

Critchlow Adkins Celebrates Waterfowl

In 1970, two organizations that are integral to the fabric of the Eastern Shore were born - Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers (CACC) and the Waterfowl Festival. For 52 years, CACC has watched the Waterfowl Festival capture the imagination of the children in their programs and inspire them to learn about the wildlife that surrounds them.

Critchlow Adkins strives to provide enriching learning experiences for local children, whether they are in CACC's preschool programs, before-and after-school care, or summer camps. Their innovative, literature-inspired STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities are designed to incorporate critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity through play. Each fall, as CACC's children prepare to attend the Waterfowl Festival with their families, they get in the spirit with Waterfowl-related STEAM activities.

It's possible to do these fun and educational activities

at home with a child. Start by reading Waterfowl-themed books about ducks and geese, swimming dogs, waterways, and wildlife. Some of the books CACC recommends are: *Honk, Honk Goose*, by April Pulley Sayre; *Toulouse: The Story of a Canada Goose*, by Priscilla Cummings; *Underwater Dogs*, by Seth Casteel; and *One Quiet Pond*, by Nicole Gray.

Then, it's time for the child to apply what he or she learned. Here are some examples:

Make a Duck Call

This is a great project for younger children. All that is needed is a plastic drinking straw and scissors. With "Make Your Own Duck Call," a child will learn about how sound comes from vibrations. The vibrations that their breath creates on the ends of the straw will make a duck-like sound.

Here's what to do:

Have the child use his/her fingers to flatten one end of the straw – the flatter the better. Then, cut the flat end of the straw into a point. Take another moment to flatten it out again,

and you are all set. The child should take a deep breath and blow into the straw. It should make a strange, quacking sound.

Another great opportunity to incorporate engineering and critical thought is to have the child cut the straw to different sizes, or even add another straw to the end to make it longer and note how the sound changes. Some questions to ask while engaging a child in the experiment are:

Which size of straw sounds most like a duck?

Which length of straw is the easiest to get a sound out of? Which is the most difficult?

Does the diameter of the straw affect the sound it makes?

Happy duck calling!

At-Home Dock Dogs Competition

The Dock Dogs competition is one of the most exciting (and cute) parts of the Waterfowl Festival. Using items from around the house, like plastic containers, popsicle sticks, and rubber bands, challenge a child to use their engineering skills

and creativity to create a "Dock Dogs competition." Have a child build a trampoline and a catapult to see how far they can get a Dock Dog (plastic dog toy or other) to travel.

Before launching, have the child predict how far he or she thinks the dog will travel,

and after launch, measure the results. Ask the child how they can adjust their design to help the pup travel even further. Can they change the shape or use different materials? Get in on the action and make it a family competition.

The staff at CACC hopes that these projects will enhance a child's experience of this year's Waterfowl Festival and give them a greater understanding of some of the inhabitants of our local environment. To find additional STEAM projects to do at home together, visit cacckids.org/steam.

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers' mission is to provide quality, financially accessible childcare for children and their families in a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment. To learn more about CACC, enroll your child in services, or to make a donation, visit cacckids.org or call 410-822-8061.

These and other activities can be found at sciencebob.com (duck calls) and jdaniel4smom.com (Dock Dogs).



Children can get in the spirit of Waterfowl Festival weekend with a few STEAM activities at home.

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