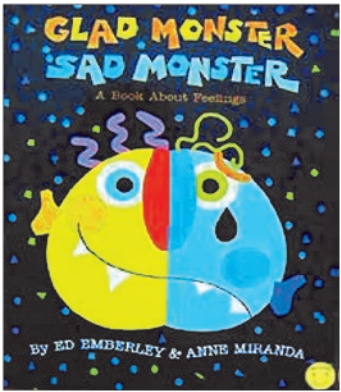


Book Nook

Glad Monster Sad Monster

By Ed Emberley & Anne Miranda
Little Brown and Company, 1997

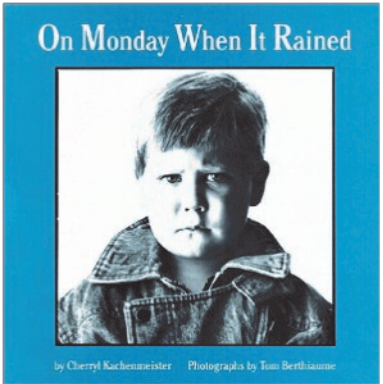
Glad Monster Sad Monster is a book about feelings with fun monster masks that children can try on and talk about times when they felt glad, sad, loving, worried, silly, angry and scared—just like the monsters! Each monster is a different color to represent specific emotions. For example, the yellow monster is glad when he gets to open presents, play ball, slurp ice cream and dance with his friend! (ages 2-5)



On Monday When It Rained

By Cherryl Kachenmeister
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1989

On Monday When It Rained is a great book for talking about feelings and emotions. The story is about a boy and what happens to him every day for a week. Each day, based on what happens, the boy talks about how it makes him feel. The pictures are very expressive and label a range of feelings and emotions (disappointed, embarrassed, proud, scared, angry, excited, lonely). (Ages 3-8)



Update from the Growmobile!

The Growmobile is visiting 19 new providers this fall. Family child care providers participating in the Growmobile program receive 32 free books and curriculum for their childcare. The Growmobile visits every two weeks and drops off a new tote full of all the supplies needed for the provider to carry out the curriculum. During these visits, the children are able to take part in a mini on-site preschool that includes circle time: calendar, weather, songs. The visit also includes



story time with two or more books, activity time and a simple craft. These visits last for approximately an hour. The program runs

from September through May. Providers wanting to continue with more books and curriculum can participate in a second year program.

During the summer, the Growmobile travels to five sites daily including New London, Raymond, Pennock, Atwater, Regency West and East, Dana Heights, Sunwood apartments and Willow Run apartments. While at these sites, staff partners with the Salvation Army, Willmar Area food shelf, Community Ed and Rec, the University of Minnesota Extension and 4-H to provide activities, literacy opportunities, a weekend food program, and fun activities for the children in these neighborhoods. Some of the special guests to visit with the Growmobile this summer included the Willmar Fire Department, the Willmar Police Department, the Cardinal Varsity football team, a traveling petting zoo, and Kevin Quinn and his antique fire truck. Approximately 80 children on average visited the Growmobile every day.

