



Everyday and Everyway Talking about... March



Spring has sprung! We will be using the theme of Spring on the Farm to introduce your child to different areas of learning.

St Patrick's Day is in March. We talk about rainbows, the colour, shapes, counting and nursery rhymes.

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

Talking & Listening

- Tell your child about the things you enjoyed doing in spring as a child – get grandparents involved in this too especially if they lived in a rural area.
- Encourage your child to tell you all about the visit to the nursery this month of the Small Animals Road Show from the Ark Farm. Look at the photographs which will be on display around the nursery and encourage lots of chat!

Stories

There is a wonderful selection of books available on this theme. Visit the local library or have a browse through the nursery library box. We recommend:

Hello Beaky by Jez Alborough

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Billy's Beetle by Mick Inkpen

Emma's Lamb by Kim Lewis

Floss by Kim Lewis

The Sun & The Wind from In the Meadow by Maurice Pledger



The children enjoy information books especially those with real life photo's such as

Tadpole & Frog by Christine Back and Barrie Watts

Pond Life by Barbara Taylor

Chicks Grow into Chickens by A & C Black



Out and About

- As you walk look for signs of Spring. Help children to notice buds and leaves. Encourage children to listen to the sounds of birds, to observe mini-beasts and insets and to notice the clothes people wear as the days grow warmer.



Nursery Rhymes



Nursery rhymes are silly stories that are fun to read or sing. The stories don't really make a lot of sense. The words in the rhyme are said over and over. This helps your child learn new words and is a great start to phonic awareness, a fundamental skill when learning to read.

- Say the rhymes you know
- Go to the library to find books with new rhymes
- Do actions while you say the nursery rhymes
- Talk about why the rhyme is silly

Practice these at home:

Humpty Dumpty	Wee Willie Winkie
Jack and Jill	Old Mother Hubbard
Twinkle Twinkle	Three Blind Mice
Little Boy Blue	
Baa Baa Black Sheep	
Mary Mary Quite Contrary	
There was an old woman who lived in a shoe	



Counting

Count with your child when she is playing with toys, colouring and reading. The more you count, the more likely he/she will count with you.

Introduce counting by saying "1, 2, 3 go!" before he/she goes down the slide at the playground or before kicking the ball
Count the stairs as you go up and down.
Count the spoons when you set the table.

Songs and Rhymes

Ten Fluffy Chicks

10 fluffy yellow chicks
Pecking here and there
10 fluffy yellow chicks
Running everywhere
10 fluffy yellow chicks
Tired of having fun
10 fluffy yellow chicks
Sleeping in the sun



Five Brown Eggs

(tune of 5 Currant Buns)

Five brown eggs in a nest of hay,
One yellow chick popped out to play.
Four brown eggs in a nest of hay,
Another yellow chick cheep-cheeped Good Day!
Three brown eggs in a nest of hay,
Crack went another one, hip hooray!
Two brown eggs in a nest of hay,
One more check pecked his shell away.
One brown egg in a nest of hay,
The last yellow chick popped out to say ...
Good Day! (or Happy Easter!)

Children learn through every day moments. Check out next month's activity page for more details

Remember to ...

Follow your child's lead

Add new words and ideas

Repeat new words over and over

Little Peter Rabbit

Little Peter Rabbit's got a fly upon his nose
Little Peter Rabbit's got a fly upon his nose,
Little Peter Rabbit's got a fly upon his nose,
And he flicked it and it and it flew away!
Floppy ears and curly whiskers,
Floppy ears and curly whiskers,
Floppy ears and curly whiskers,
And he flicked it and it flew away.



Babies

The duck has a duckling
What does it say?
Quack, quack, quack,
All through the day.
The dog has a puppy,
Bow, wow, wow
The cat has a kitten
Meow, meow, meow
The pig has a piglet
Snort, snort, snort
The hen has a chicken
Cluck, cluck, cluck
The cow has a calf
Moo, moo, moo!

Crafts

The children love making play dough. Here is a quick and easy recipe you might like to try. Try adding lemon essence to give extra sensory dimension.

Play dough Recipe

1 cup water, 2 tablespoons cooking oil, flour as needed, ½ cup salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, food colouring

Instructions

Mix all ingredients in a saucepan and heat, stirring all the time until the mixture is thick. Cool. Knead until the dough is not too sticky. Add more flour as needed. Keep dough in a plastic covered container or a re-sealable bag.