



Spring Outdoor Learning Activities

It's getting lighter and maybe even a little warmer. Signs of new life are everywhere. It's a great time to go outside and explore as the world wakes up. Here are some great ideas to try with your little ones this spring. Just remember to dress appropriately!

Start a flower garden. Packets of seeds can be picked up relatively cheaply at bargain shops, supermarkets or garden centres. You could choose a specific spot in your garden, or mark out a section solely for your child to create their own garden. Alternatively, plant your seeds in pots. Talk about what plants need to grow and the importance of looking after them.

Visit a local farm that caters for visitors and find out about what spring means to farmers. This may mean planting new crops or the birth of baby animals. Some farms even hold special 'lambing weekends' where visitors can see lambs being born. Check out the Farming and Countryside Education website for more information.

Go to the local park, woodland or out into your back garden. Give everyone a set amount of time to collect five unique natural objects such as pebbles, twigs or leaves. Bring them back to a central location and then talk about what they look like. For example, an unusually shaped pebble could look like a tortoise, a shoe or a mobile phone!

Make the most of rainy weather! Dress appropriately and have fun splashing in puddles. Draw a chalk circle around a puddle and then investigate what happens to it once the rain has stopped. Look at waterproof materials – which material is best to keep an old teddy dry on a rainy day?

April showers can often lead to rainbows. Children can make their own colourful rain art by drawing a design on a paper towel using water-soluble felt tips, then taking the paper towel out into the rain and observing what happens. Bring the towel in again and let it dry, before having another go with a different design.

Go on a spring hunt. Talk about the signs of spring and then look for new buds and shoots, baby animals and other signs of spring. Take photographs and make a book all about spring.

Make an Easter bonnet using only natural materials. You can use an old sunhat, or basic Easter bonnets can be purchased from craft stores. Go outside and gather materials to use. Remind your child to be respectful of the environment and not to take from people's gardens.

Grow some vegetables. You may have the highest success rates with green beans, courgettes, potatoes and lettuce. If space is limited, plant your seeds in pots. As the plants grow, encourage your child to take responsibility for looking after them.

Go and look for frogspawn in your local pond or lake. Talk about the life cycle of frogs and perhaps find some pictures in a book or on the Internet. Remind your child about safety around water.