

Fun with Toddlers: Spring Theme

Crafts

Paint with Flowers. Use carnations as paint brushes!

Coffee filter butterflies. Put out small containers of liquid watercolor or food coloring mixed with water. Children dip a q-tip in the color, then touch it to the coffee filter to decorate it. Then you clip the coffee filter with a clothespin body, add googly eyes and pipe cleaner antennae.

Painted flowers. Let your child paint paper, a paper plate, or a paper cup. Then you cut it into a flower shape, add a stem and leaves.

Printed flowers. Cut the stalks off a bunch of celery and print with the base or use the base of a plastic bottle.



Activities

Garden Sensory Bin. Fill a tub with potting soil or something representing dirt (black beans, brown cloud dough). Add plastic plants, plastic bugs, a trowel and a hand rake.

Catching Bugs. Put out plastic bugs or pompoms to represent bugs. Give your child tongs to catch them.

A Springtime Walk. Go on a walk with your child, and notice signs of spring

Songs to Sing

The Garden Song (Inch by Inch) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3FkaN0HQgs>

Inch by Inch, Row by Row. Gonna make this garden grow.
All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by Inch, Roy by Row. Someone bless these seeds I sow.
Someone warm them from below till the rain comes tumbling down.

A Little Drop of Rain Hits the Ground (Tune: If you're happy and you know it)

First a little drop of rain hits the ground. (Tap one finger on your palm.)
Then another drop of rain hits the ground. (Tap two fingers on your palm.)
Then another and another and another and another. (Tap more fingers till whole hand clapping quietly.)
And pretty soon you hear a different sound. Splash! (Clapping, ending with one big dramatic clap.)

Rhyme to Say

This is a nest for a Bluebird *cup both hands*. This is a hive for a Bee *fists together*
This is a hole for a bunny *Fingers touching*. And this is a house for me. *Finger tips together for roof peak*

Here is a beehive. *Fist* But, where are the bees? Hidden away, where nobody sees.
Soon, they come creeping out of the hive... *lift up fingers one by one*. 1,2,3,4,5 -- buzzzzzz! *Buzz as you tickle*

Books to Read

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Over in the Meadow. There are several illustrated versions of this classic counting rhyme. Try Evans or Wadsworth's editions. (I also really like Over in the Ocean by Berkes.)
- It's Raining, It's Pouring by Davenier. An illustrated companion to a beloved children's song.
- Mouse's First Spring by Thompson. Mouse and Momma go for a walk. A nice companion to your walk!

More ideas (and source citations) at: www.pinterest.com/bcparented and www.GoodDaysWithKids.com.