

VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #178

BLOSSOMING INTO SPRING

HELLO PARENTS,

Spring is full of opportunities to learn intriguing facts about nature! From the exciting stages of plant and animal growth to the extent of new colours that emerge with the change of the season, there is no shortage of interesting things to discover. Exploring the natural world by watching grass sprout from the earth, flower buds unfold in colourful splendor, or a butterfly take flight inspires wonder and curiosity in your child. In this newsletter, you will find hands-on activities that will help your child learn about seasonal changes around them.

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

SPRING SENSORY BAG

MATERIALS:

- Ziploc bag
- Duct tape
- Green/yellow glitter
- Foam stickers: birds, butterflies, ladybugs, plant/grass, etc.
- Flowers and leaves (real or fake)

DIRECTIONS:

- Place all the items in the Ziploc bag and add water.
- Use the duct tape to seal the Ziploc bag.
- Put the bag in front of your child and let them explore.
- Observe and describe what your child is touching with their fingers. For example: "Look, this is a butterfly... a green leaf" etc.

<u>Click here</u> for more activities.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

EXPLORE THE WIND

MATERIALS:

A lightweight scarf

DIRECTIONS:

- Take your child outside and let them hold the scarf in their hand.
- Ask your child how they can make the scarf move.
- Let your child experiment with the scarf by running with it, waving it, dropping it on the ground etc.
- Encourage your child to stand still and hold the scarf.
- Explain to your child that there are windy days in spring, and that sometimes the wind is blowing even when they do not feel it.

<u>Click here</u> for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

COLOURFUL SUN CATCHER

- MATERIALS:
- Wax paper
- Glue/tape
- Coloured tissue paper Brush
- Popsicle sticks (four of them)
 - Pipe cleaner/string
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child to make a frame with popsicle sticks by gluing them together at the corners.
- Ask your child to cut a square of wax paper, the same size as the frame.
- Let your child glue different pieces of coloured tissue paper on to the wax paper.
- Help your child to attach the wax paper to the frame.
- Let your child use the pipe cleaner or piece of string to hang the sun catcher.

Click here for more activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS) EASY SPRING WIND CHIMES

MATERIALS:

- Paper cups
- Brushes
- Coloured plastic straws
- Scissors
- Hole puncher
- Pipe cleaner
- **DIRECTIONS:**
- Click here for ideas on how to make wind chimes.
- Paint the cup as you desire and let it dry.
- Cut five pieces of string, different lengths.
- Cut the plastic straws in various sizes.
- String beads and pieces of straws on a piece of string. You may also add hells

Paint

Strina

Pencil

Beads (various sizes, shapes & colours)

Small jingle bells/button

- Repeat until you have completed all five strings.
- Punch four holes around the cup and poke one hole through top of the cup with a pencil.
- First, attach the longest beaded string and loop it through the hole that you made on the top of the cup.
- Then, attach the four other strings around the cup.
- After you finish, hang up your wind chime outside and enjoy. Click here for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 - 12 YEARS)

SPRING STORY

MATERIALS:

- Рарег
- Crayons/markers
- **DIRECTIONS:**
- Take a notebook or a piece of paper and go for a walk around your neighbourhood.

Pen/pencils

Cell phone/camera (optional)

- Look around and pay attention to what you see.
- Identify signs of spring and take notes. Focus on the colours, sounds, smells, sights, and textures around you.
- For example: Weather: warm breezes, longer days, more sunlight, rain instead of snow, etc. Landscape: flowers bloom, trees and plants bud, seeds
 - sprout, grass turns green, etc.
 - Animals: birds chirping, butterflies, etc. Clothing: lighter jackets, T-shirts, shorts, etc.
- When you return, write or draw a spring story.
- Read and share your story to your friends and family.
- Click here for more activities.
 - Immigration, Refugees Immigration, Réfugiés and Citizenship Canada et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read books with your child that present information about spring in an entertaining way.
- Get scientific. Take a nature walk with your child to inspect the signs of spring firsthand.
- Provide your child with different materials to create spring art.
- Engage your child with movement activities; let them explore spring by pretending to be animals, plants or weather elements.

