

SPRING ACTIVITIES



Leaf Prints in Dough

(Ages 2-8)

Pick a few assorted leaves. Press them into play dough and then gently remove to see the shape of the leaves. With play dough you can allow the shape to dry out if you like and save the imprints. For a clean, white dough make salt dough, bake the dough, and paint the leaves in later. Or just have fun exploring over and over again with soft dough!

Salt Dough:

4 cups of flour

1 cup of salt

½ cup of warm water

Bake at 225 degrees for 2 hours

Sensory Bin:

There are so many options for bins within the spring theme. You can center your bin around gardening, insects, or flowers. As we plan on having a whole gardening theme here are some other spring themed bins.

Duck Pond Bin: This can be extremely simple. Fill a water proof bin with a fairly shallow level of water. Add rubber duckies. Add in tongs, a few scooping tools, and show kids how to use tongs to pick up ducks. To make this bin more fun you can add some rocks and fake plants around the edges of the bin. You can also add decorative glass gems which always look nice. You can also use the ducks to create sorting games!

Plastic Egg Sensory Bin:

For this bin the goal is to create open play around opening and filling plastic eggs. For a base you can go with a paper grass base, or use a lovely colored rice or anything that can be put or scooped into eggs. Take the lid off of an egg carton and place in the bin to give kids a place to let eggs land. You can paint this and cut the carton to an ideal size. If you have any small "chicks" or other animals that fit in your eggs include those. Add a few items that will be fun to explore filling eggs with and include a few scooping tools!

Hydrangea Bubble Painting (Ages 4-8)

Try making these beautiful spring blooms with some simple bubble making science! The film of the soap carries the paint with it to the surface of the bubbles!

You Will Need:

- Purple and Pink Acrylic Paint
- Dish Soap
- Water
- Cardstock
- Shallow dish
- Straw

1. Mix bubble paint in a wide, shallow dish. Mix 1 part acrylic paint, 1 part dish soap and 2-3 parts water.
2. Once paint is mixed, take a straw and blow bubbles into the paint mixture.
3. Take the cardstock and gently press into bubbles without putting the paper into the dish.
4. You may need to press a few times to get the desired affect.
5. For hydrangeas cut out or let children cut out and add leaves to the bubble clumps using our leaf template.
6. Let children have fun! While it may not look like flowers let kids explore and glue leaves on their "flowers."

Birdhouse Painting (Ages 3-8)

You can buy premade or easy to make birdhouse kits. Let kids paint the birdhouses and hang outside. Watch and see if you have any residents! Note that smaller birdhouses are primarily decorative and may not attract any birds. This is a great opportunity to discuss shelter for birds and what they need for their nests.

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Coffee Filter Butterflies (Ages 4-8)

Try this classic craft that uses the science of water solubility! Think that are soluble (like the ink in washable markers) will mix with the water to form a solution. The absorbent fibers of the coffee filter will disperse the water making beautiful patterns! Read [Farfallina and Marcel](#) while you wait for your coffee filters to dry!

You Will Need:

- Water Soluble Markers ([Washable Mr. Sketch](#) works best)
- White Coffee Filters
- Water
- Eye dropper or something to sprinkle water with
- [Pipe Cleaners](#)
- Optional: [Clothespins](#)

1. Smooth out coffee filter until it's flat on a baking sheet or easy to clean surface.
2. Let children color the coffee filter with washable markers.
3. Fill eye droppers with water and drip water onto the coffee filters.
4. Watch the colors bleed and run!
5. Let dry.
6. Once the coffee filters are dry scrunch together coffee filters and secure with a pipe cleaner. This can be done with a single or double set of coffee filters.
7. Shape pipe cleaners into antenna shapes.
8. Optional: Paint a clothespin black to use as the body and pinch through the center over the pipe cleaner. You can also attach a magnet to the back of the clothespin to have butterfly magnets!

Rainbow Cabbage (Ages 3-8)

Study the capillary action of plants and the way they absorb water! Using food color we can absorb how the water moves through the plant. Cabbage is particularly exciting as the color change is very distinct!

You Need:

- Cabbage Leaves
- Glasses or Jars
- Food Coloring

1. Fill as many glasses or jars as you have colors about half full with water.
2. In each glass put in a few drops of different food colors (you can mix to create more colors) and stir. You will want one color per glass.
3. Add in cabbage leaves. Each leaf will go into a single color glass so you can observe the changes.
4. Observe for a few days. The water will begin to make its way up the leaves bringing the color with it!

Pro Tip: The cabbage leaf is our personal favorite, but this same thing can be done with leaves, white daisies, or celery with the same affect.

The Science: Water moves through leaves to help deliver moisture through out the plant. The small capillaries of the leaves are a lot like the way blood travels through are body to deliver nutrients. By adding food color to the water we can watch the water move through the plant!



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Egg Head Garden (Ages 4-10)

Observe plants grow without even using soil! All these plants need is water, sunlight, and a safe home. Talk about how plants grow in the spring. Read [Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt](#). Then talk about why the cress seeds may not need dirt. Answers: the cotton helps hold it's shallow roots but it doesn't need nutrients from soil like most plants! This is why good sunlight is very important because the sun gives the plant most of it's nutrients!

You Will Need:

- Empty Egg Shells (try to break off at the end instead of splitting down the center)
- Permanent Marker
- [Cotton Balls](#)
- [Cress](#) or Grass seeds
- Empty egg crate
- Water

1. Wash out the eggs and sit them into the egg crate. **Pro Tip:** You may want to place something under the eggs to lift them up a bit to have more exposed egg.
2. Draw faces on the eggs with a permanent marker. You can use googly eyes if you'd prefer, but have fun!
3. Fill a small bowl with water and let children dip cotton balls in water and then place one in each egg.
4. Sprinkle cress seeds all over the cotton balls. You can be generous so that they sprout a full head of hair. (And kids are usually pretty generous!)
5. Place the egg crate in a windowsill or sunny spot for a few days and watch the hair sprout!
6. If the cotton balls dry out you can add a few drops of water, but be careful not to overwater.