

Students Celebrate Waterfowl

Children enrolled in pre-school, before- and after-care, and summer camps with Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers are challenged by enriching learning experiences. The Waterfowl Festival provides a wonderful opportunity for these students to learn about the exciting ecosystem that exists right outside their door. Through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities, Critchlow kids develop their creative, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Try these Waterfowl-themed projects at home with your child to celebrate Waterfowl Weekend on November 11 through 13 in Easton.

Covering Up with Camouflage

This month, Critchlow's kids are learning about camouflage; join in on the fun. First, talk with your child about what camouflage is, why it is important, and how both people and animals in nature use it. Next, examine different types of camouflage, such as mimicry, which is the color or pattern that makes an animal look like

something else in nature. This is a great time of year to discuss why hunters wear camouflage clothing and how that mimics the fur, feathers, or skin of animals and insects as well as the plants, rocks, and ground in nature. For example, consider how an owl can appear hidden while perched on a tree because the colors and patterns of its feathers look just like the tree's bark.

Three of the many great books to read with your child about camouflage include *Hide and Seek Science Animal Camouflage* by Emma Stevenson, *Hidden Wildlife, How Animals Hide in Plain Sight* by Jim Arnosky, and *What Are Camouflage and Mimicry?* by Bobbie Kalman.

Now, test your newfound knowledge with a fun (and tasty) candy camouflage STEAM challenge. Collect M&M candies (20 of each color except for red and yellow – you'll only need 10 each of those), 10 red and 10 yellow Skittles candies, a paper plate, and a timer.

In this activity, your child will be a hungry predator, hunting for red and yellow M&Ms. But s/he must beware because there are "poisonous" camouflaged red and yellow Skittles mixed in. Give your child 20 seconds to see if they can pick out the red and yellow M&Ms and avoid the "harmful" red and yellow Skittles. Find the full activity at science-buddies.org/stem-activities/candy-camouflage.

If you and your child are still looking for ways to explore camouflage, think about creating your own duck blinds using scissors, tape, cardboard, and leaves and sticks you can find outside.

Dock Dogs Discovery

The Dock Dogs Competition is one of the most exciting (and cute) parts of the Waterfowl Festival. Using items around the house, like plastic containers, popsicle sticks, and rubber bands, challenge your child to use their engineering skills and creativity to create their very own Dock Dogs Competition. Ask him or her to design and

build a trampoline or catapult to see how far they can get a Dock Dog (plastic dog toy or other) to travel.

Before launching, ask your child to predict how far he or she thinks the dog will travel, then measure the results. How can the design be adjusted to help the pup travel even further? Can they change the shape or use different materials? You can even get in on the action and make it a family competition! (source: jdaniel4smom.com)

Another aspect of the Dock Dogs Competition to learn about involves the fetching toy that the dogs jump in the water to retrieve. You and your child can explore the properties of flotation while designing and creating a flotation toy for the dogs to fetch. Think about the types of toys that would be enticing for the dog, and what materials would help the toy float.

There are some wonderful books to get in the spirit of the Dock Dogs Competition, including *Underwater Dogs*, Kids Edition by Seth Casteel,



Critchlow students have fun learning while conducting STEAM activities.

Fetch by Jorey Hurley, *The Raft* by Jim Marche, and *Float or Sink* by Kylie Covark. Have a fantastic time reading, jumping, and floating together.

These projects can help spark your child's interest in this year's Waterfowl Festival and give them a greater understanding of some of the inhabitants of our local environment. Find more STEAM activities to do at home at cacckids.org/STEAM.

Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality, financially accessible childcare for children and their families in a nurturing, diverse, safe, and enriching environment. To learn more about CACC, visit cacckids.org.

Because Oysters Deserve Better

After generations of eating oysters on the Chesapeake Bay, the Mullaney family grew tired of the sauce status-quo.



Following years of new recipes, new ingredients, new ideas and plenty of willing taste testers, family members finally perfected the oyster's perfect compliment. Black Pearl Chesapeake Oyster Salsa hits all the notes: savory, salty, sweet, and spicy. It's chocked full of fresh vegetables and aromatic spices.

The "same 'ol" cocktail sauce is finally being replaced. Chesapeake Oyster Salsa is made to be served with raw or cooked oysters and is also a terrific addition to shrimp, fish, tacos, quesadillas, eggs, tortilla chips, and just about any other food you would pair with

cocktail sauce or a southwest salsa.

The Mullaney family will be serving samples of Black Pearl Oyster Salsa on chips and Eastern Shore oysters on the half shell at the Sportsman's Pavilion during this year's Waterfowl Festival. Say hello and try the best sauce ever born on the shores of the Chesapeake.

For details, visit www.blackpearlsauce.com.



INTERIOR DESIGN
&
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