



CHILDCARE/PRESCHOOL



Spring Ideas for a Preschool Classroom

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Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance (Song of Solomon 2:12-13a, NIV).

Spring is here--well, more or less depending on where you live. If it hasn't arrived yet, you know it is coming soon. Spring is a wonderful time for nature exploration. The trees are leafing out, flowers are starting to blossom and the grass is getting green.

Take advantage of all that is happening around you, and share with the children the joys of spring and God's creation.

1. Take a nature walk around your school or neighborhood. Give the children bags to collect items they find. Bring them back to your class and explore the texture, smell, and color of the treasures. Look at their difference and similarities.
2. We have all probably grown dried beans and popcorn. Just put them in a zipper-style plastic storage bag with a damp paper towel. Tape them to a window, or place on a window sill and watch them sprout. It's a great way to show how God planned for the plants to get everything they need. You can explain how the roots drink the water with the nutrients they need and how the sun turns the nutrients into food for the plant.
3. Teach the children how to plant seeds in soil and watch for the sprouts to break through. Try growing something edible. Cherry tomatoes are fun or try some herbs. Mint, basil, chives or cilantro grow easily and are fun for the children to pick a piece and eat.
4. Give the children half of an egg shell, and let them spoon a little bit of soil into it. Then, sprinkle grass seed on the soil. The children y can carefully draw a face on the shell or put a pair of googly eyes on the shell. Lightly water the soil. In no time at all you will have a cute character with a head full of green hair. The child can give the new character friend a haircut with scissors or wait to see how high "the hair" will grow.
5. Another great growing project is to start some flowers to give to Mom for Mother's Day. The flowers can be grown in any container you have. Let the children decorate the container to make it a gift Mom will love.
6. Since there are so many things to grow, the possibilities are endless. If you want to extend the learning further, why not demonstrate how plants drink with a stalk of celery or a white carnation. Cut off the end of the celery stalk or flower. Place it in a container of water with food coloring mixed in it. You will see the colored water going up the veins of the celery stalk to the leaves. It will make a pretty colored carnation (also a nice Mother's Day gift).

Whatever you are planning this spring, be sure to add some nature exploration. The children will love it!