



Everyday and Everyway Talking about... April



April is a busy time for farmers and gardeners. It is the perfect time to talk about planting and growing as well as helping your child to understand new life.

Try these activities, songs, books and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Activities

Out and about

- Visit a garden Centre. Look at the range and variety of flowers and plants on offer. Look at the different sizes of plant pots and the different materials they are made of - try tapping them gently.
- Take a walk through a park and notice the growing grass, variety of colourful flowers and the leaves budding on the trees.
- With the clocks changing to Summer time talk to your child about the brighter evenings and playing outside for a little longer in the evening.

Easter

There are many things to talk about when celebrating Easter.

- Decorate eggs and talk about what happens when you dip a blue egg in red dye or a yellow egg in the red dye.
- Hide the eggs and let your child find them. Talk about where you found all the eggs. This is a good way to practice words like behind, under, beside, on and in.
- Make a bunny ear headband and have your child pretend to be the Easter bunny. Let them hide some eggs around the house.



Farm Animals

Go and visit the Ark Farm or Streamvale Farm.

- Talk about the animals names. Talk about what the baby animal is called.
- Talk about how they feel. Are they soft, fuzzy, rough, hairy or slippery?
- Talk about what you think each animal eats. Maybe you can feed the animals.
- Talk about the parts of each animal. (Does it have paws or hooves? Does it have long or short ears? What kind of tail does it have? What about its nose?)
- Talk about the tadpoles in nursery and their life cycle.



Lots more to talk about . . .

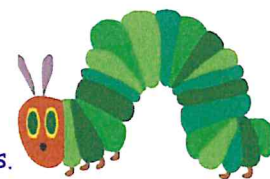
Visit the library and borrow information books on the theme of life cycles eg. frogs.

Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and make a family version based on your favourite fruits and food.

Read *The Tiny Seed* also by Eric Carle and talk about the changes that took place. Discuss the differences between Spring and Summer.

Put on your wellies and go for a rainy day walk. Think about and share all the rainy day words such as splash, pitter, patter, drip, drop, splish, splosh!

Talk about the clothes we wear on a rainy day and help your child to understand the concept of waterproof fabric and clothes



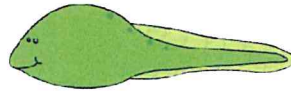
Songs and Rhymes

Five little Froggies

Five little froggies sitting on a well
One looked up and down he fell
Froggies jump high
Froggies jump low
Four little froggies dancing to & fro.
Four little froggies....

Plants

(Tune: The Farmer wants a wife)
The farmer plants the seeds
The farmer plants the seeds
Hi, Ho and Cherry O
The farmer plants the seeds.
The rain begins to fall
The sun begins to shine
The plants begin to grow
The bud all open up
The flowers shine at me.



Do the Raindrops Fall?

(Tune: Do your ears hang low?)
Do the raindrops fall?
Do they trickle? Do they plop?
Can you hear them on the roof -
Drizzle, drizzle, drop, drop.
Can you watch them on the window?
See them falling from the sky?
Do the raindrops fall?

Bears are sleeping

(Sung to the tune of Frere Jaques)
Bear are sleeping, B
ears are sleeping,
In their caves,
In their caves,
Waiting for the Springtime,
Waiting for the spring time
Shh Shh Shh!
Shh Shh Shh!



Five little Peas

Five little peas in a pea-pod pressed
(Clench fingers on one hand)
One grew, two grew and so did all the rest
(Raise fingers slowly)
They grew and grew and did not stop
(Stretch fingers wide)
Until one day the pod went POP!
(Clap loudly on POP)



Singing is a great way for children to learn new words. Don't forget to make up actions for songs.

Children learn through everyday movement. Check out next month's activity page for more ideas.

Growing

Have fun sprouting some shoots of your own. Draw or paint faces on broken egg shells. Keep them steady in an egg carton. Next place wet cotton wool in the egg shells. Sprinkle some cress seeds over the cotton wool. Finally, place your egg shells on a window sill and keep the cotton wool moist. Wait and watch as your faces grow green hair!

Talk to your child about the planting they will be doing at school. Help them to recall the sequence of planting and the things seeds and plants need to help them grow.