Kids-Make an Ice Rainbow Sun Catcher

A below zero winter day is just what you need for this adventuress craft.

To make an Ice Sun Catcher you will need:
- Round foil cake tins
- Bits of nature
- Water
- Food coloring
- String or ribbon
- A jar

What to do:
1. Take a walk in the cold to gather bits of nature.
2. Place the items you found into the tin.
3. Fill a jar with water and add food coloring.
4. Pour the colored water into the tin, over your items.
5. Arrange items in the water if necessary.
6. For hanging, fold a string or ribbon in half and put one end in the water where it meets.
7. Carefully carry the tin outside and set in a flat location to freeze. 

Want to play outside in the cold? During the holiday season (November through January), Acacia Park comes to life with activities that revolve around an outdoor skating rink. Acacia Park is located between Nevada Avenue and Tejon Street, just south of Platte Avenue. Skate in the Park offers occasional discounted admission promotions, such as Ugly Christmas Sweater and Parent-Child Skate.

Admission
Skate in the Park will be open seven days per week from November 2015 through January 2016, including holidays. $10 per skater, which includes skate rental.

Children 4 and under - FREE with paid admission.

For a full schedule of hours, special events, theme nights, and rink information, please visit DowntownCS.com/skate.

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email gsohns@ppld.org.
8: An Animal Alphabet, by Elisha Cooper (2015)

Elisha Cooper is a widely respected author/illustrator, and this new book is a delight. Think of it as a counting book (preschool), a naming book (preschool and older), with a little bit of zoology thrown in, and you will have begged for perfection. The author includes notes at the beginning, which must be read to enjoy the “game” in the book, and notes at the end that explain the more zoological notes.

Science – ages 3 - 13


Jonathan London is famous for his “Froggy” picture books, but he is also a nature author, and this is an example of how a picture book can be more than just a picture book. This type of book is wonderful to find in the library, knowing a few authors who write this type of book is helpful. Browsing the shelves is a must.

Science – ages 3 - 10

Rosie Revere, Engineer, by Andrea Beaty (2013)

Here is another example of a book with a little history and a little fiction that can be stepping stone to more historical studies. Rosie Revere is the imaginary granddaughter of the famous Rosie the Riveter, of WWI fame. Young Rosie suffers setbacks, and failures, and is discouraged by this, until her famous grandmother sends her on a fast. While 99% fiction, the message of "keep trying" is an excellent one, as well as the concept of failure as part of eventual success.


The first page of the blog features PPLD programs with an emphasis on programs for homeschool families. These events include recurring programs such as our Science Labs as well as special programs at individual community libraries. Alongside homeschool-specific programs, this period includes features PPLD programs for school-age children and teens which include social events, arts and crafts, and volunteer opportunities.

In the Belly of an Ox: The Unexpected Photographic Adventures of Richard and Cherry Kearton by Rebecca Bond (2009)

This is a solid picture book biography, not just a story about Richard and Cherry Kearton’s travels in Africa, but a book that can be used as part of eventual success.

Homeschool Hub

While PPLD has an array of programs and print resources at our locations, we also strive to connect our patrons to excellent homeschool resources through our blog, Homeschool Hub. The blog is about local resources for our libraries, local non-PPLD events, and resources which may be of interest to our homeschool families. Patrons can access the Homeschool Hub at ppld.org/homeschool-hub.

The Educational Resource Center is open!

The Educational Resource Center ("ERC") is open at East Library for families interested in enriching the education of their children. It is located on the second floor next to the new computer lab and maker space. The ERC houses the expanded Homeschool Science Lab, over 90 manipulatives kits for math, science, language arts, social studies, music, and art, tables for experimenting and learning, computer stations with interactive software (including driver’s education and virtual dissections), and early literacy toys for younger siblings. Materials may not be removed from the library, although some can be found outside the ERC for limited periods of time.

9th Annual Homeschool Art Show!

It’s time to get your creative juices flowing! Homeschooled students of all ages can submit one drawing, painting, photo, sculpture, etc. during the last week of March 2016. All artwork will be on display during the entire month of April and we’ll end with a reception for friends and family. Watch for more information about location as we get closer to March. The art show will not be judged.

Science Lab Programs

A special program is planned each month. Contact Gall at gsowens@ppld.org for more information or visit ppld.org/homeschool-hub.

Homeschool Hub

Homeschool Programs at...

High Prairie Library, Library 21c, Monument Library, and Rockrimmon Library

These programs for homeschool families may check out materials for many subjects such as history, science, language arts, art, music, and much more. Some events may not be available online, please check at the library, although some can be found outside the ERC for limited periods of time.

The Venue @ Library 21c

Fri., Feb. 19 - 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Teen/Tween MAKE Monday: Teen/Tween MAKE Monday: MLK-inspired project

Use your Voice

Use common objects to build a microphone.

Mon., Jan. 11 - 4 to 5:30 p.m.

East Library Makerspace

Chinese Lanterns

Celebrate the Year of the Monkey and the upcoming Lantern Festival by making Chinese lanterns. Multiple designs, multiple levels of complexity.

Mon., Feb. 8 - 4 to 5:30 p.m.

East Library Makerspace

The 5th Wave Murder Mystery Night

(ages 12 - 18)

Celebrate the release of The 5th Wave movie with a themed murder mystery night!

Thu., Jan. 14 - 6 to 8 p.m.

Old Colorado City Library

Anti-Valentine’s Day Zombie Party!

(ages 12 - 18)

What better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day than by smashing a few hearts and eating a few brains?

Sat., Feb. 13 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Old Colorado City Library

Make Art!

Kids in grades 1 - 5 can create a unique work of art one Saturday afternoon per month at East Library! Call (719) 531-6333, x1403 or x1401 for dates and themes.

Family Fun

Enjoy performances, animals, crafts and much more at monthly programs. Fun for the whole family! Check online at ppld.org or at your local library, to find out what’s happening at that location.

Are you homeschooling and desire a fun and interesting mini-unit study? Choose one of PPLD’s “Homeschool Discovery Packs” for an enriching week of adventure and discovery! Homeschool families may check out materials for many subjects such as Art, History, Science, Math, Language Arts, and Music. We even have materials for your horse lover and inspiring chef! These packs are suitable for ages 5 - 12 and usually include a craft activity for the teacher. Find these packs in the Library 21c Children’s Department at 1175 Chapel Hills Drive and enjoy your week of homeschool discovery!