

Spring is here and it is a great opportunity to discuss all of the changes that come with Spring. You can plant a garden, flower beds, order butterfly kits etc. If you don't have enough outdoor space to accommodate these activities, you can create space using plastic tubs and just do them on a smaller scale.

MOTHER'S DAY is this month please make sure that you have the children make something special for their mom. If you have a great idea post it on Odyssey Facebook page. The flower cupcake activity (Emotional section) are pretty cute and easy to make. They would make a cute gift for mom.

Remember to take pictures of all of the interesting activities that you do with the children!

SOCIAL

Video about Spring

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6-B9sxC1sM>

Target: sharing ideas

Bug Bounce

- Place a small blanket on the floor with an assortment of plastic insects. Have the children each grab a hold of the blanket.
- Then let them have fun tossing and catching the insects with the blanket.
- See if they can bounce the insects off of the blanket.

Target: teamwork

Spring is here song

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qhv29_M-P5Q

Target: peer discussion

Magnifying Glass Bug Hunt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmry_E-5JLw

Watch the above video and then take the children outdoors to see what bugs the children can find using magnifying glasses. (You can get magnifying glasses at the Dollar stores)

Target: sharing experiences

Set up a bird feeder

The Dollar Store has cheap bird feeders and bags of seed

Target: cooperation



PHYSICAL

Fine Motor

Caterpillar Snacks

<http://www.littlefoodjunction.com/2013/04/caterpillars.html#.WtPQRi7wbIV>

If you have young children make sure that you cut the grapes to an appropriate size so that they are not a choking hazard. You could also use cucumbers. Skewers can be purchased at the Dollar Store.

Target: eye hand coordination

Paint with Flowers (silk or real)

What You Need:

Paint

Feathers (Dollar Store)

Paper

What You Do:

- Let your children paint a picture, using feathers as a brush.

Target: grasping

Variations: use plastic insects

Rock Insects

– have the children paint rocks to look like insects or spiders or whatever they want. Glue on google eyes, pipe cleaners, sparkles, beads etc. and legs.

Target: grasping

Play dough Insect Prints

– provide green or brown play dough (kool aid or cinnamon add wonderful color and smell to the play dough) along with plastic insects to hide in the play dough. Children can also press the insects in the play dough to make impressions.

Target: eye hand co-ordination

Gross Motor

Robin Red Breast

Way up high, little robin flying just so (put hands up as high as possible)

Quick down low for a worm he must go (put hands low, almost touching the floor)

With a wing on the left and a wing on the right, (extended arms one at a time)

Fly to your nest for soon it will be night (flapping arms like flying)

Target: co-ordination

Ask the children act out the following songs

Little Birds Action Rhyme

Little birds, little birds, fly to the door.

Little birds, little birds, sit on the floor!

Little birds, little birds, jump up and down.

May 2019- Bugs, Birds, Blossoms and Butterflies

Little birds, little birds, don't make a sound!
Little birds, little birds, tip toe to me.
Little birds, little birds, bend your knees!
Little birds, little birds, peep, peep, peep.
Little birds, little birds, sleep, sleep, sleep.

Target: balance

Once There was a Ladybug (act out the song)

Tune: "Mary Had A Little Lamb"

Once there was a ladybug,
Ladybug, ladybug.
Once there was a ladybug,
Who went outside to play.

She liked to crawl around,
Crawl around, crawl around.
She liked to crawl around
Crawling different ways.

Once a great big bird came by,
Bird came by, bird came by.
Once a great big bird came by,
So she flew away. **Target: movement**

Spring Dance

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udrIY0nts-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udrIY0nts-E)

[E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udrIY0nts-E) **Target: co-ordination**

NTELLECTUAL

Cognitive

Seed Sorting Tray

<https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2015/04/seed-sorting-activity.html>

Target: sorting

Bouncing Egg Experiment

<http://happiestmomontheblog.blogspot.ca/2012/06/bouncing-egg-experiment-preschool.html>

Target: cause and effect



Grow a bean

<https://theimaginationtree.com/growing-beans-on-cotton-balls/>

Target: sequencing

Plant a bulb

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/science-for-kids-planting-a-bulb-free-printable-science-invitation-saturday/>

Target: sequencing

Spring Math Game

<https://fun-a-day.com/spring-math-game-for-kids/>

Target: number recognition



Language

Read a book about Spring (insects, flowers, Spring, birds, butterflies)

Target: vocabulary

4 Little Bugs

One little bug went out to play,
on a spider's web one day.
He had ever so much fun;
He called for another bug to come.

Two little bugs went out to play,
on a spider's web one day.
They had ever so much fun;
they called for another bug to come.

Three little bugs went out to play,
on a spider's web one day.
They had ever so much fun;
they called for another bug to come.

Four little bugs went out to play,
on a spider's web one day.
They got stuck, all in a bunch.
And along came spider, in time for lunch!

Encourage the children act out this rhyme. Have one child start and have another child join at the appropriate time. When all four children are crawling around the web, choose a fifth and sixth child to be the spider, who crawls in and chases the bugs. (make sure all of the children that want to play are included in the activity) If the children are indoors explain that they have to crawl around. If you are doing the activity outside the children can run. Target: rhyming

The Days of Spring

(Sung to: Farmer in the Dell)

The days of Spring are here,
Warm, sunny days are near,
Flowers and bees, and birds in trees.
The days of spring are here.

Target: vocabulary

Caterpillar Change

There was a little caterpillar crawling all about. (Walk with fingers on arm)
He worked and he worked without a doubt. (Wiggle fingers)
Wrapping himself in a snug cocoon. (Wrap other hand around fingers)
Waiting and waiting, will it be soon? (hold fingers)
Look, he's coming out, my oh my! (raise arms in excitement)
For now he's become a beautiful butterfly (Cross thumbs and flap hands like wings)

Target: rhyming

CREATIVE

Nature Walk

Take the children on a walk around the neighborhood or to a park. Have them look and listen for different signs of Spring. ***Make sure this is listed as an outing on your calendar as well and you have an off-site permission form in place if you are doing this activity. You can have the children collect items to make a nature collage as an activity. You can also collect materials just in your backyard to make a nature collage as well.***

Target: sensory

Finger Paint Butterflies or Dragonflies

– fold a piece of paper in half, and have the children to finger paint on one side of the paper. Press the paper together to create a butterfly or dragonfly.

Target: sensory

Birdseed Play-Dough

Add some bird seed to your playdough .It gives a different texture to the usual smooth play-do and encourages descriptive talk amongst the children.

How to make it:

You will need:

- birdseed,
- 2 cups of flour,
- 1 cup of salt
- Some water.

Mix it all together and you have your birdseed play-do. **Target: sensory**

Lady Bug apple snack

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/29926/apple-ladybug-treats/>

Target: decision making



Flower Garden Playdough

<https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/flower-play-dough-invitation.html>

Target: decision making



Flower Arranging

<https://rhythmsofplay.com/flower-arranging-montessori-practical-life-activity-for-kids/>

Target: creativity



EMOTIONAL

Butterfly snacks

<http://jugglingwithkids.com/2012/01/butterfly-snacks.html>

Target-self confidence



Feather Painting

Supply the children with feathers, paint and paper. Let them get creative and paint with the feathers.

Target: independence

Sensory Bins

Building Nests

<http://lifewithmoorebabies.blogspot.ca/2016/06/songbird-sensory-bin-for-your-little.html>

Target: self confidence



Spring Garden

<https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2011/03/spring-garden-sensory-tub.html>

Target: self - expression



Gardening Sensory Bin

<https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/gardening-sensory-bins.html>

Target: independence



Flower pot cupcake

<https://theimaginationtree.com/easy-flower-pot-cupcakes/>

If you don't want to bake the cupcakes/muffin, buy them at the grocery store and have the children put them in the pot and decorate. If you are using this for a snack idea please make sure you have the other necessary food items as well.

Target: Independence



Goop and Flower Cupcakes

<https://theimaginationtree.com/goop-and-flower-cupcakes/>

Target: independence

