



Lynn's Lesson for February...Key Words of the Month:

LOVE, HEART, RED, VALENTINE, SWEETS, KISS, HUG

As many stores are overflowing with Valentine's Day decorations, make the most of it by talking about the color, size and textures of what you see and make the most of these teachable moments.

Love Songs: Show some love by inserting your child's name into rhymes and stories. Saying your child's name is a great attention grabber and keeps learning fun. For example, sing "Mary had a little lamb" with your child's name and the name of your pet. Make it silly; "Hickory Dickory Dock", Steven ran up the clock! Feel free to grab a rhyme book to stimulate some ideas. Have fun and be silly.

Craft Tip: Before I start a craft, I often tape a large piece of paper (newspaper, butcher block, recycle packing paper) to the table, then place the art project on top. The paper place mat will hopefully keep the mess on top and make the clean up easy. (I said hopefully!)

Valentine Craft: Let your child scribble with chalk, draw with markers or crayons, or perhaps paint on paper if you dare! Any medium works...let it dry if needed, then cut into heart shapes and hand them out to friends and family. Remember to facilitate language learning and practice by naming the items, commenting on actions and stating opinions, (ooo, that's pretty") you use as make the project. Talk about the steps and use sequence terms like, "first we get chalk, next we color, last mommy cuts out a heart".

Batch of Books: Create a box of books that relate to this theme. This month, focus on books about love and emotions. There are age appropriate books about love, being mad, scary things, feeling sad and much more. Pick 4-5 books. Review this batch frequently throughout the month. Repetition and predictability fosters success. Books that require interaction like opening pages, pushing buttons or pictures popping up encourage longer attention and play.

Generate more language and discussion by asking your child to point to pictures, parts of objects, and actions helps increase understanding of words. If your child is not yet pointing to a picture, guide his hand and show him/her the behavior you expect after you ask a question; "where's the boy", "point to happy". With older children, ask wh-questions; who, what, where, when and why. If your child is hesitant to respond, be sure to model the answer so your child learns the how to respond. Remember, no pressure....just model. You don't have to get a response. The beauty of repetition is that your child will have opportunity to point and say it the next time!