



Red Deer Public Library

Reading



Hey Parents!

Become a Detective Kit

Listed below is what is included in this literacy Kit:

Writing Missions:

- Pick out a writing mission and be creative. The writing prompts are designed to inspire children to write creatively. If your child doesn't wish to write, ask them to tell you out loud.

Handwriting Analysis:

- Try and find out who the handwriting belongs to.
 - Some sticky notes are included.

Fingerprint Classification:

- Compare fingerprints to the classifications shown on the activity sheet.

Invisible Ink:

- Use the recipe guide to help your child create their own invisible ink to create hidden messages and codes.
 - Blank piece of paper included.

Message Decoder Craft:

- Children will create their own message decoder to decipher hidden messages they create.
 - Pipe cleaner provided for assembly.

Crack the Case:

- Children will use the clues in the book to help them find the jewel thief. This is a great activity to do as a family!





Writing Missions

Mission #1

Write an ad for your services as a private investigator.

Mission #2

Write a list of various rooms inside your secret hideout.

Mission #3

Think of a great disguise and write a description of it.

Mission #4

Write a wishlist for your top 3-5 must have spy gadgets, and a brief description of each.

Mission #5

Create a scavenger hunt with 5-7 clues.

Mission #6

Use invisible ink to write a poem.
(see invisible ink sheet)

Mission #7

Use a secret code to write a letter to a friend.

Mission #8

Write a list of necessary items to bring on a mission.

Mission #9

Write a short story about a mystery you solved. Use your imagination!



Handwriting Analysis

Ask for assistance from an adult.

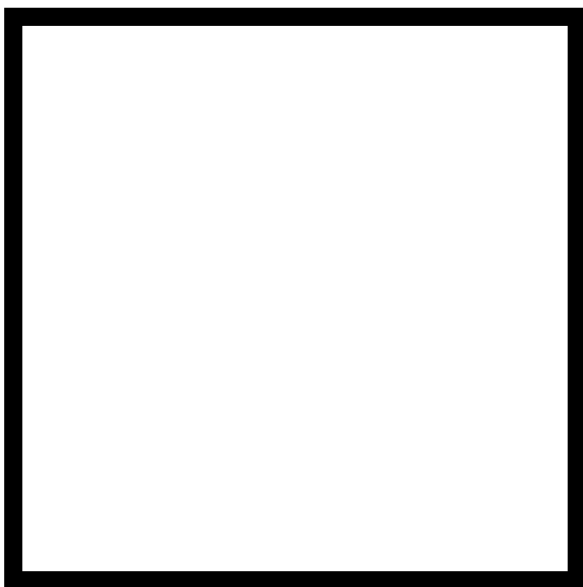
Ask the adult to collect sticky notes from family and friends with the sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog". Make sure the individuals also put their name on the note.

The adult will ask one of the individuals to create two sticky notes. The second will not have their name. The sticky note without their name will become the control. This is the note you will try to match up using the other sticky notes with names.

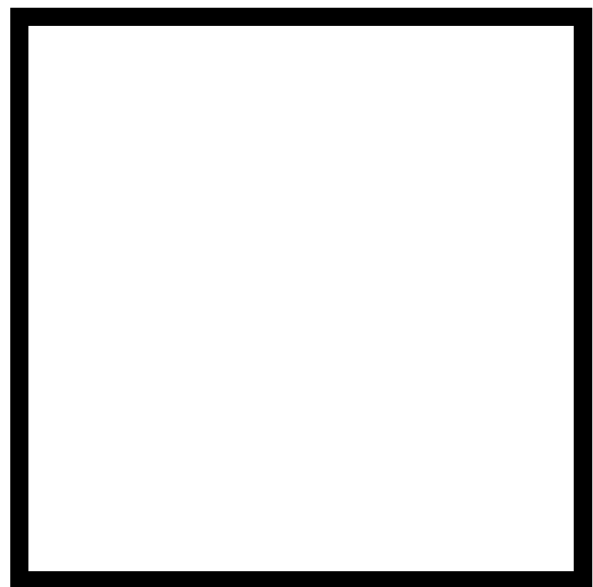
The goal is to try and match up the sticky notes that were written by the same person.

Things to look for:

1. Size - big or small letters
2. Slant - left or right handed?
3. Pressure - heavy pressure or light pressure?
4. Form - different Styles
5. Speed & Spacing - messy or neat? big or small gaps between letters?



Control Sticky Note



Compared Sticky Note

Fingerprint Classification

Each person has their own unique fingerprint. However there are distinct features that people may have in their fingerprint. Below are fingerprint classifications.



Loop



Whorl

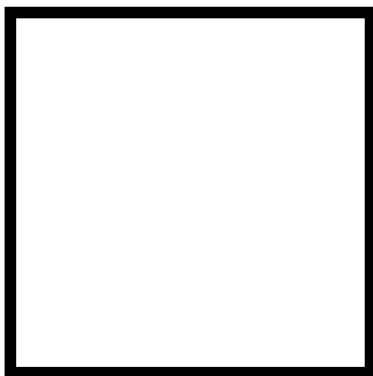


Arch

My Fingerprint

Press the pad of your index finger onto an inkpad or use a water-soluble marker to colour your finger. Then press your finger onto the provided box below. Using the images above to help you, classify your fingerprint. Describe your fingerprint using the space provided.

Example Description: "My fingerprint is a whorl. It has small circles that move in a circular pattern. The circular pattern is like a spiral."



My fingerprint...

My fingerprint can be classified as a

_____ fingerprint.

Invisible Ink

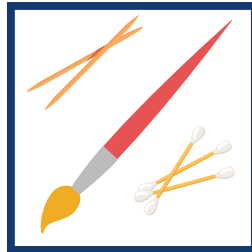
This activity requires adult supervision!

Method #1: Baking Soda

1. Mix equal parts baking soda and water in a small bowl. (2 tablespoons of each)
2. Use a tool, such as a toothpick, cotton swab, or paintbrush. Then, using the mixture, write your message on a white piece of paper
3. Wait for the ink to dry.
4. Heat up the paper using a light bulb by bringing the paper close to the bulb. Your message should show up in brown.



Step 1



Step 2/3



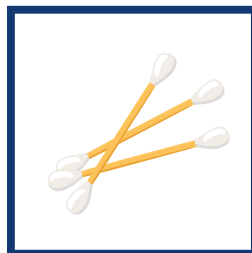
Step 4

Method #2: Lemon Juice

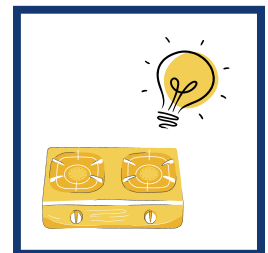
1. Squeeze lemon juice into a small bowl.
2. Write your message on a white piece of paper and wait for the paper/ ink to dry.
3. Very carefully, heat paper over stove top (or a lightbulb) until message shows up in a very light brown.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

Message Decoder

How to make the wheel:

1. Cut out the circles and stack them on top of each other from biggest to smallest.
2. Attach the circles by poking a small hole in the center of the circles. Then stack the circles from biggest to smallest using the small pipe cleaner that was provided.

How to use decoder:

1. Pick a letter in the outer wheel and a number in the inner circle - this is your key.
2. For each letter of your message, find the character on the outer wheel, and write down the letter that is exactly beneath it on the inner wheel until your message is complete.
3. To read the encrypted message, get the key from the message sender and align the wheel. For each letter of your message, find the character on the inner wheel, and write down the letter that is exactly above it on the outer wheel.

