



Flowers Theme

April showers, bring May flowers...

Spring provides opportunities for digging into learning more about flowers.

Language & Literacy

Books

Planting a Rainbow

by Lois Ehlert

What Does Bunny See? A Book of Colors and Flowers

by Linda Sue Park

The Reason for a Flower

by Ruth Heller

The Tiny Seed

by Eric Carle

Grow Flower, Grow!

by Lisa Bruce

Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays

Five Little Zinnias

Five little zinnias growing out side my door,
I picked one for Grandma, now there are four.
Four little zinnias, the prettiest I've seen,
I picked one for Grandpa, now there are three.
Three little zinnias, just a lovely few,
I picked one for Mommy, now there are two.
Two little zinnias reaching for the sun,
I picked one for Daddy, now there is one.
One little zinnia, a colorful little hero,
I picked it just for you, now there are zero!

Read the Five Little Zinnias Poem: Cut out felt flowers to use with the flannel board and let kids pick them off.

A Little Garden Flower

A Little Garden Flower

A little garden flower

Is growing in its bed.

(make a fist with left hand)

A warm spring sun

Is shining overhead.

(Form circle with right thumb and finger.)

Down come the raindrops,

Dancing to and fro.

(Flutter right fingers downward.)

The little flower wakens

And starts to grow.

(Slowly extend pointer finger up from left fists.)

Adapted Traditional

Activities

How Does a Flower Begin?- Ask the kids what a flower starts out as??? A seed! Show them different flower seeds let them touch them and experience their size and texture. Explain to them that just like flowers are all different so are their seeds.

How Does a Flower Grow?- Show the children pictures of a flower in different stages of growth. Show them pictures or a poster of the things flowers needs to grow such as water, soil, and sunshine!

Math & Number Concepts

Flower Size Sequencing- Print a copies of the **Flower Size Sequencing** printable from the **Theme Enhancement Page**. Invite the children to color then cut on the lines. They can glue them on a green piece of construction paper in the correct order from smallest to largest.

Art

Make Flower Seed Collage Pictures-

Supplies: A variety of flower seeds, a flower outline printed on paper, glue.

Directions: Have the children glue the flower seeds on the picture to fill it in. Show them how to get different looks by using one kind of seed for the center of the flower and another kind of seed for the petals etc.

Child's Hand Lily- Trace each child's hand. Cut out the hand shape, curl it inward and staple shut. Staple stems made from paper onto the bottom and add some paper leaves if desired.

Pretty Flower Pots (Use this idea for a mothers day present by printing on each pot, "Mom's are the Flowers in the Garden of Life.")

Supplies: Small clay pots, a variety of small silk flowers, a ribbon or bow twisted to floral wire (one per child), and green play dough.

Directions: Provide each child with a clay pot, several flower stems (you may have to cut them down to size before hand), a chunk of green play dough, and one of the ribbons. Demonstrate to the children how they can place the play dough in the bottom of their clay pot, and then they can poke the flower stems

and ribbon wire into the play dough. You can write the kids names on the pots with a paint marker or permanent marker.

May Day Baskets- Make tissue paper flowers by layering tissue paper squares and folding them accordion style like a fan. Fold that in half and wrap pipe cleaner around the bottom of the fold. Then separate the tissue paper layers spreading them out to look like a carnation. Have each child make three or more and then put them in a cone shaped construction paper basket. Explain to the children about May Day and how you can leave the basket on a friend or neighbors door as a spring surprise.

Dramatic Play

Garden Center: Set up a store area, have some fake flowers for the children to use in their play, some garden gloves, and an apron. Ask a local garden center for some of the plastic plant packs that the flowers come in. Complete the center with child sized garden tools, buckets, aprons, and garden gloves.

Music & Movement

The Flower Song- a You Tube video about flower colors.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBoHLblicxY>

Science & Sensory

Life Cycle of a Seed- Look at the life cycle of a seed with the children. If possible have some live flowers to look at. Point out the petals, stem, and roots. Discuss the function of each part.

Flower Planting Experiment

Supplies: One small pot per child, potting mix, several child sized trowels and watering cans, marigold seeds, and sunflower seeds.

Directions: A head of time have the children predict which will sprout first, the marigolds or the sunflowers. Record their predictions. Then provide each child with a pot. Let them come to the discovery table one or two at a time to fill their pot with potting soil (print their names on pop-sickle sticks and poke in the dirt). Then invite them poke three to four sunflower seeds in the soil and sprinkle some marigold seeds on top, then slightly cover it with a dab more dirt. Set the pots in the discovery table or on a large tray and water them. Make sure to cover them with plastic wrap at night and place the whole thing near a window. The children can then water them daily and observe what happens to their seeds. You may want to have them create little journals where they can draw pictures of their flower growth.

Plant a Garden Outdoors- or provide play rakes, wheel barrels, and such for a pretend garden.

Sunflower Seeds- Fill the discovery table with unshelled sunflower seeds. Provide the children with measuring cups, spoons, and pie tins.

Blocks & Building

Add some bright colorful blocks to the block & building area.

Technology

Here is a fun flower game!

<http://www.thekidzpage.com/freekidsgames/games/flipflop/childrens-game-flowers.html>

Cooking & Snacks

Worms in the dirt! Chocolate pudding with crushed Oreo cookies, whip cream, and gummy worms, let the kids plant flower shaped candies in the dirt too!

Sun Flower Seeds

Bulletin Boards

"Growing a Garden of Artists!" -Put this caption up on a bulletin Board that displays children's art. Let the children create one of a kind flowers by dropping water colors on coffee filters or squirt painting flower shapes cut from construction paper. For added fun cut pictures of each child in a circle shape and glue them to the center of the flower each child created.

Write your ideas here...