



Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids

SPARK Family Newsletter: May, 2020

April Showers Bring May Flowers!

Flowers are starting to bloom. This is a great time to talk with your child about flowers. Talk about the parts of a flower (roots, stem, leaves, petals), as well as what flowers need to grow (soil, water, sun).

Make cupcake flowers: Encourage your child to create their own flower that has all four parts. Use cupcake liners, popsicle sticks or straws, crayons, markers, paper, and tape or glue. You can decorate the flower with pom-poms, sequins, buttons, and beads.

Have your child sort out the items they want to put in the middle of the cupcake liner. It's great fine motor skills practice! They can count the items, describe them, and even make a pattern with them. Glue the items in the middle of the cupcake liner. Next, glue or tape the flower onto the popsicle stick or straw. There's no right way to do this activity; enjoy your child's creative process.

Go on a flower hunt, Tape or staple toilet paper rolls together to make "binoculars." Bring your binoculars and a notebook as you go for a walk. Describe the flowers you see. Dandelions are yellow and they fan out. Crocuses are purple and they look like cups. Compare and contrast the different flowers. Each time you see a new kind of flower, add it to your list, or ask your child to draw a picture of it.

Make a nature table/bin: Have your child collect items on your walk. Make a space at home where your child can display them and look at them anytime.

Make pebble flowers: Collect small rocks and pebbles, and have your child paint them. Then arrange them into flower shapes and glue them onto paper.

Plant your own flowers! Explain to your child that we need bees and butterflies to pollinate the flowers, so our food can grow. Have fun deciding which kinds of flowers you'll grow, and then order some seeds. Make planting day a special celebration. As the flowers grow, have your child help you take care of them and chart their growth. You can visit <https://www.nwf.org/Butterfly-Heroes/Pledge.aspx> to order free seeds to be delivered to your door. This site also lets you take a pledge to help the butterflies.

Make a kitchen scrap garden: For each kind of seed, you'll need labeled a zip-close bag, paper towel, water, and tape. Wet the paper towel, place the seed in the paper towel, and zip shut. Tape the bag in a window or other sunny place. After a few days, the seed will sprout. When it's big enough, transplant to a bigger container, like a soft drink bottle or jelly jar. Add dirt to cover the seed, and water the sprout. Cover with plastic wrap to make a greenhouse, and transplant it outside when the weather warms up.



Song: I'm a Little Daisy

I'm a little daisy,
Tall and slim.

(Stand on tiptoes)

Here are my petals,
(Place hands on side of head & wiggle fingers)

Here is my stem.
(Hold arms down at sides of legs)

When the sun comes up,
(Make sun with arms)

And the rain comes down,
(Flutter hands to floor like rain, and end in crouching position)

I grow, grow, grow up from
the ground!
(slowly raise up bring hand over head)

**Do the motions while you watch
the video together online!**
bit.ly/littledaisysong



Online Activities

Remote learning resources: [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)

Animated educational site: [brainpop.com](https://www.brainpop.com)

Support for families affected by COVID-19: [healthyathome.readyrosie.com](https://www.healthyathome.readyrosie.com)

Lots of resources for families: [starklibrary.org/home/about/covid-19](https://www.starklibrary.org/home/about/covid-19)

Online storytimes by the world's best storytellers: [storylineonline.net](https://www.storylineonline.net)

Follow the **Early Childhood Resource Center** on Facebook for lots of fun activities and storytime sessions from around the globe.

And follow SPARK on social media:

- Facebook: @SPARKOhio
- Facebook: @SPARKOHStark
- Instagram: SPARKOhio
- YouTube: SPARK Ohio



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