

Our preschool students learn best by exploring and engaging in their environments. They develop their language skills by talking about and sharing what they are doing. They make sense of their world by playing in it (ie- the laundry rooms we set up in dramatic play). Taking time to sit and play with your children and allowing their play to unfold naturally is one of the best ways you can support your child's development. You can help guide and extend your child's play by asking questions such as: "What will you use this toy for?" "Who do you want me to be?" "Who are you pretending to be?" (baker, chef, waiter/waitress). In our classrooms we provide children with multiple opportunities to practice new skills and activities. We hope that children will find favorite activities from this list to play/engage in over and over again.

Please choose one or two of these activities to do with your child each day this week. We love to see what you are working on. Please share photographs of you and your child engaging in these activities to us via seesaw. **Please share at least one photograph with us via seesaw each week!**

This Week's Theme: Spring

Let's Play Literacy Games

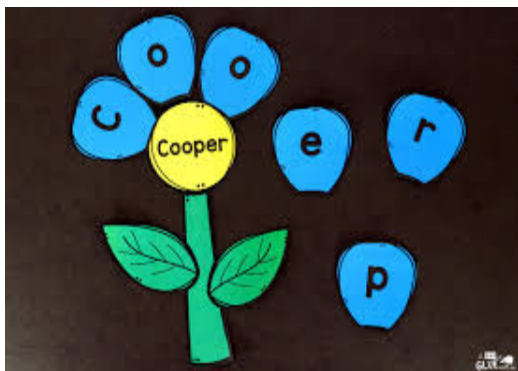
Name Flower petals

Materials needed:

- Paper (construction preferred)
- markers/crayons
- Glue or tape, kids' scissors (optional- adults could do cutting)

Directions:

- Cut out one stem and flower petals for your child's name (one petal for each letter in his/her name)
- Have your child write the letters of their name on the petals- pencil first is best, then trace in crayon or marker
- Glue or tape the stem and flower petals onto paper to make your child's name!



- To make this activity less challenging: adult writes the letters and child traces (or hand-over-hand)
- To make this activity more challenging: **Word Flowers**: instead of child's name, you could write words that start with a letter (i.e. in the center of flower letter "Mm": mud, milk, Mom, etc.)

Alphabet Scavenger Hunt

Materials needed:

- Just a piece of paper and a pencil, crayon or marker! (and maybe a clipboard if you have one) OR- click on [this link](#) to print the scavenger hunt free printable

Directions:

- Go on a scavenger hunt outside and inside for things that start with each letter of the alphabet and you and/or your child records them on a sheet of paper.



Don't forget to send us a list of what you find!

Rhyming Games #1: "Get Out of the Wagon!" (less challenging- *eliminate one word that doesn't rhyme*)

Materials needed:

- Any kind of box, wagon, large bowl, etc.
- Items around the house or printed pictures (or actual words written and cut out if your child is a reader). If you have a printer, you can find the [free printable here](#).

Directions:

- Put three items in the box/basket (two that rhyme and one that doesn't)
- Have your child pull out all three, name them, and pull out the one that doesn't rhyme

Rhyming Games #2: "What's in My Bag?" (more challenging- *producing rhyming words*)

Use any kind of bag that is not see-through, and put items from around the house inside. Suggestions can be found on this [link](#). Have your child close his/her eyes, pull an item out, name it, then say a word that rhymes with it.



Let's Play Math Games

Snack Shop

Materials needed:

- bowl of food: grapes, pretzels, goldfish, etc.
- numeral cards

Directions:

- Ask your child to take two **small** handfuls from the bowl of food
- EITHER put both small handfuls on the table and count altogether OR count the number in each hand and then add the numbers together
- Challenge: after adding the two small groups together, find the numeral card!
- Words you can use to help support your child's learning: group, more, less, add, equation, total, sum

Missing Number

Materials:

- numeral cards 0-10 or 0-20

Directions

- 1st: spread out all of the numeral cards and then lay them in order from 0 - 20 (0-10)
- 2nd: close your eyes, and then have a family member remove 2-4 numbers
- 3rd: tell your grown up which numeral card is missing?
- Challenge: family members take 2 consecutive cards (ex. 1__ 4 5 6 7 __ 10)

Number Stones

Last week you worked hard to build the letters in the alphabet! This week we want you to try to build numbers!

Materials

- Number cards (with or without dots) **from last week. Print here if you didn't make them this week. If you do not have a print make with paper and markers, or index cards
- Rocks (or other items from nature)



Directions

- Take your number cards outside. Mix them up so they are not in numerical order. Place the cards number side down on the pavement. (Be sure to have your rocks close by)
- Flip over 1 number card and make that number with the rocks.
- Flip another card and make that number.
- Try to make numbers each day this week. Try using other items from your yard OR from inside your house.

Variation:

Make number cards 0-20 and try building 2 digit numbers!

Be sure to take photos of the numbers you create and share them with us via seesaw!

Let's Create and Explore!
(STEAM Activities- science, technology, engineering, art, math)

Celery Coloring As spring continues, more and more plants are beginning to grow (April showers bring May flowers). But, what do plants need to grow? Sun, soil, air, and water. Plants absorb the water through their roots, and the water flows up through veins in the plant. We can really show this absorption with celery.

Materials: Leafy celery stalks, water, food coloring, tall cups

Directions:

1. Fill cup(s) half-way with water and several drops of food coloring
 - a. If using paint, dilute and mix the paint very thoroughly
2. Place a celery stalk (the leafier, the better) in each cup.
3. Leave the celery sitting in the water for 48-72 hours, and observe how the leaves change.
4. Cut the celery stalk to see how pronounced the veins are, as the food coloring has filled and stained them.

Note: For an extra unique result, cut the stalk $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ length-wise, starting from the bottom. Then, place both sides of the stalk two separate cups with different, contrasting colors (red/blue works best, from my experience).



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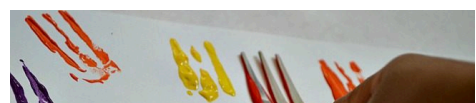
Fork Tulip Paintings

Materials

- Paint (store bought or homemade *see below for recipe if you want to make your own paint*)
- Forks (disposable or metal...please know they will get covered in paint)
- Q-tips
- Thick white paper

Directions

- Firmly press the prongs and base of your fork into paint
- Press the paint covered fork onto paper to make the petals of a tulip (you have to sort of roll the fork down/back to get the whole fork print)



- Once all your tulip petals are stamped, use a q-tip to add the stems and leaves.
- You can even add some little bugs, or butterflies

You can also use your fingers to add fingerprint insects!

Don't forget to send us a picture of your painting if you make one!**

Homemade Paint

Materials:

- Mixing bowl
- Measuring cup
- Food coloring
- Storage containers (squeeze bottles, tupperware)
- Flour
- Salt
- Water

Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, combine even parts of water, salt, and flour. ie: 2 cups of water, 2 cups of salt, and 2 cups of flour. Pour into a storage container with a lid such as a tupperware container. (divide into even amounts to make multiple colors)
2. Place small drops of food coloring in each bottle/container.
3. Shake the bottles to mix the paint.
4. Continue adding food coloring until desired shade is achieved.
5. Paint as usual! Paint will completely dry on paper.
6. Store the paint with the lids on top.
7. Paint will separate after sitting. Simply shake the bottles up again and they will be as good as new!



Lets Connect!

Connect in the Kitchen and **Make Edible Bird Nests!**

Ingredients:

- 5 large shredded wheat biscuits (can substitute chow mein noodles, crackers, vermicelli, etc.)
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- ½ cup chunky peanut butter
- Jelly beans, chocolate eggs, or mini marshmallows

Materials:

- Nonstick muffin pan
- Measuring cups
- Bowls
- Microwave

Directions:

1. Crush wheat biscuits in bowl
2. Microwave chocolate chips for 1 minute and stir until smooth
3. Add chunky peanut butter to chocolate until combined well
4. Pour mixture over biscuits and mix well
5. Press mixture into nonstick muffin pan (or coat with nonstick spray)
6. Use the back of a spoon to make a divot in the center
7. Refrigerate for 2 hours
8. Fill with jelly beans and **EAT your Creation!**



Make a Bird Feeder

Materials:

- Empty toilet paper roll
- Honey or peanut butter
- Bird seed
- String or Ribbon
- Scissors
- Plate or plastic container



Directions:

1. Pour bird seed onto a dish or in a square plastic container (one that the toilet paper roll will fit into)
2. Thoroughly coat the outside of the toilet paper roll with honey or peanut butter
3. Roll the sticky toilet paper roll in the bird seed - make sure the roll is completely covered and there are no empty spots
4. Let rest for a time
5. Cut a length of string and thread through the toilet roll and tie a knot at the end
6. Hang your bird feeder in your backyard
7. **Watch the birds feast on your creation! Take pictures of the birds!**



You can also hang without a string or ribbon!

For a “how to” video, follow this [link](#).

Sing with Me!

“Puddles” (sung to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”)

Rain is falling, rain is falling,
From the sky, from the sky.
Raindrops making puddles,
Raindrops making puddles,
All around, all around.

Raindrop puddles, raindrop puddles,
One the ground, on the ground.
Let’s go puddle jumping,
Let’s go puddle jumping,
All around, all around.



Fine Motor Activities

Cutting Nature

Materials

- kid safe scissors, a bucket,
- a bin or [water table](#) (without the water)
- a yard to gather things to cut

Directions

1. Walk around your yard or neighborhood and look for objects to cut. Gather items such as leaves, grass, dandelions
2. Bring your findings back to your bin or water table and dump them out.
3. Start cutting. While you cut together talk about what you are cutting, explore with your senses. Invite your child to smell the items (especially the herbs if you had some) and crush



some in his/her hands. Talk about which things were easy to cut such as flower petals and which were harder to cut like the stem of a dead daffodil.

Art



[Coffee Filter Monsters](#)

Gross Motor Activities

Gymnastics lesson from Mr. Shoenfelt! - [Watch this video](#) to see 2 different “weight transfer” challenges...the donkey kick and the monkey jump!

Spring Time Yoga - Please click the link to access some spring themed yoga cards that are a great indoor activity when we have tons of rain! [Spring Time Yoga](#)

- Mrs. Bartha