Teen Craft: Book Planters

Find an old hardcover book that you don't want to read, and is not getting wet.

2. Open the book, and use an X-Acto knife to cut a rectangle in the center of the pages. Keep cutting in the same rectangular shape until you have almost reached the end of the book.

3. To make an Alphabet Stick you will need: Empty paper towel tube, dot stickers, and marker. Write the same letters on the tube. Don’t worry about order just spread them around. Let the child put the sticker on the matching letter.

4. Variations: For further practice put uppercase letters on sticker and lowercase letters on tube.

Literacy Make. Alphabet Sticks

1. Write the same letters on the tube. Don’t worry about order just spread them around.

2. Let the child place the matching letter on the tube.

3. Let the child put the sticker on the matching letter.

4. Variations: stick can be made with more letters or with number cards.

Reading comprehension as your child will have to understand what they have read in order to verbalize their thoughts and opinions. It also gives children the opportunity to broaden their ideas about the books they have read in order to talk about the books they have read.

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.
Tuck away in the KidsWeb and TeenZone, with blended learning, there is a great technology resource. Brainfuse is designed to assist students at all grades as they learn a variety of subjects. Every day from 2 to 11 p.m., students with library cards can log on to Brainfuse to get live tutoring. Subjects include reading and math for younger students and calculus, physics, and world history for high school students. In addition to live tutoring, students also have access to a writing lab wherein they can submit papers and receive timely feedback on their papers and creative writing projects. All tutors have to show mastery of content and have been thoroughly background checked.

In addition to expert tutors, Brainfuse also offers online content, flashcards, and testing resources for students who would like to improve their knowledge without the assistance of a tutor. Quick reference guides, flashcards, and practice tests are available any time the student would like to work on a specific subject. Students preparing for life beyond high school will find SAT and ACT test prep information, a resume lab, and interview assistance.

If your family is searching for additional resources to assist struggling readers or to augment the education of high achievers, check out Brainfuse HelpNow! To find Brainfuse HelpNow! go to ppld.org/teens/healthwork or ppld.org/kids and click on Homework.

A Handful of Stars
by Cynthia Lord (2015)

This children’s novel is a delight to read, and with the easy access of the Internet, I could quickly do a Google search to find out what the various blueberries in other states. There are even YouTube videos showing how the blueberry ranking was done. In this book, Ada’s family is there to harvest blueberries. They become friends, despite their differences, by starting with the things that they share – a love of dogs. There are still issues of prejudice, as well as the joys of art and creativity.

American agriculture, other cultures – ages 8 - 12

The War that Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (2015)

Here is another one of my favorites for the year, a children’s novel set in WWII England. This is so much more than a WWII story, as the protagonist has a physical disability (club foot) that her mother believes is a sign of shame, and keeps her hidden in the London slums until she escapes to London with her younger brother to the countryside. Ada is courageous, creative, and loves her brother; she eventually comes to see herself as a person of value, too.

Historical fiction, disabilities – ages 8 - 12

Creating a Beautiful Mess: Ten Essential Play Experiences for a Joyous Childhood
by Amity Rubinstein (2015)

This book is for parents only, and is a slim book with great importance about the information of play. Homeschoolers can learn about fun play ideas that will last more playtime and more playtime often includes many of the "ten essentials" based on research. Just to let you know, this book has 6 "creators" and I list the first five. Building with blocks, pretending and make-believe. Running around like crazy, cuddling something soft and small, and lastly, joking around. Number six is "creating a beautiful mess," which is what many homeschooled days look like at our house.

Science Lab Programs
A special program is planned each month.
9th Annual Art Show!
April 1 - 30, 2016
East Library · Community Room
Contact Gail at gsohns@ppld.org for more information.

Primary Source Workshop
This workshop is designed to teach students the basics of “reading” a variety of primary sources • photographs • letters • videos and to give students a familiarity with PPLD Special Collections.
For grades 7 - 10.
Space is limited to 16 students and registration is required. To sign up, call (719) 531-6333 x1403.
Contact Corine at cvanbemden@ppld.org for more information.

On Friday morning of the month the first 5 - 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Penrose Library
Carnegie Reading Room

ERC at East Library
(Educational Resource Center)
Mon. and Wed. • 3 - 6 p.m.
Tue. and Thu. • 1 - 4 p.m.
Fri. and Sat. • noon - 4 p.m.
You can now reserve an hour in the ERC on Friday morning 10 - 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. - noon,
Call the Children’s Desk at (719) 531-6333, x1403.

Clay for Kids
Wed, Apr 20 • 1 - 3 p.m.
Penrose, High Prairie
Change your everyday clay “toy” into a thing of beauty. Impress your family and friends with your handiwork. All ages welcome. No registration necessary.

Carnegie Reading Room at Penrose Library and High Prairie Library

Programs at
High Prairie Library
Monroe
Monument Library
Rockrimmon Library
Participate in a different family learning experience every month at the Homeschool Hub or ask at one of the above libraries.

Programs at
High Prairie Library
Monroe
Monument Library
Rockrimmon Library

High Prairie
Mondays • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. • (719) 531-6333, x1884
East Library
Tuesday • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. • (719) 531-6333, x1407 or x1403

Library 21c • Thursday • 6:30 - 8 p.m. • (719) 848-9800, x6310

Welcome to the Educational Resource Center!
The long- awaited Educational Resource Center (ERC) opened at East Library in October, with over 100 educational kits, many pieces of science equipment, educational software, and unique computer software to engage students of all ages! The ERC provides hands-on materials for families wanting to enrich their children’s education or help them improve their skills. Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies kits, art & music appreciation resources, educational kits, and educational software attract families with children from preschool through 12th grade.

In addition to microscopes, prepared slides, owl pellets, and simple chemistry supplies, we now also have microscopes, physics, biology, botany, and geology. Early literacy toys are also available for younger siblings to play with during your visit to the ERC.

For older students, besides age-appropriate science kits, we also have some computer software just for them. Interactive virtual dissection software by Frogzoo.com will guide students through dissections of a frog, squid, starfish, cow eye, owl pellet, and fetal pig. Driver’s education information is provided by AAA. DriverED.U.OF becomes a part of experience through interactive experiences on 100 highway, city, country and work zone scenarios. Audio and video editing software, educational games, and educational software, as well as standard Microsoft Office products for reports and research.

Most ERC materials are listed in the PPLD catalog! Just search “ERC” and the subject you are interested in and you’ll find kits and equipment listed with short descriptions of each.

If you haven’t had a chance to visit the ERC yet, please stop by. We’d love to give you a tour!