

Douglas County Child Care Association  
Newsletter  
January-March 2022 Issue





# DCCCA

## January-March 2022

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## Vice President's Letter

I learned a long time ago (with much trial and error) that the best way to get something done was to break it down into small tasks. Instead of making a molehill into a mountain, I learned to turn a mountain into several molehills.

If, for example, I need to tackle my house, I know better than to try to do it in one all-day marathon. Instead I break it down into small jobs like doing each room and area in a certain order with as much time allotted as needed. It might be a slow process but it always gets done. Eventually. Which is much better than working myself to death in the beginning, then burning out and never finishing the task.

When I started my journey to reach a Colorado Shines Quality Rating, I was gung-ho. I worked night and day trying to accomplish everything as quick as I could. Did that work for me? (NO!) I got burnt out and stopped working on it completely. I stopped for almost two years, but it just kept gnawing at me. "I need to do this, I want to do this".

I learned it wasn't just about checking off all the boxes, [I needed to become a Quality Childcare Provider.](#)

In 2021, I became committed to becoming the best quality provider I could be. Don't get me wrong, there will always be room for improvement, I'm definitely not perfect, but the journey began. Was it easy? No way, but it has stretched my abilities beyond measure. It brought me more satisfaction than any other task I have taken on in many years. It has given me more opportunities than I could have imagined. It has shown me I have abilities I never knew I had.

If you are considering taking on this challenge, understand breaking it into several tasks and taking your time will allow you to reach your goal. We have many coaches and helps available to us. No one wants us to fail, but succeed for the betterment of the children we love and care for.


Are you ready to learn more, do more, and become the best quality provider you can be? I say then, [Begin the Journey.](#)

I am proud to say I have reached a Level 4 Colorado Shines Rating and it was worth every moment of the journey.

Sincerely,

Vickie Scholl—DCCCA Vice President





Life is too short to wake up in the morning  
with regrets.

So, love the people who treat you right  
and forget about the ones who don't.

And believe  
that everything happens for a reason...

if you get a chance - take it;  
if it changes your life - let it.

Nobody said that it would be easy...

They just promised  
it would be worth it.



## In the Spotlight



### **Samantha (Sam) Nikui**

My name is Samantha (Sam) Nikui. I joined the Office of Early Childhood in November 2020 as a licensing specialist for Douglas County. I'll be working with providers in zip codes 80124 and 80126. I've been training with Amanda Schoniger, who is a Lead Licensing Specialist, so I will be taking over her caseload. I wanted to take some time to introduce myself. I've lived in Colorado for over 20 years and currently live in the DTC area with my husband and our recently adopted 12 year old cat. In my free time, I enjoy baking, reading, watching sports with my husband, and spending time with friends and family. I have worked in Early Childhood Education for over 15 years in various roles ranging from an Aide to a Director. I attended Metro State University of Denver, where I obtained my Bachelor of Arts in History and Elementary Education. After college, I realized my passion in education centered within early childhood education and the formative early years of a child's development. So a few years later, I returned to school to complete my ECE Director's Certificate at Arapahoe Community College. Prior to joining the Licensing team, I worked in a school district as a Program Director. I am excited to take on my role as a licensing specialist! My goal is to supply providers with consistent guidance and support, so families receive high-quality care and their children thrive in safe and nurturing learning environments. I look forward to meeting you and working together!



## Ways to model and promote a love of books in your pre-school classroom

I have so many fabulous children's books that are near and dear to my heart and the last thing I want is for one of my students to trample all over one or for a page to get ripped. I am sure you feel the same way about your children's books. After all, they are your pride and joy. They cost you money. And some of them might even be out of print.

### Where do you keep your children's books?

Do you keep the junk books (the books you don't really like) in the classroom and your good books (the books you love) on the tippy top of the shelf where they can't be reached? Do you read a good book then tuck it away in your teacher bag so the children have to ask you for it? Do you leave all your good books at home? Where do you keep your good books? And by good books, I mean the children's books that you LOVE to read aloud to your students.

If you keep your good books out of reach, then chances are you are worried that your students will tear up your books. Or perhaps, in your experience, they already have torn up some of your books and if that is the case, I know how discouraging that can be. If you tuck your books away after reading them to the children, then I have five tips to share with you on how to help your students take care of your books so that you can begin working your way towards leaving your good books out and within reach of the children in your classroom.

### Tip #1: Young children can't read

What? Of course young children can't read. I know you already know that but there is a reason I point this out. Every book you set out on the classroom shelf needs to be a book that you have ALREADY or soon plan to read to your children AND they need to feel some connection to the story. You see, if you want the children to look at the books and not step on the books, then they need to know what the books are about. They need to be able to pick up each book in your classroom and be familiar with the story, the characters, the illustrations so that they can "read" them on their own. As the children in your classroom become familiar with, interested in, and connected to the books in your classroom, they will be more concerned with taking care of the books.



### Tip #2: Avoid the overwhelm

This may sound counter-intuitive but too many books in a small amount of space creates overwhelm. It is better to have out a selection of well written books that the children can take off the shelf, read through, and then put back all by themselves than to have a big pile of books that the children have to sift through just to find one they like. Too many books can get in the way of your students finding their favorite book. Too many books crammed in a small space can be difficult for the children to take care of so when they all come tumbling down on the floor, they get pushed aside, stepped on, or piled back up on the shelf in a big mess. When your books are all piled up in a big mess on the floor, in a basket, or on the shelf it sends a message that these are not books we treasure. Set out the books you and the children treasure; display them in a way that the children can see them and choose their favorites; and don't set out more than the children can really handle reading. Test it out. Start with less and add more if needed but then stop. It would be better to rotate their favorite books through your book corner than to create overwhelm.

### Tip#3: Give them a hug

I'm not talking about your students, although you can certainly give your students a hug too. I am talking about your books. Whenever you talk to your children, hold your books lovingly. Pat the covers gently, brush off any lint or dust, let the children see you loving on those books. You need to not only connect your students to your books by reading to them but you also need to model your love for those books so the children see how you physically treat a book. You can certainly tell a child, "We do not step on books." or "We need to take care of our books." But what really brings it home is when you SHOW them how much you love your books, how you go about taking care of them. Hold your books gently, give them a hug as you introduce the story, tell the children that this book is one of your very favorite books in the whole wide world. You see, when you physically demonstrate and communicate the process of loving on those books, your students will realize that the books are special and be more aware that they need to take care of them, too.

### Tip #4: Call 911

If a child comes to you with a book that is torn or in some way falling a part, try to stop and fix it right away. Treat it like it is a 911 call. In fact, you can put together a book doctor kit just for this purpose. Fill your book doctor kit (or box) with clear packing tape, scissors, and anything else you think would be necessary to fix a book. Whatever you do, don't just toss that book back on the shelf and say, "We will fix it later." Chances are, you will forget and the message you send is that it isn't that important anyway. If a child thinks it is important enough to bring you the book then fix that book right away!

### Tip#5: Fall in love

If your students are not falling in love with the books you read to them, then you need to work on that. Perhaps you need to improve on your reading-aloud skills. Perhaps you need to choose books that the children can relate to or enjoy listening to. Perhaps you need to choose books with better stories, illustrations, or characters. You see, we all take care of the things we love the most and in order for your students to care for your books, they need to fall in love with them.

# Treasury Report

## Oct 1, 2021-Dec. 31, 2021

		Balance Forward	\$6,381.89
Income:			
	Total Income		
Expenses:	Telephone	\$167.15	
	Website SOS4NET	\$162.50	
	Education	\$360.89	
	Total Expenses	\$690.54	
Ending Balance			\$5,691.35
Respectfully Submitted, Susan Moberly DCCCA/Treasurer/Membership			



# October-December 2021 Referrals

Castle Rock		Highlands Ranch		Parker	
Under 2	17	Under 2	14	Under 2	19
Full Time:	16	Full Time:	7	Full Time:	15
Part Time:	1	Part Time:	2	Part Time:	4
Over 2	10	Over 2	10	Over 2	11
Full Time:	10	Full Time:	7	Full Time:	6
Part Time:	0	Part Time:	2	Part Time:	5
School Age	0	School Age	0	School Age	0
Total	27	Total	25	Total	30
DCCCA WEBSITE		DCCCA WEBSITE	3	DCCCA WEBSITE	29
Colorado Shines		Colorado Shines		Colorado Shines	
DCCCA Referral Line		DCCCA Referral Line		DCCCA Referral Line	
PROVIDER		PROVIDER		PROVIDER	
OTHER:		OTHER:	17	OTHER:	

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ADDITIONAL DCCCA VOLUNTEERS			
President	Angela Rosales	303-766-9241	<a href="mailto:amagr8rose@q.com">amagr8rose@q.com</a>
Vice President	Vickie Scholl	303-707-0812	<a href="mailto:gtscholl@hotmail.com">gtscholl@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	OPEN		
Treasurer Membership	Susan Moberly	303-841-5899	<a href="mailto:susantboada@comcast.net">susantboada@comcast.net</a>
	Referrals	Volunteers	
Castle Rock	Sabrina Fulks	303-660-5584	<a href="mailto:sabricus-tomemb@gmail.com">sabricus-tomemb@gmail.com</a>
Highlands Ranch Lone Tree Acres Green Centennial	Cathleen Zeiler	303-791-3386	<a href="mailto:highlandsranchereferral@gmail.com">highlandsranchereferral@gmail.com</a>
Parker/Elizabeth	Joanne Payne	303-805-0824	<a href="mailto:tjsspayne@msn.com">tjsspayne@msn.com</a>
Election Coordinator	OPEN		
Continuing Education Committee	OPEN		
Continuing Education Committee	OPEN		
State Representative	OPEN		
State Representative	OPEN		
Hospitality	Maria Ciurczak Violy Lindner Rita Predmore	303-470-8909 720-344-4505 303-690-0610	
Newsletter Editor	Vickie Scholl		
Douglas County Zoning	OPEN		
Employer Identification	EIN#	1-800-829-4933	<a href="http://www.irs.gov/businesses/smallbusinessesself-employed/employer-idnumbers">http://www.irs.gov/businesses/smallbusinessesself-employed/employer-idnumbers</a>

LICENSING SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS		
Supervisor	Christa Ferrari	720-425-6294 <a href="mailto:Christa.Ferrari@state.co.us">Christa.Ferrari@state.co.us</a>
Lead Specialist	Amanda Schoniger Sub-Placement Agencies	720-584-0380 <a href="mailto:Amanda.Schoniger@state.co.us">Amanda.Schoniger@state.co.us</a>
Castle Rock: 80101, 80104, 80108, 80109, 80135	Heather Sporrer	720-237-2298 <a href="mailto:heather.sporrer@state.co.us">heather.sporrer@state.co.us</a>
Highlands Ranch: 80129,80130, 80125, 80116, 80118	Kaitlin Bush	303-905-0456 <a href="mailto:Kaitlin.Bush@state.co.us">Kaitlin.Bush@state.co.us</a>
Parker: 80134,80138	Austin Hachmeister	720-629-8196 <a href="mailto:Austin.Hachmeister@rrcc.edu">Austin.Hachmeister@rrcc.edu</a>
Highlands Ranch: 80124, 80126	Sam Nikui	720-600-8641 <a href="mailto:Samantha.Nikui@state.co.us">Samantha.Nikui@state.co.us</a>
Parker: 80138 Centennial: 80112	Tina LePage	719-619-6260 <a href="mailto:Tina.LePage@state.co.us">Tina.LePage@state.co.us</a>
Colorado Department of Human Services	303-866-5958	<a href="http://Coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com">Coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com</a>
24 Hour Child Protective Line	303-271-4131	
Immunization Line	303-237-7178	
Rocky Mountain Poison Control	303-222-1222	
NAFCC (National Association for Family Child Care)	800-359-3817	
Child Find for Douglas County	720-433-0020	
	<b>Food Programs</b>	
Kids Nutrition Company	303-987-4851	
Southwest Food Program	719-573-2246	
Wildwood Food Program	303-730-0460	





## Child Care Insurance Options

Dawna Nolan, Broker	720-519-0291	<a href="mailto:dawna@cowest.com">dawna@cowest.com</a>
ADCO General Daycare Insurance	303-893-5770	
Adults & Children Alliance	800-433-8108 x2028	<a href="http://acainc.org/partners.html">acainc.org/partners.html</a>
Allstate Insurance	303-833-5588	
Assure Child Care	855-818-5437	<a href="http://Assurechildcare.com">Assurechildcare.com</a>
Cherry Creek Insurance Group	303-799-0110	<a href="http://travelers.com">travelers.com</a>
Child, Inc. Liability Insurance	800-844-8288 x108	
Child Care Insurance Professional	800-819-9992	
Dan Gillespie, Insurance Broker	303-656-6912	
Daycare Defender	800-414-1066	<a href="http://scdefender.com">scdefender.com</a>
DC Insurance Services, Inc.	800-624-0912	<a href="http://dcins.com/contactus.html">dcins.com/contactus.html</a>
Farmers Insurance—Daniel Cashmore	303-970-0315	
Mike Boling Markel	888-515-8537	
New England Ins. Services, Inc.	888-845-8288	<a href="http://neisinc.com">neisinc.com</a>
State Farm Ins.—Daniel West	303-790-4333	



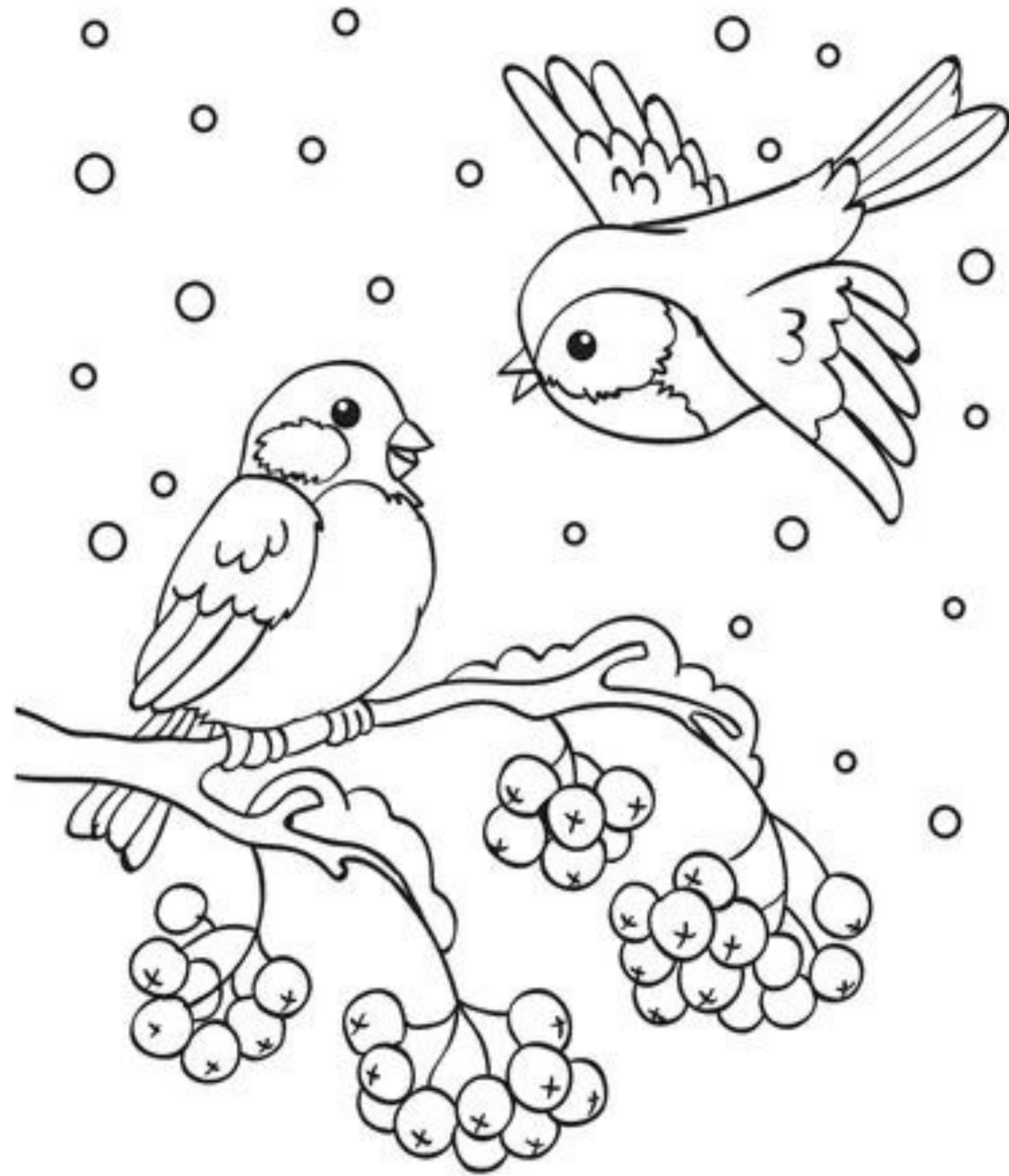
Easy Peasy  
and Fun



*Caprese Salad*  
**Snowman**  
Appetizer



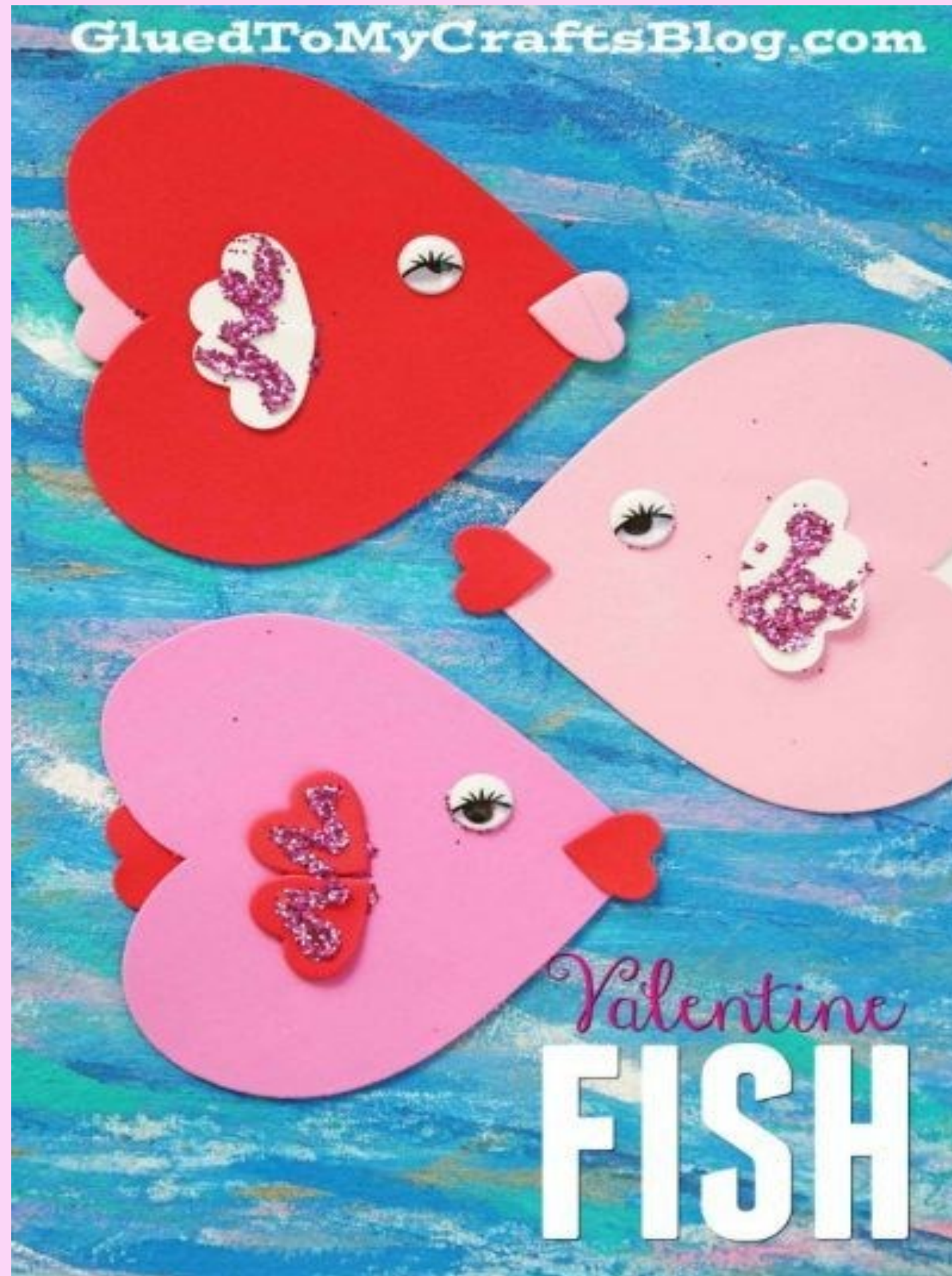




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Valentine  
**FISH**



*Valentine's Day*

# Fruit Kabobs







Easy Peasy and Fun



