

APRIL

Leo Lionni

Leo Lionni was born in Holland and lived in Italy for most of his life. As a child he spent a lot of time in museums teaching himself to draw. He has written over 40 books. The first one was a book he made for his grandchildren when he was riding on a train. He has won many awards for his books. Learn more about Leo at: www.randomhouse.com/kids/lionni/

OTHER BOOKS BY LEO LIONNI:

Fish Is Fish
The Alphabet Tree
Swimmy
Matthew's Dream
The Biggest House in the World
Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse
Little Blue and Little Yellow:
A Story for Pippo and Ann and Other Children

😊 Approaches to Learning through Play

🎨 Creative Thinking and Expression

🏃 Health, Wellness and Physical Development

📖 Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

🔢 Mathematics Thinking and Expression

👥 Partnerships for Learning: Families, Learning Environments and Communities

🔧 Science Thinking and Technology: Exploration, Inquiry and Invention

🧠 Social Emotional Development

🌍 Social Studies Thinking: Connecting "Me" to My Community and the Larger World

A Color of His Own

A little chameleon is distressed that he doesn't have his own color like other animals.

- Using crayons, markers, paint, etc. draw a picture of an animal and label its color.
- Eat a snack of animal crackers. Sort the crackers into groups by animal and count the number in each group.
- The colors in the rainbow include red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple. Can your child find things around the house that are those colors? Which color can he find the most?
- Ask your child, "If you could be a color, which one would you pick." Encourage them to tell you why they chose that color. For example, they might choose blue because it is the color of the sky and it makes them happy.



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT COLORS...

My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss
Los colores/Colors: A Bilingual Book by Dorling Kindersley Publishing
Mixed-Up Chameleon by Eric Carle

Inch by Inch

A clever inchworm measures everything he can to keep from being eaten.



- Take a walk outside or sit in your backyard and watch the birds. When you are finished, draw a picture of one that you saw. Have your child take it into school the next day to share with his or her class.
- Using paper clips or pennies measure the length of your kitchen table. How many paper clips or pennies did it take? You can also use other objects, such as shoes, jelly beans, or your hand, to measure the table. Does it take more hands or paper clips to equal the length of the table?
- Guess how many paper clips or pennies it will take to measure the length of your shoe. Then use the paper clips or pennies to find out how many it actually takes. Was your guess too high or was it too low?
- Look for the letter "i" in a magazine, newspaper or book. How many times can you find it? Look for the first letter of the child's name next.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT MEASUREMENT...

What in the World Is an Inch? by MaryElizabeth Salzmann
The Dog: Is a Paw a Foot? All About Measurement by Kris Hirschmann
Inch Book by Elise Richards

On My Beach There Are Many Pebbles

Take a look. Are those ordinary pebbles you see, lying on an ordinary beach? Or are they hearts, numbers, and the faces of friends?

- Give your child a bag to go outside and collect pebbles. When you come back in, see how many ways you can sort them (size, color, shape, etc.). Discuss how some are alike and some are different.
- Using the pebbles your child collected, arrange them to create their own "pebble person."
- Look through magazines, books, or newspapers to find pictures of beaches. Talk about what you see with your child (water, sand, shells, pebbles, etc.).
- On a large piece of paper, have each member in your family draw and decorate his or her own "personality pebble." Feel free to use any objects (glitter, buttons, macaroni, etc.) to make each pebble special. Talk about how each pebble shows the personality of each family member and talk about how each pebble is different.

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PEBBLES...

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig
Pebble: A Story About Belonging by Susan Milord
Three Pebbles and A Song by Eileen Spinelli



Frederick

Frederick stores up something special for the long cold winter. He shares his poems and stories with his family.

- Talk about jobs that your family does. How do these jobs help others? What would happen if someone didn't do their job?
- Frederick creates a poem for the other mice. Can your child create a poem about the season? What words rhyme with spring? What other poems can your child tell you?
- Divide a piece of paper into four sections. Label each section for a different season of the year. In each section, draw a picture of what your family could do or did during that season.
- Create an acrostic poem with your child using the word "winter." Choose a word or phrase to describe winter that starts with each letter in the word. Look at this example for fall: **F**ootball
Autumn
Leaves
Light wind



OTHER BOOKS LIKE FREDERICK...

Families by Susan Kuklin
A Day's Work by Eve Bunting
A Poet's Bird Garden by Laura Nyman Montenegro