** Nursery – Spring Home Learning Activities - 1**



In nursery during the month of April we usually explore all things Spring. We discuss and learn about new life in our gardens and in the environment around us. This week we will help the children to focus on Frogs and Spring Flowers.

Below are some Spring Learning Activities under the six areas of Learning.

**Personal, Social and Emotional:**

* Continue to encourage your child to explore new learning both indoors and outdoors, exploring in your garden and looking at plants and flowers.
* Continue to develop independence in taking off/putting on own jumpers and shoes.
* Support your child to stay on task when they are playing games and doing activities.
* Teach your child the Hail Mary. In term 3 the children learn Mary’s special prayer in preparation for the month of May. The children will be able to confidently say the Morning Prayer, Angel of God and Hail Mary.

**Language Development:**

* This week watch the following programme related to – Spring

**‘Come Outside – Frogs’** ***this can be found on You tube channel just type this title into the search engine***.

* + You can help **develop language** by talking about frogs:
    - * Where do they lay their eggs?
      * How many legs do they have?
      * What is a baby frog called?
      * Where do frogs live?
      * What sound do they make?
  + Related to the **story** in the programme –
    - * What happened to the frog’s egg in the story?
      * Can you name some of the things the tadpole saw in the pond?
      * What did the frog jump onto when he jumped out of the pond?
  + Related to the programme?
    - * Where did Auntie Mabel and Pippin go to see the big frog?
      * Can you remember the special name of the big frog?
      * What other animals did they see at that place?
      * How did Auntie Mabel say the frog’s skin felt like?
      * What does a frog eat? How does it catch the insects?
      * At the end what flowers could you see beside the pond?
* Continue to develop early writing skills by creating pictures of flowers and images related to the story. Act as a scribe for your child. Write on their drawings what they are about. Use the pencil grip provided in your pack for correct finger placement.
* Remember to continue to **try and** **read daily** with your child, either story books from home, book trust NI or Libraries NI.

**Mathematical Development:**

* This week we continue to focus on the **oval** shape and compare to the **circle** shape of the frogspawn. Encourage your child to create ovals and circles on paper, in flour, cereals or on the ground outside. Have a scavenger hunt in the house and find as many items as you can of the different shapes.
* Use the attached sheet below print and cut out to count on and back when sing the 5 Speckled Frogs song. No way to print don’t worry! Along with your child you can create/draw your own images and cut out.
* Help your child to count items around the house as far as they are confident.
* The story that Auntie Mabel tells talks about **big and small.** Help your child to find items around your house. Name the items. Sort them into items that are **big/small**. Get your child to compare them using the terms **bigger, biggest, smaller, smallest.**

**World Around Us:**

* Talk to your child about all the places frogs can live – ponds, trees, rain forests.
* Talk to your child about what a rain forest is, what other animals might live there?
* Support you child to make a list of other animals that lay eggs.
* Talk to your child about the difference in eggs – some we eat, some are for new spring baby animals.
* Help you child to make their own frogspawn – in Nursery we like to experiment with green/yellow jelly adding chocolate chips to make pretend frogspawn. This allows them to explore textures and tastes. Use this as an opportunity to explore the 5 senses. Touch, Smell, Sight, Hearing, Taste –We visited this topic earlier on in the year help your child to remember what they use for each of these senses – skin, nose, eyes, ears, tongue.
* Have you daffodils or spring flowers in your garden? Get your child outdoors in this week’s great weather. Allow them to smell, touch and play with the plants. If you can spare a flower allow your child to pick it and open it up to look at the different parts of the flower. Help you child to name the parts of the flower. Find out what the flower needs to help it grow.

**The Arts:**

* Draw pictures of frogs on paper or pieces of cardboard(old cereal boxes). Let your child cut them out using the scissors provided.
* Experiment with the colours green/yellow creating pictures of daffodils/frogs. Send your child on a hunt to find items of these colours around your home
* An adult or your child depending on their skills can cut out the images of the frogs/log below. Use for counting and rhyme time.
* *Singing/Rhymes (many of these rhymes are available to watch on the kids you tube zone)*
  + - **5 Little Speckled Frogs**
    - **Little Green Frog**
    - **One little daffodil**

One little daffodil slowly grew and grew, Out popped another, then there were two.

Two little daffodils smiling at a bee, Out popped another, then there were three.

Three little daffodils growing by the door, Out popped another, then there were four.

Four little daffodils, so glad to be alive, Out popped another, then there were five.

Five little daffodils wearing golden crowns, Dancing in the breeze in their lovely green gown

* Fingerplay **Croak, Said the Frog**

Croak said the frog,

(Make croaking sound)

With his golden eyes.

(Fists up to eyes)

Sitting on a lily pad,

Catching flies.

(Grab air with hand)

I have a sticky tongue,

(With index finger make darting motion)

It’s as FAST as can be.

I catch the insects, 1-2-3

* Imaginative play – please read our Play Matters advice posted on the school website.

**Physical Development:**

* Frogs like to jump. Encourage your child to move in a variety of ways.

**Jumping, hopping on one foot, sprint jumps (run and take a jump – how far can you travel), skipping, moving forwards, backwards, sideways, crawling, tiptoeing.**

* Continue to work on the skills we were learning during our fundamental movement programme - **balancing on our feet, feet and hands, one foot, tummy, bottom, knees** etc.
* Before Easter we encouraged you to practice throwing skills with your child, over the next 2 weeks we would like you to continue to practice catching skills using a large ball.
* Please continue to encourage correct pencil grip/scissor grip, allow your child plenty of practice – use the help sheets, pencils and scissors from your home learning pack.

Lots of cutting practice is essential in preparation for going to Primary One.

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**Cut out and use for Five Speckled Frog rhyme.**

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