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Preschool Theme Kits

SPRING



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ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS
HANDBOOK**

FOR YOU: a copy of these activities
is available in back of this notebook.

Welcome to the *Spring* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

Related Activities

-Fun and Games-

PLANT A SEED

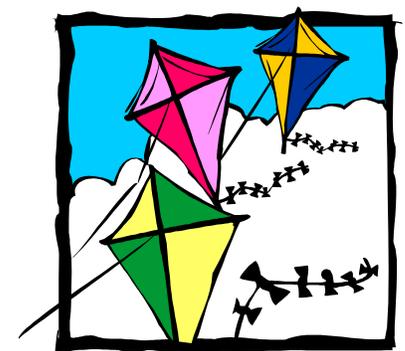
After reading **Growing Vegetable Soup**, children can fill a peat or styrofoam cup (poke a hole in the bottom first) with soil. Plant two seeds: bean, pumpkin, lettuce or whatever you choose. Wrap the bottom with aluminum foil so the children can water every 2-3 days. Place your "vegetable" garden in a sunny location and wait for sprouts. You can transfer hardy seedlings or send them home in a few weeks.

FIELD TRIPS **

Spring is a great time to take field trips. Round up some parent volunteers and head to the park, a nursery, the zoo, a farm or kite store. Be sure to call ahead if you have over five children in your group. The facility will appreciate it and may have special programs designed for children's groups. *Alternative:* Walk in your neighborhood. Notice signs of spring: trees, bushes, flowers budding; animal activities, neighbors working on homes and yards. Give children small plastic bags to collect small signs: dandelions, twigs with swelling buds, etc

KITE MAKING *

Windy spring days are a great time to make kites. Paper grocery bags can be cut into springtime shapes such as butterflies and clouds, or simply cut into circles and decorated by the children. Crepe paper streamers can be stapled to the edges of the kites. While homemade kites can be difficult to fly, you can have one or two inexpensive commercially made kites and teach the children to fly them.



A TIME OF SHARING

If you have older children in your care, let them read **Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble** to the younger ones. You can read it through with the older child first, or give them time to practice, and then have the pleasure of reading it to others.

**Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

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THE BEST OF TOTLINE NEWSLETTER

The adult resource in this kit is a treasure trove of easy, attractive learning activities. In the Learning Games chapter, try the Flower Games (p. 140) and Clothesline Ideas (p 141). In Clotheslines Fun, you make clothing shapes, using the patterns available, and have the children play different games while hanging the paper clothing on a clothesline.

There are Earthday and Science activities in the April *My World* section (p 116 to 119). Make rainbows, indoor terrariums and hatch out a butterfly. The book is arranged by months of the year, but there are many activities, such as rainy day movement, songs and crafts that work year-round (in the Northwest!).

Each month has art, learning games, My World, movement, music, and themed activities appropriate for preschoolers.

MAKING VEGETABLE SOUP

After reading **Growing Vegetable Soup** you can make soup too! Let the children wash 5-8 vegetables, then chop them and put in water to cover. Bring to boil, add bouillon (if you have it) and other herbs for seasoning.

Let simmer 20-30 minutes. Add rice or noodles 15 minutes before finish. Cool slightly and serve with bread and butter or crackers.

RAIN PAINTING *

Shake dry tempera paint onto paper. Make the shakers out of any small container with a lid that you can poke holes into. Use more than one color for a great effect. Place the papers outside on a flat surface on a rainy day. Watch the picture emerge!

Spring Theme Kit

Questions or Suggestions:

Call the Youth Services Dept.
at (360) 384-3150

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

SPRING SONG 1 *

To tune of Frere Jacques

I see robins, I see robins,
Butterflies too, butterflies too.
Everything is growing.
Wind is gently blowing.
Spring is here,
Spring is here!

SPRING SONG 2**

Also to tune of Frere Jacques!

It is springtime, it is springtime.
Winter's gone, winter's gone!
Summer time is coming
Summer time is coming.
It won't be long, it won't be long.

I HEAR THUNDER

Are you ready for a third song to Frere Jacques! This one has motions.

I hear thunder, I hear thunder
Hark don't you? Hark, don't you?
Pitter-patter raindrops,
Pitter-patter raindrops.
I'm wet through. So are you!

FLOWER GARDEN

Sung to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell

The farmer plants the seeds
The farmer plants the seeds,
Hi-ho, the derry-o, the farmer plants
the seed.
The rain begins to fall, etc.
The sun begins to shine,
The plants begin to grow,
The buds open up
The flowers smile at me

RAINDROPS

Raindrops, raindrops falling
all around.
Pitter patter on my head;
Falling to the ground.
Here is my umbrella,
It will keep me dry.
When I go walking in the rain,
I hold it up so high!

RAIN

Rain on the green grass,
Flutter fingers from high to low
And rain on the tree,
Raise both hands to form a tree.
Rain on the roof top
With hands above head, form a roof.
But not on me.
Point to self.



Drum feet on floor
Pretend to listen
Flutter fingers down

Shake body, point at each other.

Leader pushes each child down.

Make rain motions
Make circle with arms overhead
The children rise slowly
Children spread out arms
Everyone smiles.

Flutter fingers downward

Softly tap head
Touch fingertips to floor
Hold hands over head

Raise "umbrella" up high



How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.