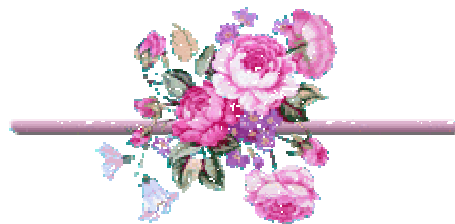


Spring Activities
& *Crafts*



I acknowledge with thanks the various internet sites, and printed resources from whom the following activities and crafts were gathered over time.

Spring Activities

Crafts and Activities

Seed Squiggles

*Several types of seeds *wax paper *string *glue
Squeeze glue onto the wax paper to make a design approximately 4" to 5" long. Have them sprinkle the seeds onto the glue. Let them dry, shake off any extra seeds into a bowl. Have the children gently peel their seed picture from the wax paper. Tie a string to each and hang from the ceiling.

Seed Collage

Glue all kinds of seeds on a paper plate or paper.

Sun Catcher Kites

*2 pieces of wax paper (for each child) *2 pieces of heavy cardboard (for each child) *crayon shavings *iron *newspaper *towel *streamers *glue or glue stick *crayons or markers

1. Prior to this project have wax paper cut off the roll, approx. 5x6" (2 pieces for each child)
2. Cut the cardboard into the shape of a kite, also cut out the middle of the kite (2 pieces for each child)
3. Cut enough streamers out (1 for each child)
4. First have the child color the cardboard using crayons or markers.
5. Have the child put crayon shavings onto 1 piece of wax paper. Then put other sheet of wax paper on top of the crayon shavings.
6. Adult will then put newspapers on top of the wax paper and then a towel on top of that. Then with the iron, set at the lowest possible setting, iron the paper until the crayon

shavings melt. It will be VERY HOT. Use Caution.

7. Then flip the 2 pieces of cardboard over, side by side, so that you see the side that was not colored. Put glue on the edges of 1 piece of cardboard, then put the melted wax paper crayon shavings on top of that. Next put the other piece of cardboard on that and trim the edges of the wax paper that are showing.

8. Child can now glue a streamer on the bottom. You might want to include this poem: "Seeds know just the way to start. I wonder how they get so smart? They could come up in garden beds Feet first by standing on their heads. They could forget if they should grow Like sunflowers high, or pumpkins low. They could forget their colors, too, And yet they never do."

Wind Socks

*Paper Lunch Bag *Construction Paper *Crepe Paper

*Scissors *Glue *Misc. Craft Supplies

To make a wind sock, cut off the bottom of a paper lunch bag. Decorate the bag with glitter paint, neon construction paper, stickers, etc. Then attach crepe paper streamers to one end of the bag. Attach a construction paper handle to the opposite end of the bag.

Puzzle Trees

Found a great easy activity for spring, you know those puzzles that seem to always have missing pieces. Cut out the trunk of a tree with limbs glue this or even staple it to another piece of paper (yellow makes a great back ground color) and glue the puzzle pieces to the branches of the tree.

Bird watching

Make bird house or bird feeders. Use the opportunity to explain how different animals weather the winter; some hibernate, others store up food and poke their heads out for occasional adventures, and still others head for the warm country. Talk about how they weather the winter compared to spring.

Planting Inside and Outside Gardens and Things

Beanstalk House

1. Make a teepee-like frame out of six to eight 5-foot-long bamboo or wood stakes. Draw a circle about four feet in diameter in the dirt. Evenly space the stakes around the circle and push the bottoms into the ground. Then tie the stakes together at the top. Lash seven 2- to 3-foot cross-stakes to the stakes near the ground, leaving a door. Tie three to four strings between each of the stakes from the top to each of the cross-stakes.

2. Purchase pole bean seeds, such as "Kentucky Wonder," and plant three seeds below each string and stake. As the seedlings grow, gently help them get over to the nearest string. Eventually, the beans will "learn" to grow on the strings by themselves. In about a month (depending on the seed variety and your growing season), the entire bean house will be covered with green stems, flowers, and eventually . . . beans.

* By the way, the reason you left one side open is to allow the children the pleasure of enjoying sitting their very own bean house.

Grow a "Living" Alphabet or Words

You'll need a small patch of garden or flower bed space. Or, some aluminum pie pans will do--just punch holes in the bottom for drainage, then fill them with potting soil.

Write something or draw pictures using a twig, popsicle stick, or utensil (a finger works well, too). Pre-readers might want to write individual letters or draw shapes. Older kids might want to write their names or draw simple scenes. Your child should make indentations about half an inch deep. When the words or pictures are complete, give your child grass seed and demonstrate how to place the seeds an eighth of an inch or so apart. Fill up all the indentations, cover with a fine layer of top soil, water, and in ten days the children should begin to see grass words and pictures. Try this one: "Please Keep off the Grass."

Spring Inside Planting

Cut off some carrot tops and put each one in a dish with some pebbles. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the carrot. Hide the dishes in a place where there is not too much sun. In just a few days, the carrot tops will begin sprouting and turn into plants.

Wheelbarrow Planter

*Plastic Scoops from Laundry detergent *Milk Gallon Cap
*Glue *Potting Soil *Seeds

Take the plastic scoop from laundry detergent (wash it) and glue on each side towards the handle the plastic lid off a gallon milk jug. It makes a little wheelbarrow. Next add potting soil and let the kids plant seeds in it. I always plant either grass seeds or beans because they grow so fast.

Potato Planters

*Potato *Misc. craft Supplies *Potting Soil *Grass Seed
Scoop out some of the potato before you give it to the children. Let the children make a face with the pipe cleaners, yarn and eyes. When they have finished add the soil and grass seed, when the grass grows your potato has hair.

Flowers

Growing flowers

*Styrofoam cups * popsicle sticks (painted green) * flowers made from construction paper

Pock the popsicle stick through bottom of Styrofoam cup. Glue flower to stick. Stick can be raised through the cup as if the flower is growing.

Daffodils

*Yellow Crepe Paper *Yellow Cupcake Paper *Green Pipe Cleaners

Roll up a little ball on one end of the pipe cleaner so that when you stick it through the flower it won't just fall out. First cut the shape of the "back" of the daffodil...or approximately

anyway. Put a small hole in the center for the pipe cleaner. Cut the cupcake paper in half. Roll it till you can glue the pleated edges together, making the part of the flower that sticks out in front (we called it the "trumpet"). Make a hole (or sort of open the one that's there) and put the pipe cleaner through both parts of the flower; glue the "trumpet" onto the back of the flower. We also added a little edge of orange with markers to make them look like the variations of daffodils.

Sunflowers

*Paper Plates *Construction Paper *Glue *Yellow Paint
*Sunflower Seeds

Have children cut out several yellow petals and paste on small paper plate previously painted yellow. Fill center with sunflower seeds.

Cereal Flowers

*Paper Plate *Green Construction Paper *Glue *Green Pipe Cleaners

Paste colorful cereals on paper plates in the shape of flowers. Add pipe cleaner stem and leaves cut out of construction paper.

Popcorn Flowers

*Popped Popcorn *Powder Tempura Paint *Green Construction Paper *Glue *Cardboard

Pop popcorn. Put handfuls of popcorn in plastic bag and add powdered tempura paint to each one. Shake well to distribute paint all over the popcorn. Cut stems and leaves out of green construction paper and glue them to cardboard. Glue on the colored popcorn to make spring flowers.

Flowers

Glue paper cupcake liners on paper. Add stems. Spray some flowery perfume on the flowers.

Spring Flowers

*Construction Paper *Scissors *Glue

Trace around 1 hand on yellow paper, and trace around 1 hand on red paper. Cut them out; these will be the flowers. Cut out a long & short stem out of green paper. Cut out four leaves out of green paper. Glue the cut out hands on the stems on brown paper, add leaves.

Hand Flowers

1. Trace outlines of the child's hand on paper (probably painted by said child). 2. Cut out hand shapes 3. using a pencil roll the fingers up so that they curl up. 4. Curl the hand shape vertically into a sort of trumpet/lily shaped cylinder with the finger curls curling outwards. 5. Staple the flower onto a drinking straw, along with cutout leaves. Four or five of these make a nice bouquet.

Fringed Flowers

*Construction Paper *Straws *Scissors *Glue *Stapler or Tape
Cut out 3 paper circles (same or different colors). Child cuts a 'fringe' around each circle. Put circles together, largest on bottom, smallest on top. Add a yellow smaller unfringed circle or yellow dot sticker to the middle. Staple all together onto a straw as stem. We used to let the children make as many of these as they wanted over a week. We'd also have them decorate a 'vase' made out of a whole and a half paper plate stapled together around the edge. At the end of the week they could put their flowers in the vase (a bit of play-dough in the bottom of the vase made them stay there) and take the vase of flowers home to mommy.

Bugs and Birds

Butterflies

*Food Coloring *Coffee Filters *Eye Dropper or Straws

*Wooden Clothes Pin *Pipe Cleaner

Color small bowls of water with food coloring Using an eye dropper or a straw, scatter drops of colored water onto round coffee filters and watch the colors bleed and blend. While the filters dry draw eyes and body details on wooden clothes pins. Gather each coffee filter up in the center and

clip with the clothes pin. Make antenna for each butterfly by inserting a pipe cleaner into the end of the clothes pin and twisting it secure. Bend the ends of the pipe cleaner to make it look realistic. You can use tissue paper instead of coffee filters for a multi-layered effect. Decorate with sequins and buttons.

Caterpillars

Glue green pom-poms together to make the body shape. Glue to a large paper leaf (with a bite taken out of it) for a before and after exhibit.

Bug Fingers

*Old Gloves *Pipe Cleaners *Scissors *Hot Glue or Tacky Glue
*Misc. Craft Supplies

Cut the fingers off the gloves, they will be the bugs' body. Glue on pipe cleaners for legs, wiggly eyes, pompoms for noses, and feathers on back. (Or decorate as desired).
Makes cute finger puppets.

Dot Butterfly

*Construction Paper *Paint *Q-Tips
Cut out a large white butterfly. Glue a black strip of paper in the center on butterfly. Let children use a Q-tip to dip in paint and "dot" the butterfly wings with color.

Feet Butterflies

*Construction Paper *Paint *Glue *Markers or Crayons
Have children take off shoes, dip feet into shallow pan of pastel paint. Step onto a piece of paper so feet are going outward from the heels together. When dry, add antenna with markers.

Bird's Nest

*Construction Paper *Glue *Cardboard *Yarn *Markers
Use scissors to cut the shapes of birds eggs from construction paper. Glue the eggs onto cardboard. Glue short strands of yarn under the eggs for a nest allow them to dry completely. Use markers to draw tree branches around the nest and speckles on the eggs. Draw leaves or use real ones, or felt to

make leaves on the branches. Variations: Wash and dry pieces of real eggshells. Glue them on top of the yard nests. **Talk about the kinds of birds that live in your area. Compare their sizes, shapes, and colors. Take a walk and look for nests in trees. Talk about the materials that birds use to build nests and how high or low the nests are in the trees.

Bagel Bird Feeder

*Bagel *Peanut Butter *Bird Seed *Yarn or String
Have children spread peanut butter on a bagel. When done, dip bagel in bird seed. Attach a piece of yarn and hang outside on tree branches or on fence.

Blossom Tree

*Construction Paper *Glue *Powdered Tempera Paint
*Popcorn
Cut out a brown tree trunk and some branches. Take popcorn and sprinkle pink or red tempera paint on it. Children glue the colored popcorn onto the branches. It should look like a tree with blossoms.

Trees with blossoms

I looked out the window and what did I see? Popcorn popping on the apricot tree! Spring had brought me such a nice surprise, Blossoms popping right before my eyes!
Activity: You could have the children color a bare brown tree truck with branches. Glue popcorn on the branches for the blossoms. Then best of all----you can eat the left-over popcorn.

Clouds and Rain and Rainbows

Rainbows

*red circle 9 " *orange circle 8" *yellow circle 7" *green circle 6" *blue circle 5" *purple circle 4"
Glue the orange onto the red. The yellow onto the orange. the green onto yellow, etc. Let dry, cut in half, glue back to back and hang. It is great because the children do not glue

them directly in the center, so every rainbow has it's own personality.

Clouds

Cut two cloud shapes out of white finger-paint paper. Glue around edges except for a small opening. Children stuff with toilet paper. Dry and hang. Puffy white clouds.

Umbrella Pictures

*Paper Baking Cups *Scissors *Glue *Crayons or Paint *Pipe Cleaners

Cut several baking cups in half, these will be the umbrellas. Glue them on a sheet of paper. For the handles, use pipe cleaners or you can draw them. Draw or paint rain drops.

Clouds with Raindrops

Children glue a umbrella cutout onto a large sheet of paper. Next, let them glue raindrops onto the paper underneath the umbrella. The kids can then paint the raindrops with glue using a paint brush. Sprinkle with glitter so it looks like the raindrops are shiny.

Playing with Clouds

Give each child a large sheet of paper. Put some shaving cream in the middle of the paper. Tell them to imagine that it is a cloud. How does it feel? What color is it? Let them have fun playing with it. It also makes the room smell great!

Paint with Clouds

Give each child a large piece of blue paper. Set out some white paint. Give each child a cotton ball. Let them dip it into the white paint, then press onto the blue paper. They will be painting with clouds!

**A longer and really fun version of the rain poem: Rain on the doghouse Rain on the dog Rain on the duck pond Rain on the log Rain on the grass and Rain on the tree Rain on my umbrella but not on me!

Rainbows

red circle 9 "
orange circle 8"
yellow circle 7"
green circle 6"
blue circle 5"
purple circle 4"

Glue the orange onto the red. The yellow onto the orange. the green onto yellow, etc. Let dry, cut in half, glue back to back and hang. It is great because the children do not glue them directly in the centre, so every rainbow has its own personality.

Clouds

Cut two cloud shapes out of white finger-paint paper. Glue around edges except for a small opening. Children stuff with toilet paper. Dry and hang. Puffy white clouds.

A Branch of Spring

The first spring-like day, collect broken branches with buds on them and put them in a vase of water. What better way to bring a little springtime into your house (and maybe trigger a spring cleaning)?

Hand Flowers

Trace outlines of the child's hand on paper. Cut out hand shapes. Using a pencil roll the fingers up so that they curl up. Curl the hand shape vertically into a sort of trumpet/lily shaped cylinder with the finger curls curling outwards. Staple the flower onto a drinking straw, along with cut-out leaves. Four or five of these make a nice bouquet.

Spring Inside Planting

Cut off some carrot tops and put each one in a dish with some pebbles. Add just enough water to cover the bottom of the carrot. Hide the dishes in a place where there is not too much sun. In just a few days, the carrot tops will begin sprouting and turn into plants.

Puzzle Trees

Found a great easy activity for spring, you know those puzzles that seem to always have missing pieces (like the 63 piece one that only has 40 pieces left LOL) Cut out the trunk of a tree with limbs glue this or even staple it to another piece of paper (yellow makes a great back ground colour) and glue the puzzle pieces to the branches of the tree. This could also be used during the fall.

Tulip Cups

Have child make a tulip or make for them (from construction paper). Glue the cut-out of tulip on the top of a tongue depressor. Cut a slit in the bottom of a Styrofoam cup. Slit should be large enough for the tongue depressor to slide through. Pull the tongue depressor down far enough so you cannot see the flower in the "pot". Talk about how the flowers need sun and water to grow. As you talk about things that plants need, slowly push the tongue depressor up and the tulip will be "growing".

Flowers

Materials:

crepe paper in many colours
green and brown construction paper
florist's wire
paper towels
scissors, tape, non-toxic glue

Directions:

Twist the paper towel into a ball. Tape this to one end of a strip of wire. Cut out 2 1/2" petals from crepe paper. Stick a small piece of tape near the bottom of the petal. Tape the petal on the wire, below the ball of paper towel. Place several petals on the wire until the flower is as big as you want it. Cut a long strip of green crepe paper. Wrap this strip around the wire from top to bottom. Cover the wire with the paper. Tape it so it cannot unravel. Cut leaves from the construction paper. Dab glue on leaves. Attach to the stem of the flower. Make several different flowers. Use many colours.

Make a bouquet. Place flowers in a vase.

Umbrella

You will need:

1 piece of const. paper for each child in the class

glue or glue sticks

assorted colours of tissue paper

tape

Make an umbrella handle and put it on the bulletin board. Put enough pieces of paper so that each child has one on the floor. The pieces should all go together to make the umbrella. Some pieces of construction paper had rounded edges, while the other sheets were still the full 9 x 12 shape. Give each child a piece of const. paper and a glue stick. Children should be instructed to tear the tissue paper into small pieces and glue onto the construction paper. When they were done, let them dry. Once dry, call the children to the bulletin board and have them tape their piece of the umbrella on.

Daffodils

Supplies:

Yellow Crepe Paper

Yellow Cupcake Papers

Green Pipe Cleaners

Roll up a little ball on one end of the pipe cleaner so that when you stick it through the flower it won't just fall out. First cut the shape of the "back" of the daffodil...or approximately anyway. Put a small hole in the centre for the pipe cleaner. Cut the cupcake paper in half. Roll it till you can glue the pleated edges together, making the part of the flower that sticks out in front (we called it the "trumpet"). Make a hole (or sort of open the one that's there) and put the pipe cleaner through both parts of the flower; glue the "trumpet" onto the back of the flower. We also added a little edge of orange with markers to make them look like the variations of daffodils.

Bird's Nest

Supplies:

Construction Paper

Glue

Cardboard

Yarn

Markers

Use scissors to cut the shapes of birds eggs from construction paper. Glue the eggs onto cardboard. Glue short strands of yarn under the eggs for a nest allow them to dry completely. Use markers to draw tree branches around the nest and speckles on the eggs. Draw leaves or use real ones, or felt (whatever) to make leaves on the branches. Variations: Wash and dry pieces or real eggshells. Glue them on top of the yard nests. Talk about the kinds of birds that live in your area. Compare their sizes, shapes, and colours. Take a walk and look for nests in trees. Talk about the materials that birds use to build nests and how high or low the nests are in the trees.

Popcorn Flowers

Supplies:

Popped Popcorn

Powder Tempura Paint

Green Construction Paper

Glue

Tag board or Cardboard

Pop popcorn. Put handfuls of popcorn in plastic baggies and add powdered tempura paint to each one. Shake well to distribute paint all over the popcorn Cut stems and leaves out of green construction paper and glue them to tag board. Glue on the coloured popcorn to make spring flowers.

Spring Butterflies

Supplies:

Food Colouring

Coffee Filters

Eye Dropper or Straws

Wooden Clothes Pin

Pipe Cleaner

Colour small bowls of water with food colouring Using an eye dropper or a straw, scatter drops of coloured water onto round coffee filters and watch the colours bleed and blend. While the filters dry draw eyes and body details on wooden clothespins. Gather each coffee filter up in the centre and clip with the clothespin. Make antennae for each butterfly by inserting a pipe cleaner into the end of the clothespin and twisting it secure. Bend the ends of the pipe cleaner to make it look realistic. You can use tissue paper instead of coffee filters for a multi-layered effect. Decorate with sequins and buttons.

Caterpillars

Glue green pom-poms to a large paper leaf (with a bite taken out of it) for a before and after exhibit.

Spring Flowers

Supplies:

Construction Paper

Scissors

Glue

Trace around 1 hand on yellow paper, and trace around 1 hand on red paper. Cut them out; these will be the flowers. Cut out a long & short stem out of green paper. Cut out four leaves out of green paper. Glue the cut out hands on the stems on brown paper, add leaves.

Wind Socks

Supplies:

Paper Lunch Bag

Construction Paper

Crepe Paper

Scissors

Glue

Misc. Craft Supplies

To make a windsock, cut off the bottom of a paper lunch

bag. Decorate the bag with glitter paint, neon construction paper, stickers, etc. Then attach crepe paper streamers to one end of the bag. Attach a construction paper handle to the opposite end of the bag.

Fringed Flowers

Supplies:

Construction Paper

Straws

Scissors

Glue

Stapler or Tape

Cut out 3 paper circles (same or different colours). Child cuts a 'fringe' around each circle. Put circles together, largest on bottom, smallest on top. Add a yellow smaller unfringed circle or yellow dot sticker to the middle. Staple all together onto a drinking straw as stem. We used to let the children make as many of these as they wanted over a week. We'd also have them decorate a 'vase' made out of a whole and a half paper plate stapled together around the edge. At the end of the week they could put their flowers in the vase (a bit of play dough in the bottom of the vase made them stay there) and take the vase of flowers home to mommy.

Rain Sticks

Supplies:

Cardboard Rolls - Wrapping Paper Rolls work best

1 1/2 inch nails

Dried Peas

Masking Tape

Stuff for Decorating

Cover the end of the cardboard roll with masking tape and then poke in one and half inch nails randomly all over the tube so that they go all the way into the tube but not out the other side. You'll need to use quite a few to get a good sound effect. Then you put about a half a cup of dried peas in the tube (you really need to experiment with the number

of nail and amount of peas to see what produces a good sound) and tape up the other end. Then you let the children decorate the outside of the tube however they like. You can use paper, fabric, leaves, acorns, bark, etc. Some children like to use Indian designs, but others just do their own thing.

Bug Fingers

Supplies:

Old Gloves

Pipe Cleaners

Scissors

Hot Glue or Tacky Glue

Misc. Craft Supplies

Cut the fingers off the gloves, they will be the bugs' body.

Glue on pipe cleaners for legs, wiggly eyes, pompoms for noses, and feathers on back.(Or decorate as desired).

Makes cute finger puppets.

Seed Squiggles

Gather several types of seeds, wax paper, spring, and glue in squeezable bottles. have the children squeeze glue onto the wax paper to make a design approximately 4" to 5" long.

Have them sprinkle the seeds onto the glue. Let them dry, shake off any extra seeds into a bowl. Have the children gently peel their seed picture from the wax paper. Tie a string to each and hand from the ceiling.

Umbrella Pictures

Supplies

Paper Baking Cups

Scissors

Glue

Crayons or Paint

Pipe Cleaners

Cut several baking cups in half, these will be the umbrellas.

Glue them on a sheet of paper. For the handles, use pipe cleaners or you can draw them. Draw or paint rain drops.

Clouds with Raindrops

Children glue an umbrella cut-out onto a large sheet of paper. Next, let them glue raindrops onto the paper underneath the umbrella. The kids can then paint the raindrops with glue using a paintbrush. Sprinkle with glitter so it looks like the raindrops are shiny.

Paint with Clouds

Give each child a large piece of blue paper. Set out some white paint. Give each child a cotton ball. Let them dip it into the white paint, then press onto the blue paper. They will be painting with clouds!

Games & Activities

Puddles

I made pretend puddles using cardboard and aluminium foil (to use in the block area and at various parts of the room). Just take small or large, depending on where you will use them, pieces of cardboard and then cover them up with aluminium foil. This is great to use in the block area. Or if you do make a big one use it for music and movement time. Have the children jump over the puddle, walk around the puddle, etc.

Flower Shapes

Use coloured construction paper to make different styles of flowers from shapes such as circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles. Glue each flower to an index card or piece of tag board. Cut out identical set of the shapes that were used to make each flower. Place the second set of shapes in a resealable storage bag and staple one side the bag to the back of the matching flower card. Give each child a flower set and explain that they are to make the flower shown on the card from the loose pieces in the bag. When each child is finished have them exchange with another child. (laminates for further usage)

Fabric Flower Match

Gather several types of fabric scraps in different patterns.

Make pairs of flowers by cutting each piece of fabric into two flowers. Glue each piece of fabric to tag board. The flowers do not need to be the same shape. Show the flowers to the children and let them find matches. Place the flowers in a basket so they may try it during free play.

Spring Cleaning

Every year I let my children have buckets of water, squirt bottles, rags, feather dusters, dusting rags etc. I allow them to scrub down chairs and tables, dust, squirt the windows and wipe them down. The children love to do this ! We have given a bath to each toy and baby in the centre, we got a little wet but that is half the fun.

Playing with Clouds

Give each child a large sheet of paper. Put some shaving cream in the middle of the paper. Tell them to imagine that it is a cloud. How does it feel? What colour is it? Let them have fun playing with it. It also makes the room smell great!

Rain

How about some water play? I filled the buckets from our sand and rice table with water. Add some plastic boats and cups, put smocks on the kids and let them have fun! They loved it. Just remember to lay down a plastic sheet under the kids' feet (I used an old shower curtain we had at the school).

Sensory Table

Place several types of seeds, leaves and buds in the sensory table along with magnifying glasses. Allow the children to observe the small details of seeds, leaves and buds. Later in the day I ask them to describe details they have seen.

Dramatic Play

Set gardening toys out for the children in the playground. Talk about their uses and demonstrate. Let the children create their own play from here.

Science

Materials Needed:

Sponge

Grass seeds

Hand out the supplies. Have the children put seeds on the damp sponge. Set them in sunny window. Keep moist.

Recipes & Snacks

Yogurt Popsicles

1 carton vanilla yogurt

1 can (6 ounce) concentrated fruit juice,
(unsweetened (orange works well)

dash of vanilla and/or honey (*do not use honey if giving to
children under 1 year)

Mix well and freeze in moulds (3oz paper cups can be used).

For handles, insert wooden sticks of spoons when mixture is
partially frozen.

For single servings mix some plain yogurt with pureed canned
or ripe fruit, or a spoonful of jam or jelly, in a small paper cup.

From DLTk

Daffodil Egg Carton Craft

Children under 4 can easily paint the cup for the daffodil, but the rest pretty much needs a child who's age 4 and up.

This is a great craft to do with the Mary, Mary Quite Contrary nursery rhyme, but it's also a nice spring craft.

Personally, my favorite use for it is as a bouquet of crafted daffodils in a hand decorated jar served with breakfast in bed (to me!) on Mother's Day *grin*.



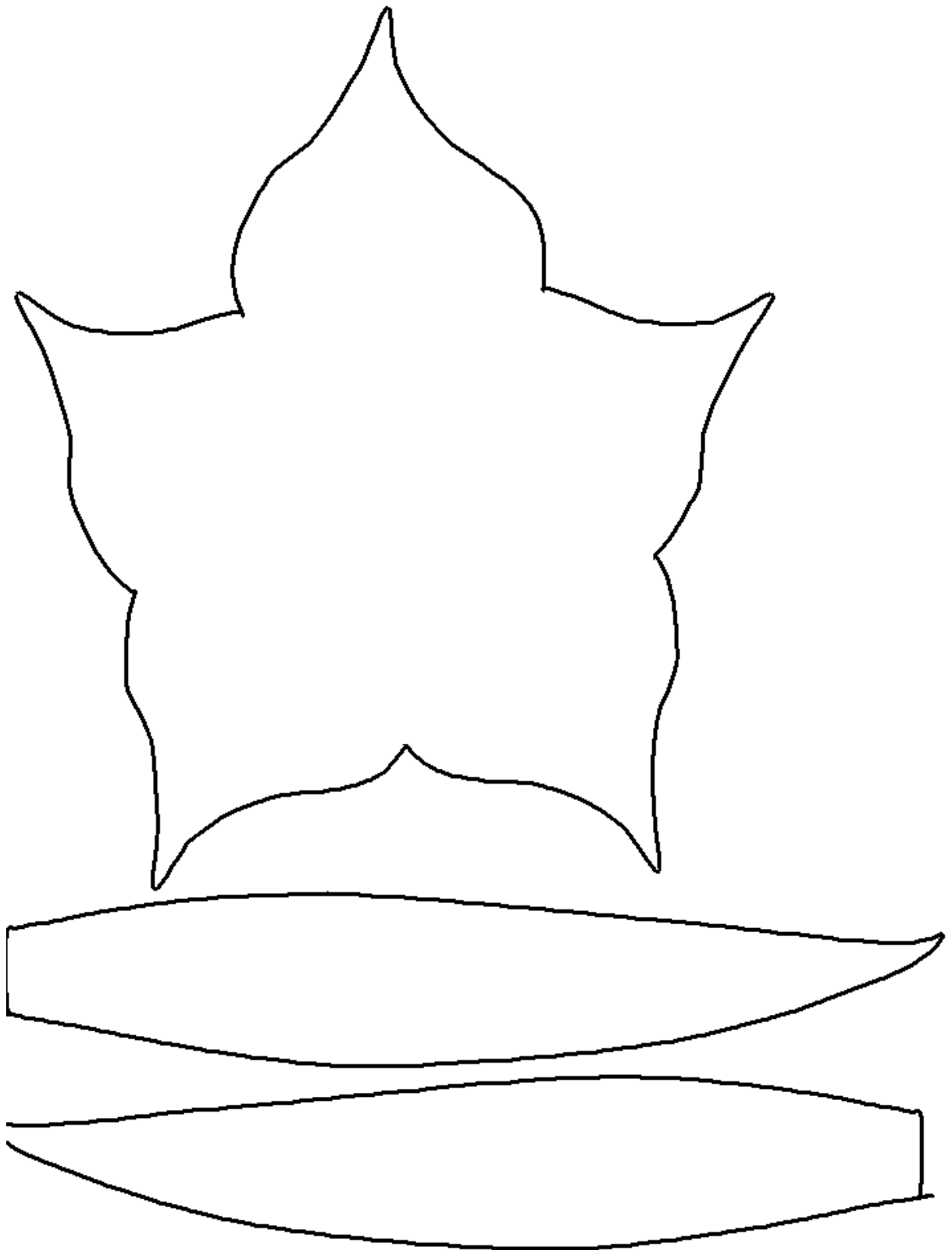
Materials you will need for the daffodil are

- an egg carton cup. Cardboard works far better as poster paint won't stick to the Styrofoam. If you're using Styrofoam, just leave the cup white.
- Yellow paint (if you chose to paint the cup)
- glue or tape
- green construction paper
- printer and white paper
- **CARDBOARD ALTERNATIVE:**
 - this is the alternative that we used.
 - instead of printing out the colour templates, print out the black and white template and trace it onto a piece of cardboard.

- Let the children use this cardboard template to trace the shapes onto coloured construction paper.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Print out the template of choice and cut out the template pieces (at this point you can use the cardboard alternative if you desire).
- Colour or paint the template pieces as required.
- Take a whole sheet of construction paper and roll it as tight as you can into a tube
 - the kids won't be able to roll it too tightly... that's ok, just have them do it as tight as they are able.
 - Oh, the look of concentration you'll see during this step... you'd think they were performing brain surgery!
- Glue or tape the construction paper so it stays as a tube. We found that tape worked better.
- Flatten and tape the end of the end of the tube so you have a surface to attach your flower to.
- Cut a single egg carton cup from the egg carton. Trim the edges so they aren't jagged.
- Paint the egg carton cup yellow.
- Paint the inside too!
- Glue the petals to the flattened part of the green tube
- Glue the egg carton cup to the centre of the petals
- Glue the leaves onto the tube toward the bottom of the "stem" (if you'll be making a jar full of these as a bouquet, you'll want to put the leaves a bit higher up the stem).



This is a good lesson for **teaching colors and texture**. Children can use a variety of materials including muffin liners to create a spring picture. This is a simple, multi step craft that can be spread out over a week, if you want, or you can do the prep work yourself and have the children construct their pictures in one session."

Materials: Brightly colored muffin liners (a variety of sizes)

Popsicle sticks painted green

Leaves (can use real, silk or cut from anything)

Grass (I use the green shredded stuff that goes in Easter baskets, or you can use scraps of green tissue paper)

Finger Paint, blue, yellow, green

Circular object for the sun.

Description:

1. Day 1: I take my kids out for a walk in the springtime and we play games such as **I Spy** to take note of what we see outside. On windy days, we notice the cloud patterns and on nice days, we notice the clear blue sky. I also get them to use their 5 senses to describe what they notice outdoors. This is a good way to introduce the craft.

2. Day 2: Indoors, I mix colors and show the children what new colors are created when you mix them together. On heavy paper, have children finger paint a clear blue sky or add drops of black to make a stormy blue-grey sky. On the bottom half of the paper, have the children finger paint a green bottom. Let these dry. As an added painting

activity, give the children a number of Popsicle sticks to paint green. Let these dry for next day.

4. Day 3: Have the children take their green Popsicle sticks and put a drop of glue on the top. Take a large muffin liner, stretch it out a bit and affix it to the top of glue. Put a small drop of glue in the middle of the large muffin liner. Take a smaller muffin liner and affix it in the center of the large muffin liner. You have just made a pretty flower. Repeat the process. Let these flowers dry.

Take your large sheet of paper and spread glue on the green section using your fingers or a paint brush. Sprinkle your green grass basket filler over the glue. Glue the backs of your Popsicle flowers and affix them onto your grass. Glue your leaves on. Let your creations dry.

5. Day 4: By now your creations should be completely dry. You may notice that some of your green basket filler is loose in some places. You can glue these down and give extra glue in some places. This is where the individuality of the creation comes through. The kids can use them to make sun, using any method they want. Let dry.

6. Day 5: Your creation should be completely dry now and ready to be displayed on your spring theme bulletin board. These creations are so colorful and so beautiful when they are finished. Parents also love them!

Comments: Depending on the age group, this activity can take a long time or can be done in two days. I think this activity would be

ideal for any age group that is studying a spring theme.

Sensory Painting With A Scent

Children incorporate their sense of smell in an activity often associated with touch.

Materials: Paper (prefer stiff)
Several flavors of Kool-Aid
Paint brushes

Description: Mix each flavor in a separate container with about half a cup of water. Allow the children to paint on the paper with the brushes after dipping them in the flavored water. The painting looks just like watercolor paints and it smells so good. Actually the whole art area smells great! The children love dipping their brushes in and smelling them before they paint, they try to guess what flavor it is. They come up with some pretty interesting guesses.

After the painting has dried the children can scratch their painting with their finger and smell the paint on their picture. Just like scratch and sniff stickers.

Comments: The children love this. They are excited to be able to paint with a drink they often have. The colours are perfect for spring too because they are watercolour and appear pastel. It's also a really cheap activity because the drink mix is very inexpensive.

A Note of Caution: The diluted Kool-Aid stains clothing and countertops / tables. Children should wear smocks to protect their clothes.

Spring Bulletin Board

During this preschool activity teachers can encourage appropriate behavior, color recognition, name recognition, discussion on spring and how plants and trees begin to grow after the winter.

Materials: Bulletin board, large piece of brown paper, assorted smaller colored paper, scissors, leaf and flower patterns.

Description: Teachers place on the bulletin board a large tree cut out of the brown paper, making sure you have a branch for each child in your class. Write the children's names on the branches. Trace the leaves and flower patterns onto construction paper, the older children can do this themselves. Next, ask the children to cut them out. With the leftover brown paper, make two barrels one for each side of the tree. Place the leaves and flowers in the barrels.

During circle time talk about how the tree is bare and what happens to trees in the spring? Why does this happen? What can we do to our tree to make it look like it's spring? Ask the children about the branches? What is on them that is not on the trees outside? Have them identify their names. Go over the colors of the flowers and leaves, are the leaves all one shade of green? Why not? Can there be more than one shade of a color?

Next explain how the children can add leaves and flowers to the tree by doing their very best at school, following the rules, cleaning up centers, and doing their best on papers or crafts. At the end of each day have the children who have had a good day choose

a leaf or flower to put on their branch. Encourage everyone to participate so that the class tree can become big and full by the end of the month.

Cooking: Ice Cream Sundaes

Young children create their own ice cream delights using fine motor control during this fun activity.

Materials: Ice cream, assorted ice cream toppings, assorted sprinkles, cool whip, cherries, nuts, eatable bowls.

Description: We do this for our spring parties. We allow the children to make their own ice cream sundaes and they have an absolute ball. They are able to add their own toppings as much or as little as they want. The only thing we as grown up do is to put the ice cream into the eatable bowls because the ice cream is frozen and too hard for the children to scoop. Both the parents and the children enjoy this extremely well.

Photosynthesis

During this preschool curriculum activity students learn about the four elements (soil, sun, water, seeds) necessary for plant growth.

Materials: Poster board, colored markers, empty seed packet, (pictures of the type of seeds you are planting are great for later recognition of the plant), Styrofoam cups, potting soil, seeds, water, plastic wrap and a sunny window.

Description: Discuss the four elements needed to grow a plant. Soil, seeds, sun and water. Enlist the

students to help draw a sun in the upper corner of the poster board. Make sure there are plenty of "rays" extending down the poster.

Draw in the soil (brown) on the bottom 1/5 of the poster. Starting on the left side, draw a black seed in the soil. Draw more seeds every few inches, but including some (green) "growth" in each until you have drawn a sprout.

Extend a few of the yellow sun's rays all the way down from the sun to the sprout.

Add water drops (blue) and a sprinkling can just above the sprout. The class/child can color in the objects. Display the poster in a prominent place in the classroom/study room.

Next, use the cups and soil to help students plant seeds in their own cup. Add a few tablespoons of water, and cover with plastic wrap. Set in a sunny window for a few days (keep warm at night). When the plants sprout, uncover. Review the steps each day to remind students to water their plants.

Grass Heads

During this Spring curriculum activity youngsters will have the opportunity to grow their own grass head and be responsible for watering it daily.

Materials: Old pair of nylon legs, grass seed, soil, small plastic containers (,jar or cleaned cat food tins),

elastic bands, googly eyes (the ones you sew on), pipe cleaners and a spray bottle.

Description:

1. Cut nylon at the knee
2. Scoop in 1 tbsp. grass seed
3. Scoop in preferred amount of soil / compacted (size of a softball). Work the soil down to foot of nylon into shape of a head.
4. Tie the open end of the nylon tight (snip excess nylon and leave about 3 inches dangling).

OPTIONAL:

5. Have the children pinch the soil through the nylon to make it easy to tie an elastic around for ears and nose.
6. Sew on googly eyes.
7. Make glasses out of pipe cleaners
8. Place grass head on top of small container (have excess 3 inch nylon dangling into the container)
9. Pour in 1/2 inch of water in bottom of the container every couple of days.
10. Spray water gently over grass seeds on top 2 times each day.

WATCH THE GRASS GROW and watch the children enjoy creating there own hairdo's.

Paper Plate Umbrellas

Combine movement with this easy hands on art and craft activity.

Materials: Large paper plates, markers and crayons.

Description: Give each student a paper plate with a small hole poked in the middle. Let the youngsters decorate the backs of their plates with crayons or felt tip markers. When they have finished, have them stick their index fingers up through the holes in their plates to make the umbrellas.

Comments: Walk around in a circle saying this rhyme:

It's raining, It's raining,
Oh me, oh my!
But our umbrellas will keep us dry!
Lots of Windy March and Rainy April Weather

Game: Caterpillars and Butterflies

Annette P. developed this game from a poem that she found on the Preschool Rainbow. Young children join a group, take turns and use gross motor skill as they run around a circle and find their place again. This is very challenging for the children in Annette's class.

Materials: A circular mat to sit round, a large model butterfly suitable for the children to hold.

Description: Sit together in a circle and recite and act out the poem **Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar**. At the end choose one person to get up and fly round the circle holding the butterfly model.

Fuzzy wuzzy, creepy crawly
Caterpillar funny,
You will be a butterfly
When the days are sunny.
Winging, flinging, dancing, springing
Butterfly so yellow,
You were once a caterpillar,
Wiggly, wiggly fellow

Little fuzzy caterpillar
In your warm cocoon
The cold winter's over and you'll be hatching soon.
Then you'll spread your wings
On a warm summer's day
And wave us all good bye
As you fly, fly away.

Kites!

Preschool and kindergarten children have the opportunity to develop pre-writing skills through tracing a diamond during this early childhood activity by **Kim**. Patterning is reinforced using coloured bow tie pasta to create the tail.

Materials: Diamond tracing pattern, crayons or markers, pencil, coloured bow tie pasta, paper and glue.

Description: The children use a pencil to trace the diamond on paper. Once they have traced their diamond they can colour their kite any way they choose. Next, the children use the pasta to create a pattern on their kite tail. The pasta is glued in place on the tail and the children draw on their paper.

Comments: The activity works very well with a mixed age group of children.

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Ashlee offers this suggestion saying, "What I did was put every other letter green and blue. Blue symbolizes the showers and green for the flowers. Then to add detail, I cut out big rain drops to give to each child to personally decorate themselves. If you can fit their names on the rain drops, it turns out awesome with some glitter. Next have your class make some flowers for the rain to fall on.

Seed Squiggles

Gather several types of seeds, wax paper, string, and glue in squeezable bottles. Have the children squeeze glue onto wax paper to make designs approximately 4" to 5" long. Have them sprinkle the seeds onto the glue squiggles. Tell them to leave the extra seeds on the paper until the glue is dry and then shake the excess seeds into a bowl. Have the children gently peel their seed squiggles from the wax paper. Tie a string to each squiggle and hang from the ceiling.

Design a Flower Garden

Provide a large sheet of white bulletin board paper, crayons, and an assortment of rubber stamps and different coloured ink pads. Use art materials to design and create a flower garden.

Decorate Flower Pots

Collect enough small clay flower pots, one for each student. Spray paint them white. Provide glue and cups of beans of various types. Have the students put dots of glue on their flower pots and glue the beans onto the pots.

Flowers: Provide coffee filters, pipe cleaners, water colour paints, brushes, and containers of water (Enough materials should be provided so that each student may make several flowers). Have the students paint the coffee filters as they wish. When the filters are dry, the pipe cleaners should be attached to the filters. Put the flowers in the students' clay pots when finished.

Glitter Flowers

Provide each student with glue and an assortment of construction paper and glitter in various colours. Have the children make a stem design using glue. Sprinkle green glitter on the glue, shake the excess off. Have them make a flower design with the glue. Sprinkle on any colour glitter they desire. Add petals, and leaves.

Garden Stepping Stones

Materials

Bag of cement
(premixed - just add water)
small, durable mementos to place in cement
(use rubber frogs and bugs, etc.)

round 9" disposable cake pans
(check to make sure children's feet fit in these, if not,
use a larger size)

Directions

Mix cement with water according to directions on bag. Pour in tins. Let it sit until it is firm enough to hold a print. Place child's foot in centre of tin and smoosh! (Try to not go all the way to the bottom) Place small mementos around foot print. Cement is hard to write in, but you can try initials and the date. Let set. Cover with water to cure according to package directions. Let these set for a few days before removing from the tins. These can be buried in the garden as stepping stones, left out on the deck, or anywhere outside. Once hard, they are quite durable!