

# Helping Boys & Girls Learn

Vol 10 - Issue 3E

Parenting for Success in Elementary School

## National Women's History Month

When your daughter starts school in today's world, she has more opportunities available to her than ever before in history. She can truly be anything she dreams of being. A good education and support from the people who love her will be her ticket to places girls in generations before her never had the chance to go! Begin early to help her see the world of possibilities that is waiting for her.

Tell her stories about the women in her family--grandma and great-grandma, other relatives and friends - tell her about the interesting things they did, places they traveled.

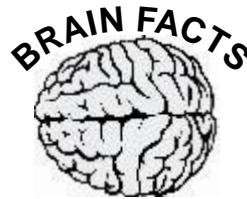
Make time in March to spend time with women, friends and family, who live near by. Invite them for lunch or dinner. Talk about what it was like to be a girl when they were your daughter's age and share pictures of themselves when they were her age.

Visit the Women's Hall of Fame website ([www.greatwomen.org](http://www.greatwomen.org)) and learn about a few of the women who have been inducted, such as:

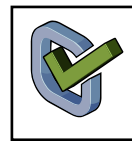
Susan B. Anthony  
Clara Barton  
Maya Aneglou  
Pearl Buck  
Shirley Chisolm  
Helen Keller  
Rosa Parks



What made each woman special? Did these women start out in life planning to be women the world would honor? Maybe they started out like your daughter - special to her parents and family and friends, with a destiny no one could see in her future.



There is a gender difference in color blindness. Most color blindness occurs in males – and most often means that they cannot tell the difference between many reds and greens. This would mean your son may not be able to tell when a stop light is red or green unless he knows that red is on the top and green is on the bottom!



## Check This Out

Resources for Parents

ICRA empowers parents to make choices about what digital content their children can and cannot see. Choice not censorship is the phrase that best sums up our philosophy.

Different families will have different views about what is and is not appropriate for children of different ages. This is true within a single country but is even more of an issue on the internet and other digital media, which reach across all national and cultural borders. It is for this reason that ICRA offers a flexible approach to content filtering that truly empowers parents as individuals.

<http://www.icra.org/parents/>

# Things Parents Should Know...



March 14th is the beginning of daylight savings time again. When we begin daylight savings time we “spring forward” so that suddenly instead of being 2:00 a.m. it is 3:00 a.m. and we’ve lost an hour of sleep time! Your child may not be ready to get up an hour earlier just because the clock says so – so you want to think about how you will handle the transition into daylight savings time.

Each of us, including our children, have an internal body clock. The body clock works in conjunction with sunlight, not the time shown on the clock on the wall. When we change the clock to give us more hours of sunlight for our work or school day, that doesn’t change the time it takes the sun to move around the earth and our body clock gets thrown a bit off track. This is because our body clock is “in synch” with dawn and sundown, not our watch.

When you are driving your child to school (or walking your child to the bus stop) at 7:30 a.m., the body clock thinks it is only 6:30 a.m. and your child’s mood and behavior may reflect the conflict between social time and body time.

Research also shows that there is an increase in automobile accidents during the transition time around the spring shift to daylight savings time, so be extra careful when you are driving your little ones to school during this period.

## March is Music In Our Schools Month

This event happens the whole month of March every year. There is a yearly theme and for this year the theme is “Music! Just Imagine...”.

This is a good opportunity for you and your family to share some fun with music. **Check the calendar for local schools** and see who might be having a concert or musical play and take your family. These are usually free or cost very little.



Check with your local community symphony and see if they have any special programs for children during March. Again, these are usually very affordable and children can be exposed to lots of different kinds of music that they may learn to love.



If any members of your family play a musical instrument, have a family concert. Let your kids design a program, fix some healthy snacks, even invite some friends and have a family music afternoon or evening.



If your child has expressed an interest in playing an instrument, find out what programs are available at the school your child attends!

# A-B-Cs

Boys generally develop language skills later than girls, so help your boy by including lots of words in his world. Talk to him, read to him, listen to him, play word games--and by all means possible make words fun!

## Treasure Hunt

Encourage your son to read by sending him on a treasure hunt! Make a treasure map of your house, yard, neighborhood. Write clues on paper, roll the paper and tie with a piece of twine, ribbon or yarn. Have each clue give him directions to the next clue. Have your son mark his way with the places he found clues. Boys love a mystery, a challenge and “winning!” At the end of the treasure hunt, have a small treat and a book that is also about a treasure hunt or a mystery. Read the book together with your son. When he gets good at finding all the clues, see if he would like to design a treasure hunt for you! He then draws the map, writes the clues and decides on the treasure you will receive at the end.



Some treasure hunt stories....

- \* Do Pirates Take Baths? by Kathy Tucker.
- \* Edward and the Pirates by David McPhail.
- \* The Pirate Queen by Emily Arnold McCulley.
- \* Robin Hook: Pirate Hunter! by Eric Kimmel.
- \* Seadogs: An Epic Ocean Operetta by Lisa Wheeler.
- \* Sloop John B: A Pirate's Tale by Al Jardine.

While girls tend to develop advanced language skills early, their spatial skills may be on a slower track. Including lots of spatial play in their play activities like those listed will be fun and promote early learning of math concepts and skills needed in kindergarten and elementary school.

# 1-2-3s

## Spending Extra Time

Daylight savings time starts on March 14, 2009 and ends on November 7, 2010. How many days does that include? If we gain an hour each day, how many hours is that? Minutes?

Help your daughter design a chart that shows how many extra minutes of daylight she will have during the time of daylight savings time this year. Think of it as having “time” in the bank. Let her think of things she could spend that time on – perhaps she could use 30 minutes once a week watching an extra television show. Perhaps she could use two of the hours going to a movie she really wants to see. Have her subtract all the minutes she uses from her chart as she uses them, and figure out how many of her extra minutes she spent at the end of each month. If there are lots of minutes left, offer to spend a day with her “burning some minutes” doing something fun together – taking a hike, making a picnic lunch to take along.

Not only does this give your daughter a chance to decide on some activities she might really want to do, it helps her consider the concept of time!

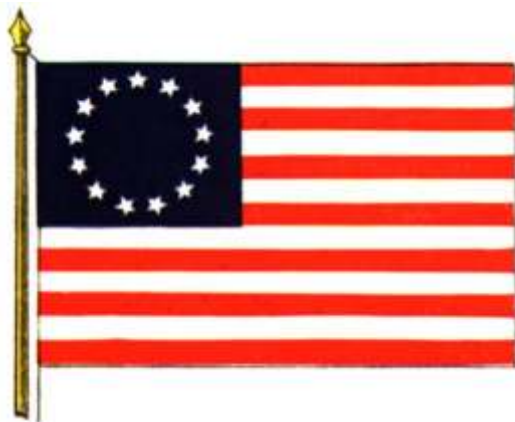


# Family Fun This Month

The month of March is the anniversary of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem! This is a great time to do some flag related activities.



Drive around your community and let your child find all the places that an American flag is flying – places like the library, the post office, your city hall, your child’s school.



Give your child some red, white and blue construction paper crayons or markers and let him/her create a flag to hang in a window in the bedroom or living room. Use the Internet at home or at the library to find pictures of the original US flags – your child might want to create an historical flag instead of the modern one.

Listen to a recording of the Star Spangled Banner – if you don’t have one, you can probably check one out at your public library. Try listening to instrumental arrangements and ones with the words with them. Which one does your child like best? Why?

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## A MILLION SHADES OF GRAY

by Cynthia Kadohata

Y'Tin is brave. No one in his village denies that. And while his mother may wish that he'd spend more time on schoolwork than on training his elephant, she knows that it takes a great deal of courage and calmness to handle elephants the way that Y'Tin does. He is the best handler in the village --- and at 13 years old, the youngest. Maybe he'll even open up his own school someday to teach other Dega how to train wild elephants! That was the plan, anyway --- back before the American troops pulled out of the Vietnam War, back before Y'Tin's village was attacked by North Vietnamese forces, back before they had to start digging a massive, menacing pit, back before Y'Tin watched his life change in a million terrible ways.



## ONE CRAZY SUMMER

by Rita Williams-Garcia

Eleven-year-old Delphine has it together. Even though her mother, Cecile, abandoned her and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven years ago. Even though her father and Big Ma will send them from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to stay with Cecile for the summer. And even though Delphine will have to take care of her sisters, as usual, and learn the truth about the missing pieces of the past. When the girls arrive in Oakland in the summer of 1968, Cecile wants nothing to do with them. She makes them eat Chinese takeout dinners, forbids them to enter her kitchen, and never explains the strange visitors with Afros and black berets who knock on her door. Rather than spend time with them, Cecile sends Delphine, Vonetta and Fern to a summer camp sponsored by a revolutionary group, the Black Panthers, where the girls get a radical new education.