

# Spring Into Literacy

Spring is a great time to bring the outdoors in and spend time outdoors learning. Explore items in nature by labeling things that you see, what you hear, what's changing, different textures and smell the fresh scents of nature. While exploring outdoors let your child choose what to explore, ask open ended questions, e.g. Where do you think the bug is going?, touch, lift and look under things and point out new things that they may not have noticed.

## Seed Book

The book is made with real seeds, seed packets, and zipper sandwich bags. The children will be able to see the seeds along with pictures of the food or flower they come from. They can compare the variations in colours, sizes, and shapes of the different types of seeds.

**How to make the book:** Open a seed packet and pour them into a ziplock sandwich bag. Place the seed packet in the bag along with the seeds so the children will have a picture of the food or flower the seeds come from. Staple them together on the zipper side. Then, take two sections of 3 bags and staple them together. Six pages (five plus the cover page) are about the right number to staple together; more will be too thick. Make the spine of the book with duct tape, covering the staples so they won't be sharp.



## Chalk Treasure Hunt

Prepare treasure hunt prompts, with a few questions of things to hunt for and chalk circles to gather the finds in. Read the clues and set off on a hunt.



## Letter Clip Match

Cut out fun foam flowers and print lower case letters on with permanent marker. Then print upper case letters on clothes pins and use them to match to the flower letter.

## Insect Song

Sung to: "The Wheels on the Bus"

The firefly at night goes blink blink blink  
Blink blink blink blink blink blink  
The firefly at night goes blink blink blink  
All around the town.

The bees in the flowers go buzz buzz buzz...  
The ants in the grass go march march march...  
The crickets in the leaves go chirp chirp chirp...  
The caterpillar in the field goes creep creep creep...



## Greenhouses

Lightly wet 2 cotton balls or a folded paper towel and place in a sandwich size ziplock bag. Place seeds in the bag. Can use pinto seeds presoaked in water for 5 hours. Staple or tape the bag to your child's paper greenhouse (as shown in the picture). Hang in a window and watch them grow.

<http://sommerpride.blogspot.ca/2014/03/greenhouses-freebie.html>

