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Explore the World Around You by Engaging in Reading

Help your child's "reading brain" by diving into the Community Scope and Sequence used by The Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center, the Pre-K Center for Marietta City Schools, and nine other early learning centers in the City of Marietta in correlation with the Literacy and Justice for All campaign. Each month there is a different focus on themes and "anchor" books that reinforce the themes. In May, young students will answer inquiry questions like: *How does who I am shape the world to make it kinder? How does the world work? and, How can we take care of earth's non-living and living things?*

As the school year ends, May is the last month we will be focusing on "anchor" books and inquiry questions until the next school year starts in August. We hope you will join us for this last month of community reading and activities.

As you read with your children think aloud, make predictions, and talk about new vocabulary words. This will build their inferential thinking skills (what children can predict about what they are reading), vocabulary knowledge (the number of words children know and understand) and increase reading comprehension skills (understanding what the text is trying to convey). Engage in conversations with your children about what it means to be kind and how we can experiment with the materials we find around us. May's anchor books are:

- [Rhoda's Rock Hunt](#) by Molly Beth Griffin
- [Magnet Max](#) by Monica Lozano Hughes
- [What Can You Do with a Paleta?](#) by Carmen Tafolla

Families are encouraged to visit the public library or to find the books at a local store. Visit Switzer Public Library in Marietta to see a display of books that focus on this month's theme. Summer is almost upon us, and it is time to start thinking of fun summer activities to keep your little ones engaged while school is out. While you join us in these suggested activities that you can do with your children to deepen their understanding of the world around them, also check out the Cobb County Public Library's Summer Reading and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Programs:

- 1) Collect rocks and paint them to turn them into Kindness Rocks. You can paint pictures or short inspirational quotes. Then, take them with you to parks and on walks and leave them for others to find.
- 2) Do you have magnets in your house? Go on a magnet scavenger hunt looking for objects that the magnets are attracted to around the house. Bring your magnet out into the community for an even larger search. Make a list of the objects you find that the magnet is attracted to.
- 3) Make your own family's version of a paleta (a traditional Mexican ice pop). Use ice trays or empty individual yogurt cups with popsicle sticks and freeze different juices (with or without fruit) for your family to enjoy. Vote on which flavor is everyone's favorite and make a graph of the results!

As the local point of contact for the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, the Cobb Collaborative is pleased to increase awareness of this community-wide opportunity to develop strong readers.

If your business or organization is interested in learning more and promoting the Community Scope and Sequence by providing information and resources to families, please contact the Cobb Collaborative's Literacy Coordinator, Leslie Danford, at ldanford@cobbcollaborative.org.

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The Cobb Collaborative is a membership of non-profit organizations, local government, businesses, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, professional organizations, associations, and citizens who share ideas, expertise, and resources to improve outcomes for children and families in Cobb.