

Signs of Spring Project : Preschool Lesson Plan

Field Trip Ideas:

- *Nature Walk (look for green, collect rocks)
- *Puddle or Rainy Day Walk (explore puddles and mud)
- *Plant Store (gather supplies for planting or scavenger hunt for colors)

Weekly Learning Plan:

Day of the Week	Activity	Materials Needed
Monday	Pot Planting Science Self Help	Pot, Soil, Seeds Measuring Cups Watering Cans Newspaper
Tuesday	Sorting by Color Math	Spring Items in different colors, ex. Flowers, grass, photos of bugs, birds
Wednesday	Rainy Day Mirror Painting Fine Motor Art Sensory Social	Large Mirror Floor Covering Paint Shirts Blue and White Paint Paint Brushes
Thursday	Exploring Rocks Science Sensory	Buckets of Soapy Water for washing rocks Mirrors Containers of Different Sizes Clay or Playdo
Friday	Making Mud Sensory Social	Dirt or Soil Water Bowls Large Spoons Sensory Table or Tub

Areas of Development: Math | Engineering | Fine Motor | Science | Art | Literacy | Sensory | Gross Motor | Social

Recommended Books:

- *Grow Flower Grow by Lisa Bruce
- *If You Find a Rock by Peggy Christian
- *Beetle Bop by Denise Fleming
- *Spring is Here by Will Hillenbrand



Activity Details

Pot Planting

Set Up: Prepare a planting station for each child and an example station for you. Each should have newspaper to cover surface. Small pot for each type of seed. Packets of seeds unopened, nearby. Have a large bowl or two of dirt with measuring scoops to be shared. Have a watering can on hand.

Activity: Have them scoop dirt into their pot. Demonstrate how to poke a hole for the seeds and then invite them to try. Put seeds in holes. This does not need to be perfect, but try to have them spread out. Scoop more dirt to cover the seeds. Have them fill up watercan (or cup) at sink to water their seeds. Place the pots in a sunny spot.

Clean Up: Wash their hands. Remove pot of dirt and paper from the table. Sweep the floor. Remember to have your child water their plants a few times a week.

Sorting by Color

Set Up: Gather items of different spring colors. If you are able to, do this on a nature walk together. Photos of items work as well, but real materials are preferable. Another option is to sort crayons and then color with shades a chosen color. Depending on your child's age you could pick two or three colors or more if they are older.

Activity: Invite them to help you sort your findings. Start with a color, "I see a green piece of grass, do you see anything green?" and go from there.

Clean Up: Gather materials and place them in a basket on a low shelf for repeated exploration.

Rainy Day Mirror Painting

Set Up: Lay Floor Covering out with mirror on top | Place cups with paint and paintbrushes around the mirror | Have Paint Shirts Available

Activity: Open-ended painting activity. Encourage your child to mix colors and talk about what they are doing. Ex Question – it looks like you are mixing those colors, can you tell me about what you see?

Clean Up: Have child wash hands. Place painting materials on mirror and remove mirror until you have time to wash. Put floor cover in washing machine with paint shirts.

Exploring Rocks

Set Up: Prepare station for child or several children. Each station a mirror with a pile of rocks on top, several containers and ball of playdo or clay.

Activity: 1. Start with rocks and mirrors. Encourage the child to examine rocks. Observe what interests them and ask questions such as "how does it feel on your arm?" "you are looking closely. Tell me what you see"

2. Invite the child to help you sort the rocks. Sort into smooth and rough or my other category.

3. Explore how the texture of rocks interacts with clay. Some things to try: push the rock into the clay.

Build with rocks and clay.

Clean Up: Wash the rocks and store them on the shelf next to the clay for further exploration.

Making Mud

This is messy! It is super fun, but if you are hoping for a little less mess try containing it in a smaller bin or the sensory table. Doing this outside is highly encouraged.

Set up: Gather the materials and have a clean up plan and supplies ready. Are you going to hose your kids off? Put them in a bath?

Activity: Invite your child to help you make mud. Scoop dirt into big bowls or the sensory table. Fill containers with water and pour into the soil. Mix with your hands and spoons. Explore! They are exploring texture, capacity, weight, and more.

Clean Up: Pour mud into preexisting muddy areas (garden?) Hose down what is remaining and your child. Wrap your child in a towel and carry them to the bathtub.