




# Parent Newsletter

## WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 11-17 is Week of the Young Child (WOYC), a special time to celebrate the joy of early learning and the important role families and educators play in helping children grow and thrive. This year's celebration is extra meaningful as National Association for the Education of Young Children marks 100 days into its 100th anniversary! Throughout the week, children build skills through music, cooking, teamwork, creativity, and family connection; from Music Monday to Family Friday. We invite families to join the fun at home and help us recognize how playful learning experiences support confidence, curiosity, and strong beginnings for every child. 

Scan the QR code to explore fun Week of the Young Child (April 11-17) activities you can try together at home.



### Sing, Talk, and Read Together Daily

Talking, singing, and reading with your child helps grow their vocabulary and strengthens early literacy skills. Even a few minutes each day makes a big difference in building confidence and connection.



### Create Together Using Everyday Items

Simple materials like paper, crayons, blocks, or kitchen items can inspire imagination and creativity. Open-ended play encourages children to explore ideas, solve problems, and express themselves.



### Play Side-by-Side

Join your child during play and follow their interests to support learning in a natural way. These shared moments help build strong relationships while supporting social and emotional development.



# KID-FRIENDLY, NO-HOT-OIL CANNOLI ACTIVITY

## Ingredients:

- 1 package store-bought cannoli wafer rolls (or use waffle cookies, pizzelle, or graham crackers rolled into tubes)
- 2 cups ricotta cheese (or substitute whipped cream cheese or whipped topping for a smoother kid-friendly texture)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup mini chocolate chips
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup marshmallow fluff or melted chocolate (adult assistance recommended if melting)
- Sprinkles or extra mini chocolate chips for decorating

## INSTRUCTIONS:

### 1. Make the filling together

In a bowl, mix ricotta cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla, and mini chocolate chips until smooth. Let kids take turns stirring and tasting (optional!).

### 2. Create the “glue”

Use marshmallow fluff (easiest for kids) to help stick two wafer rolls together if making scroll shapes (or skip this step and keep them single.)

### 3. Fill the cannoli

Spoon the filling into a zip-top bag, snip the corner, and let kids squeeze filling into each end of the wafer rolls.

### 4. Decorate the ends

Hold the cannoli over a plate and sprinkle toppings onto the filling. Finish with a light dusting of powdered sugar if desired.

Source: <https://busyinbrooklyn.com/tag/how-to-make-cannoli/>

## Coming Up...

Families looking for an easy (and free!) way to connect can visit storytime programs at the Columbus Metropolitan Library . These engaging sessions support early language, movement, and social skills through songs, stories, and play: perfect for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

### Storytime Schedule at the Main Library

#### Baby Laptime

- Monday: 10:30–11 a.m.
- Thursday: 1:30–2 p.m.

#### Toddler Storytime

- Tuesday: 10:30–11 a.m.

#### Family Storytime

- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10:30–11 a.m.
- Saturday: 11–11:30 a.m.
- Sunday: 1:30–2 p.m.

## Discover Parent Support

Scan the QR code to explore family support resources available through Action for Children. From parenting programs to child care guidance and community connections, this page helps families find tools and support designed to help children (and the adults who care for them) thrive!.

