

CIRCLE TIME IDEAS

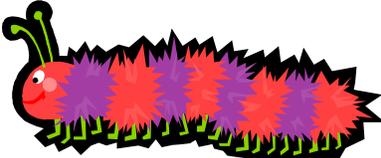
~APRIL~



Spring is in the air! In Spring, the earth begins to warm significantly & creating new plant growth. What a great time to plant a garden together! Spring is also a time to fly kites, enjoy colorful rainbows, sing in the rain and splash in the puddles!

April 22nd is Earth Day! Earth Day is a day to remind us to take care of our Earth. We reflect on our planet, our environment, and learn what we can do to help keep the earth healthy.

SONGS & RHYMES

<p>Planting Song (Tune: The Farmer In The Dell)</p> <p>The farmer plants the seeds The farmer plants the seeds Hi, Ho and Cherry O The farmer plants the seeds</p> <p><i>Other Verses:</i> The rain begins to fall.... The sun begins to shine.... The plants begin to grow..... The buds all open up..... The flowers smile at me.....</p>	<p>A Flower Song (Tune: The More We Get Together)</p> <p>If I could be a flower , a flower, a flower If I could be a flower, what kind would I be?</p> <p>A daisy, a pansy, a tulip, a lilac, If I could be a flower, I would be a _____! (child fills in the blank)</p>
<p>Little Fuzzy Caterpillar</p> <p>Little fuzzy caterpillar In your warm cocoon The cold winter is over And you'll be hatching soon! Spread your wings On a warm spring day Wave goodbye to us And fly, fly away</p>  A cartoon illustration of a fuzzy caterpillar. It has a red body with purple and pink fuzzy spots. It has two antennae and a smiling face. The caterpillar is shown from a side profile, facing left.	<p>Tiny Blossom</p> <p>Tiny blossom in the sun, Soft and quiet, the only one. Reaching up to sun and sky, Stretching up its leaves so high. Tiny flower, so bright and gay, Fills my heart with joy today! What a funny seed I've found, I wonder what will grow? I planted it in the ground, And now I will know!</p>

A Recycling Song

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Save your bottles, save your bottles,
Save your cans, save your cans
Bundle up your papers, bundle up your
papers,
That's the plan, that's the plan.

The More That We Recycle

(Tune: The More We Get Together)

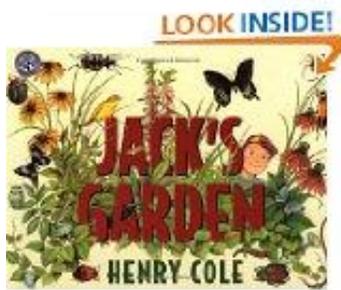
Oh, the more that we recycle, recycle, recycle,
Oh, the more that we recycle,
The happier we'll be.
'Cause your earth is my earth
And my earth is your earth
So the more that we recycle
The happier we'll be.



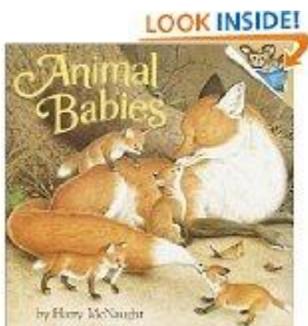
BOOK SUGGESTIONS



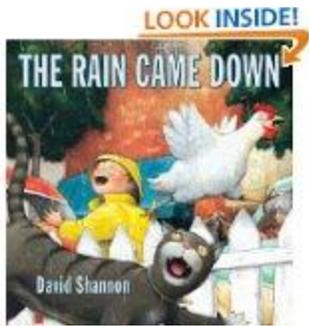
It's Spring!
By Linda Glaser



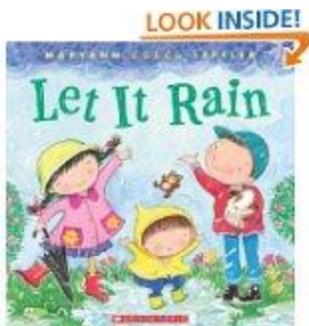
Jack's Garden
By Henry Cole



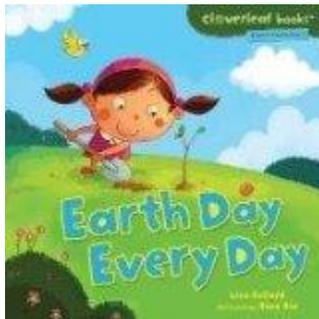
Animal Babies
By Harry McNaught



The Rain Came Down
By David Shannon



Let It Rain
By Maryann Cocca-Leffler



Earth Day, Every Day
By Lisa Bullard

SNACK IDEAS

Celery and Pretzel Butterflies

Cut a small piece of celery for the body of the butterfly. Spread some cream cheese inside of the stalk of celery. Add 4 small folded pretzels for the butterfly wings. Add 2 straight pretzels for antennae.

Butterfly sandwich

Cut a slice of bread in half diagonally. Place a baby carrot in the center of your plate and arrange the two pieces of bread so that the points touch the middle of the carrot. Spread the bread with colored cream cheese (like strawberry) or yellow margarine. For wing patterns, arrange cheerios on the cream cheese. For antenna, use 2 thin pretzel rods.

Caterpillar Fruit Snack

To make a healthy caterpillar snack, get the children to put different cut up fruit onto a wooden skewer (be careful with the points). Challenge the older children to sequence the fruit. On the first piece of fruit, add two raisins for eyes (glue with cream cheese). When the skewer is full, it looks like a long caterpillar.

ARTS & CRAFTS IDEAS

Note: Best practice is to allow children to express their own creativity without using patterns.

Handprint Tulips

Paint palm and fingers any color. Use finger to paint stem and leaves.

Supplies Needed:

- Fingerpaints in a variety of colors
- Poster Board

Button Bouquet

Insert a pipe cleaner through one hole of a button and back through the other. Twist the ends together under the button to make a stem. Bend shorter pieces of pipe cleaners into leaf shapes and twist them onto the stem.

Supplies Needed:

- Pipe cleaners
- Buttons

Coffee Filter Butterflies

Add food coloring and water to glass jars to create a variety of colors. Let the children paint the coffee filter. Once dry, twist a pipe cleaner around the middle. Twist the tops of the pipe cleaners to look like antennae.

Supplies Needed:

- Coffee filters
- food coloring
- glass jars
- pipe cleaners
- paintbrush
- food coloring

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Activity #1: Rainy Day Idea - Laundry Day!

Sort laundry with the children. Encourage them to sort, classify and match various items. Empower the children to fold towels, roll socks and deliver items to the proper owner.

Activity/Game #2: Rainy Day Idea - Indoor Picnic

Surprise your group with lunch on the floor! Spread out a blanket and design a menu of some favourite foods. Sandwiches, potato salad, cheese and crackers, tropical fruit and berries, trail mix, juice boxes and cookies. Pack the lunch in a picnic basket and add some plastic bugs on the floor just for fun!

Activity/Game #3: Garbage Pick Up Day

Explain to children that they can help keep their world looking clean by making sure that trash goes in the waste basket and not on the ground. Organize a day to clean up your neighborhood or play area.

Activity/Game #4: Greenhouse in a Bag

Supplies Needed: Small plastic zip bag, 3 wet cotton balls, 2-3 large seeds or beans

Place the cotton balls in the zip bag with the seeds placed against them. Seal the zip bag and tape it to a window so it will get lots of sunlight. The seed should sprout in 3-5 days. Label days and record what happens on each day. After your sprouts grow at least one inch, you can transplant it in soil, so the plant may continue to grow.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Discussion #1: First Aid Kit

GUIDELINE

Parent Child programs should provide and maintain a first aid kit in a location inaccessible to children. A first aid kit should be available on all children's outings.

Here is a recommended list that your first aid kit should include:

- gauze pads (individually packaged) 2" x 2", 4" x 8"
- gauze bandage (roll) 2" – 1 roll
- band-aids (assorted sizes)
- hypo-allergenic tape
- packets of alcohol wipes or water
- triangular bandages
- scissors
- tweezers
- safety pins
- pencil and pad
- emergency phone numbers
- disposable gloves

Supplies should be checked regularly, replenished and changed as necessary. The following supplies may also be included:

- distilled water (recommended for outings)
- blanket (recommended for outings)
- syrup of Ipecac (This product must be monitored for expiry date, cannot be frozen, and should be used only after a physician or the Poison Control Centre has been contacted.)

