March For Babies

The March of Dimes March for Babies champions the needs of moms and babies in our community and across the nation. The money UHCCC raises for March for Babies will support lifesaving research, services, education and advocacy that help babies get a healthy start.

The mission of March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

Please help support UHCCC by making a contribution and/or joining our team by visiting: http://marchforbabies.org/team/t1316563

Week Of The Young Child At UHCCC

This year’s Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is April 11-17. The annual celebration is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world’s largest early childhood education association.

WOYC is an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children and to celebrate the people who help give young children a great start.

Please excuse our mess: UHCCC building exteriors are scheduled to be painted through April 15th.
Playdough Fun!

Playdough is a staple material in our classrooms. Your children play, talk, and learn together as they pound, roll, and make things. They will also enjoy using playdough at home. What do children need? A few props, a little space, and time to play and learn with you! www.NAEYC.Org/TYC

While using playdough, children are learning . . .

- **Social and emotional skills** by sharing and taking turns using the props, cooperating to make something together, and feeling proud of their accomplishments.
- **Language and literacy skills** by rolling a long snake then forming letters, telling you about what they are doing and making, and discussing new words, such as *cut, chop,* and *slice.*
- **Creativity and imagination** by baking cakes and pies to sell in a bakery or building cages for zoo animals.
- **Science and math concepts** by responding to your questions, such as “What do you think will happen when you . . . ?” “What did it look like?” “How does it feel?” “What can you do to make it . . . ?” “Which one is fatter?”
- **Fine motor skills** by using hands, fingers, and tools to pound, push, poke, shape, flatten, roll, cut, and scrape the dough.

A request for parents:

Please tell us about your playdough experiences at home. We’d love to see photos too. If you share your recipes and prop suggestions, we will feature them in an upcoming newsletter.

**Props**

- Open your kitchen drawers and cupboards to find rolling pins, plastic knives, cookie cutters, and birthday candles.
- Collect recycled items such as aluminum pie plates, buttons, lids, and bottle caps of different sizes.
- Add a touch of nature with feathers, twigs, leaves, acorns, and dried flowers.
- Look in your child’s toy collection for plastic and rubber people, animals, dinosaurs, blocks, and more.

**Space**

Cover a table with an easily cleaned mat or table cloth. An old shower curtain would work too. Some families use large cookie sheets as the play surface.

**Time**

Preschoolers need plenty of time to feel, touch, roll, mush, and create with playdough. They will enjoy being with you.

Recipes for making playdough at home!

**Potpourri Dough**

1 cup flour  
1/2 cup salt  
1/2 cup water
1 cup potpourri (do not ingest)
Mix together the flour, salt and potpourri. Gradually add water until the dough holds together. Mold or cut into desired shapes. Air-dry to harden.

This dough has a pleasant scent and texture. Suitable for all ages with supervision.

**Bumpy Texture Dough**

3/4 cup flour  
1/4 cup salt  
2 - 3 TBSP water
Mix the flour and salt, and add water. Mix with your hands to form a dough.

This recipe is good for making stepping stones or flower pots. Suitable for all ages.
Note from the editor:
Greetings! This is the 4th installment of the UHCCC’s E-News for 2010. For your convenience, an archive of all E-News is available at www.uh.edu/ccc. If you would like to be removed from this distribution list, please email your name and email address to ccenter@mail.uh.edu. Thank you and enjoy reading!

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**Project IMPACT: Improving Mankind Parent & Child Together**

- **April 14th**, 4:00-5:00 p.m. “Anchors Away” ARTS ALIVE Parent & Child Workshop
- **April 16th**, 4:00-4:45 p.m. “Babies With A Beat” Infant/Toddler & Parent Workshop Facilitator: Ms. Rhona Brink
- **April 21st**, 12:30-1:30 p.m. “Home Safety” Workshop Facilitator: Center for Childhood Injury Prevention
- **April 29th**, 4:00-5:00 p.m. “Car Passenger Safety” Workshop Facilitator: Center for Childhood Injury Prevention

**Logan’s Heroes: Helping One Of Our Own**

Show your support for Logan and *Juvenile Arthritis* by making a donation or joining the team today. [Follow This Link](#) to visit her personal webpage and help support the Arthritis Foundation, Texas Chapter.

**Houston Happenings & Family Fun!**

- **Earth Day 2010**
  - April 3, 8-6 p.m.
  - Discovery Green
  - Family Entertainment
  - Environmental Education
  - [www.earthdayhouston.org/](http://www.earthdayhouston.org/)

- **HEB Children’s Festival 2010**
  - April 10 & 11, 10:30-6:30 p.m.
  - Downtown Houston
  - 8 Big Family Adventure Areas
  - 6 Stages of Music & FUN!
  - [www.houstonchildrensfestival.com/](http://www.houstonchildrensfestival.com/)

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**Sun April 22, 2010**

On April 22, 2010 millions around the world will celebrate Earth Day this year marking its 40th anniversary.

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