

THE BUZZ LETTER

March 2010



A product of www.BuzzingKidsWorld.com

Are computer games good teaching tools for kids?

According to a recent study, some are!



Computer and video games have been decried as bad for kids because they are too time-consuming and offer no exercise. **Wii games are an exception.**

While a small percentage of children have been found playing games for hours on end, those who play for shorter periods gain some significant benefits, including improved hand-eye coordination.

One study done in the United Kingdom concludes that, "video games can stimulate learning of facts and skills such as:

- Strategic thinking
- Creativity
- Cooperation
- Innovative thinking...

all of which are important in the information society."

Microsoft's Play Smart, Play Safe study surveyed parents and found they thought games are "a great social experience."

Sixty-one percent of parents allowed their children to play games labeled at a higher age rating.

While half of parents said games bring families closer together, 69 percent of kids wanted their parents to keep a closer eye on the age certificates of the games they played.

Some 42 percent of parents worried about their sons and daughters communicating with older people online.

Free online games for children are available at www.learn4good.com/kids/index/htm.

What's new for BKW

Probably, the most important change to Buzzing Kids World is the one we did just before the holidays on our **Home** page with the more active header and the addition of the products categories. We'll be adding to that continually.

Our new **Site Map** (see bottom menu on the website: www.buzzingkidsworld.com) is arranged by categories and has a brief description of every page to save you time finding what you're looking for. Below are just a few of the new and updated pages.

New categories for Kids Zone are:

- Fun Ways To Learn
- How To
 - Coloring Easter Eggs
 - Easter Basket Ideas
 - Origami Folding

New items on the bottom menu:

- Archives for seasonal topics
- BuzzLetter Archive for past issues

Updated or Revised:

- Irish Folklore (Holiday Traditions)
- And many more

Here's an excerpt from our Easter Basket page; it's full of ideas for the pre-teens and teens in your family who have out-grown the regular Easter Basket.

The easiest way to come up with Easter basket ideas is to think in terms of a theme. For example, when our kids and grandkids felt they had outgrown them, we substituted *practical* Easter basket ideas, but still used the grass and cut down on the candy by using healthy snacks and other small items instead; for example,

- [Frisbees](#) make a great base for the grass; add a new [bike lock](#)
- tool box with a [bird house kit](#)
- [youth baseball glove](#) with tickets or [baseball cards](#) tucked inside



- [fishing creel](#) with equipment and lures
- a [garden bucket caddy](#) for garden tools and seed packets
- a [tin](#), or shoe box (covered with seasonal wrapping paper) suitable for storing your child's collectibles or hobby items

CHALK TALK

March is Irish-American Heritage Month

During the years of the 1845 to 1849 potato famine in Ireland, many Irish people made their way to America. As with immigrants from other countries, their start in the United States was not an easy one. Over time, however, they rose from poor to middle class and many to wealth.

Along the way, they accomplished some amazing things. Ten were elected president of the United States: Andrew Jackson, James Buchanan, William McKinley, James Polk, Ulysses S. Grant, Woodrow Wilson, Richard Nixon, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

Many rose to the highest levels of the business world and the military. Dozens more became famous entertainers, including George Clooney, Walt Disney, Judy Garland, Mel Gibson, Alfred Hitchcock, Ron Howard, Bill Murray, Conan O'Brien, Martin Sheen, Ed Sullivan and John Wayne.

Irish-Americans have much to be proud of as they think about their heritage this March.

March is
Irish-American
Heritage Month



A time to honor the
achievements of our
Irish immigrants and
their descendants
living in America.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Oxymorons

- Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
- Why do "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
- Why do "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- How come a "tug" boat pushes its barges?
- Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
- Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
- Why do we say "after dark" when it is really "after light"?
- Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
- If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- How come "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

~

Riddle me this!

1. When life gets tough, what do you have that you can always count on?
2. What is it that lives in winter, dies in summer, grows with its root upward?
3. What asks no questions but requires a lot of answers?
4. How is a deck of cards like a wolf?
5. What is it that most people want, but when they borrow someone else's, they can't wait to give it back?
6. What is the longest English word that is the same when spelled backward? (Not a person's name, like Hannah.)
7. I move without wings, between silken strings, I leave as you find, my substance behind. What am I?
8. I have a light side and dark side, and I hold the universe together. What am I?



Riddle Answers

1-Your fingers; 2-An icicle; 3-A door-bell; 4-Both come in packs; 5-A baby; 6-Racacar, 7-A spider, 8-Duct tape

SEASONAL

The French Quarter Festival: April 9-11 in New Orleans

About 450,000 people will visit the French Quarter Festival this year. They will see 150 free musical performances on 18 stages throughout the Quarter.

Tourists and locals come together for the entertainment. No need to yearn for



My Birthday's On St. Patrick's Day



My birthday's on St. Patrick's day.

I wore no green at all,
and got a pinch from every kid
who passed me in the hall.
You get "a pinch to grow an inch"
whenever birthdays fall.

I guess they must have worked
because I'm thirty-nine feet tall.

~ Kenn Nesbitt
www.poetry4kids.com

Mardi Gras, FQF has it all.

Every genre is included in the music: Gospel, jazz, funk, Cajun, zydeco, classical and brass band sounds.

More than 70 food and beverage booths are located in Jackson Square, Woldenberg Riverfront Park and near the U.S. Mint. Food vendors offer such delicacies as fried alligator, crawfish pie, jambalaya, red beans and rice, blackened catfish, po-boys, pralines, and bread pudding with bourbon sauce.

Other attractions include historic patio tours, a parade, and children's and family activities.

Check with www.fqfi.org for more info.

March Project

Rainbow and Shamrock Cookies



~ Amanda Formaro, About.com

Decorate and dress-up some plain round cookies for St. Patrick's Day!

You'll need:

- Any round cookies
- White cake frosting
- Cake decorator gels:
 - Black
 - Orange
 - Purple
 - Yellow
 - Red
 - Blue
 - Green
- Small yellow candies (mini M&Ms)
- Small round green candies

To decorate:

- Spread each cookie with white frosting.
- Place yellow candies in the area where your "pot of gold" is.
- Draw on and color in (with black gel) a pot under the "gold".
- Draw on rainbows with colored gels in the following order:
 - Red
 - Orange
 - Yellow
 - Green
 - Blue
 - purple

To make shamrocks, place three round green candies in a triangle and draw on a shamrock stem with green decorator gel.

(For a green punch recipe see Irish Folklore at www.buzzingkidsworld under the Holiday Traditions category.)



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