The Weekly Word

ifapa a resource for families
Iowa Foster & Adoptive Parents Association

March 16, 2021

KINSHIP FUNDZ

From Achieving Maximum Potential—AMP Youth and Shelter Services, Inc.

Amerigroup, one of Iowa's Medicaid providers, has created a grant to support children in relative/kinship foster care, paying the child's participation in activities which promote the child's healthy social or cultural development. The fund will pay for goods (for example, for sporting equipment), fees (for example, to a social club), or innumerable other things a developing child may want or need (see application for more details).

The grant is administered by YSS, Inc., and serves Amerigroup members who are children ages birth to age 18. The maximum grant request limit is $300 per child or $1,000 per family when several children reside in the same family per fiscal year. The fiscal year is January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021.

To be considered for Kinship Fundz, please complete an application, found on the AMP website (link below) and send it along with copies of receipts/invoices to the address listed below. Applications that are received without receipts/invoices cannot be processed. Please allow at least 10 business days for applications to be reviewed. You will be notified in writing of the decision by AMP staff. Decisions will be made on an individual basis.

LINK TO APPLICATION FOR FUNDING:

https://www.weareampiowa.com/s/Kinhip-Fund-Application-January-1-2021.docx

YSS, P.O. Box 1628, Ames, IA 50010
Attention: Ruth Buckels Phone: 515.233-2250 ext. 4572

EXPLORING WITH YOUR FIVE SENSES

From PBSkids.org

Discover the sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and textures of the natural world

Encourage your child to tune into their senses as they experience the natural wonder of what the world around them smells like, looks like, feels like, sounds like, and maybe even tastes like! Spending time outside together will help your child hone their senses and help them learn to use them too.

Spring is the perfect time to get outside and explore the great outdoors with creative, guided outdoor play together. Spending time outside together will help your child hone their senses and help them learn to use them, too. As our friends at Nature Cat point out, as grown-ups, we get to act as guides by asking engaging questions and sharing our own wonder and joy at the sights, smells, sounds, tastes and textures of the natural world.

Encourage your child to tune into their senses as they experience the natural wonder of what the world around them smells like, looks like, feels like, sounds like, and even maybe tastes like! How can you and your child investigate what the earth smells like after a spring rain? How can your child describe the way a warm sun feels on their skin on a cool spring day? Nature Cat and his friends often use their senses to explore their natural world. For example, in "The Great Grasshopper Race," Nature Cat and his friends must track down a grasshopper. But because grasshoppers are small and hard to see, they have to track him using only the sound he makes. Similarly, in "Have A Grape Day," Squeeks' uses her sense of smell to determine that her favorite wild grapes are in trouble! Encourage children to think about how they use their senses everyday to explore and figure things out.

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10 genuinely fun outdoor activities for older kids

BY BRON MAXABELLA

My kids spend a lot of time outside, even now that they are older. Sending them out for a play is something I've done since they were small and we just never really stopped. But I get that coming up with outdoor activities for older kids can be problematic.

My girls (age 10 and 12) had a friend over to play last week and they spent the whole day out in the 'bush cubby' they've created somewhere in the reserve beside our house. I have no idea where the bush cubby is or what it looks like or even what it's for, but they enjoy being there and that's all that matters.

When their playmate's mum came to pick her daughter up, she couldn't believe they'd spent the day in the bush.

"My daughter never goes outside," she said.

"Never?" I had to ask. I mean, *never*.

"*Never*. She wouldn't know what to do out there," came the reply.

So, I give you this list of outdoor activities for older kids. It's really a list for an 11-year-old girl who had such a good day outside last week that she begged to come back again tomorrow.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES OLDER KIDS LOVE

1. Create a scavenger hunt (or two)

I am a huge fan of scavenger hunts for kids (I wrote about them here, here, here and … well, you get the idea). There are loads of reasons I love them:

- They encourage kids to work together to solve a problem
- They allow for independence, especially if they take in a whole neighbourhood
- They are suitable for any age, just adjust the challenge level accordingly
- They are a 'set and forget' activity solution for busy parents
- They offer a sense of achievement for kids
- They are super-simple to put together
- Who doesn't love a collection!?

Yup, so many reasons why hunts are one of the best outdoor activities for older kids. Try some of these for inspiration:

- Pool scavenger hunt
- A simple shades of colour hunt
- Nature treasure hunt for non-readers
- Nature treasure hunt for readers (with poem)
- The colours of nature hunt
- Make a summertime observational walk around the garden
- A hunt to photograph all the colours of the rainbow
- Take a counting number find walk
- We're going on a word hunt

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