

February 2015

## Welcome & Advice from Our Teachers

Hello readers! We are happy to present you with the 2nd edition of "Kids and More". We hope it gives you inspiration and new creative ideas to use with the young children you educate. Every month, we will feature advice from one of our English Studio educators. This month, **Francesca** offers the following advice:



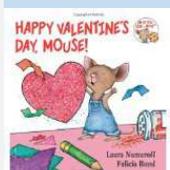
*"Using songs and music is very helpful and immediate, especially when teaching new vocabulary. Since I started teaching young learners I've noticed that they catch a lot more words while singing and watching pictures or flashcards at the same time and they have much more fun, of course. In songs they are also exposed to many grammar structures which they just absorb without any particular (and perhaps boring) explanations. Another important tip I'd like to add is playing games at the end of the class. Kids have so much fun playing and they get much more involved than when they're given worksheets. It's also a good way of assessing them on the covered contents."*

## Seasonal Book Suggestions

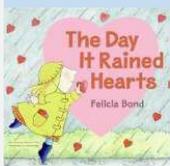
Visit your local library to see if they have books available in English. You can also order the books directly through English Studio. Please call or email for more ordering details!



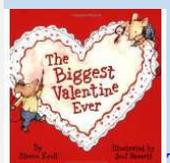
[Snowy Valentine](#)  
by David Petersen



[Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse!](#)  
By Felicia Bond



[The Day It Rained Hearts,](#)  
By Felicia Bond



[The Biggest Valentine Ever,](#)  
By Steven Kröll

## Seasonal Activities



Each year on February 14<sup>th</sup>, many people exchange candies, flowers, or cards with their special "Valentine". In many countries, Valentine's Day isn't just a day for romance, but it is also a day to celebrate friendship! In America, for example, children exchange Valentine's Day cards with their friends at school. In England, kids listen to Valentine's music and even give CD's to their friends.

February is International Friendship Month



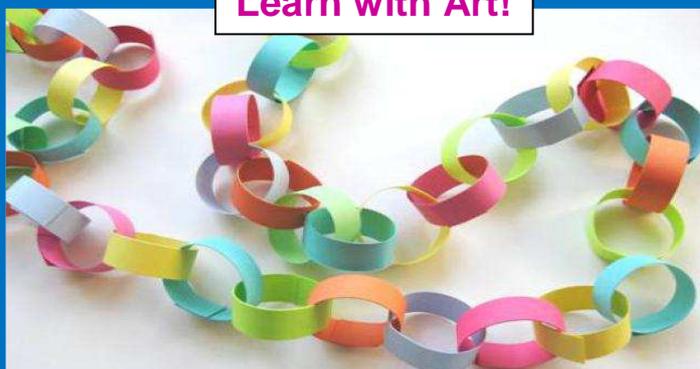
February is International Friendship Month. What a special time to celebrate the important people in your life!



English Studio Verona presents...

# Kids and More

## Learn with Art!



What better way to celebrate friendship than by making a **colorful paper friendship chain**! With these simple instructions, children will create a personalized decoration to display at home or to give as a gift. It's also a great opportunity to practice English vocabulary.

**Materials:** colored paper, a stapler or tape, markers

**Directions:** ask the child to name his or her friends and discuss the qualities that makes them good friends. Brainstorm a list of friendship qualities. Next, cut colored paper into thin strips. On each strip, write one of the friendship qualities. Fold the first strip to form a circle, and staple or tape it shut. For each successive strip, loop it through the previous strip, fold it to form a circle, and staple or tape it shut. Continue with colored strips to make your paper chain the length you desire!

**Other variations:** for younger students, you can do this same activity in a variety of ways. For example, ask the child to write the name of his or her friends on the strips. Or instead of brainstorming friendship qualities, ask the child to write down activities he or she does with a friend. There possibilities are endless for this craft!

## Musical Hearts

gross motor game for kids



## Learn with Play!

Play has been proven to be an essential part of the learning process, especially for learners of foreign languages.

(For more information about this, please visit <http://www.naeyc.org/play>).

"Musical Hearts", pictured above, is a fun game that involves music and action. **Materials:** paper to make cut-out hearts, a marker, music



On each heart, write an activity for the children to do. Choose actions they already know, or try out some new ones (be sure to pre-teach them before you start the game!) For example:

**Fly like a butterfly, Hop on one foot, Jump 3 times, Wiggle like a worm, Roar like a lion, Run like a tiger, Clap your Hands, Shout your name, etc**  
**Directions:** place the hearts on the floor and play music. Children dance to the music, and when the music stops (press "pause" about every 30 seconds), they FREEZE and pick up the heart they are standing closest to. The children read the activity (or you can read it to them) and perform the action! Repeat again and again 😊

We love to hear from our readers!  
Please contact us with your questions or ideas.

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