

# Theme: Spring Flowers

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Can you jump higher than a rose? Higher than a sunflower? Kids will have fun trying to do this!
- Bean bag toss—make bean bags in the shapes of flowers, using different color fabrics. Stuff with beans and make a fun bean bag toss game—toss them into a large flower pot!
- Relay race—using silk flower blossoms, let the children race each other trying to keep their flower on a large plastic spoon or plastic garden tool!

## Math Activities:

- Count petals on various flowers—which flowers have the most petals?
- What sizes are the leaves? Line them up from small to large, large to small.
- Flower tic-tac-toe: Make a large tic-tac-toe game with flowers as the game pieces.
- Flower bingo: Make a bingo game with small colored flowers (cut from construction paper and laminated—or use large buttons on a bingo game glued to a larger sheet of floral paper—the paper will look like mats for the bingo cards.

## Science Activities:

- Plant flower seeds in styrofoam cups filled with potting soil; set them in the window, water as needed, and let the children watch them grow!
- Examine the different parts of a flower. Take it apart and look at it through a magnifying glass.
- Let the children see what happens to flower petals when you touch them with your fingers. This works especially well with magnolia blossoms—the petals turn dark from being touched.

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- ❖ Try stringing flowers instead of beads to make leis. Children can wear them during a spring “parade” through the house or around the yard!
- ❖ (All art and science activities count as small motor activities in this unit.)

## Snacks:

Let children try tasting radishes that have been cut into “flowers”. After you cut the radishes, put them into ice water to make the flower-shapes look prettier.

Put sliced veggies on each child’s plate and let them make “flowers” with their veggies before dipping into ranch dip and gobbling them up!

Let children decorate sugar cookies to look like their favorite flowers.

Cut sandwiches with large flower-shaped cookie cutters to make them more interesting! Put a drop or two of food coloring into milk to add a dash of spring color!

## Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Children will have plenty of opportunity to make room decorations during this unit!

Take a field trip to a local florist or a greenhouse.

## Songs & Fingerplays:

<http://www.angelfire.com/mn/kellyshouse/preschoolroom/themes/flowers.html>

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/sflower.shtml>

## Books:

The Tiny Seed, by Eric Carle

Planting a Rainbow, by Lois Ehlert

Flower Garden, by Eve Bunting

The Reason for a Flower, by Ruth Heller

The Flower Alphabet Book, by Jerry Pallotta

Sunflower House, by Eve Bunting

The Magic School Bus Plants Seeds by Joanna Cole

Emily is a Flower Girl, by Claire Masurel

## Dramatic Play:

- ❖ Add aprons, gardening tools, flower pots, etc., to your dramatic play area. Let the kids scoop potting soil/sand into flower pots outdoors.
- ❖ Have several artificial/silk flowers available, along with an assortment of vases; let the children try their hand at flower arranging! They could “sell” their flower arrangements to each other for play money and get practice counting coins, making change, etc.

## Art:

Let children draw and/or cut out flowers in different colors and shapes to display on the door, the fridge, a window, or a bulletin board.

Paint rocks with flowers, plant names, etc., and let the children use them to decorate the flower garden you have planted together.

Decorate a flower pot to take home. Small terra cotta flower pots are inexpensive and fun to decorate, either with acrylic paints, ribbons, buttons, etc.

Let children cut out a variety of construction paper flowers to glue onto a large sheet of construction paper. They can be glued on randomly, or in the form of a bouquet... complete with ribbon bow!

Help children make flower-shaped napkin rings out of pipe cleaners to use at lunch time!

Color by number. Print a simple flower picture with 5 petals.

Number each petal and let the children color by number. Older children can learn to color the “background” petals first, then top petals.

## Circle Time Activities:

- ❖ Display several flowers for the children to see and smell. Talk about the different colors, the sizes and shapes of the petals, the sizes and shapes of the leaves, describe the stems (tall and stiff, short and soft). Have several different colors of one type of flower, such as pansies, to show children that flowers come in different colors, too. Make a graph to show how many flowers you have in each color.
- ❖ As a group, plant some flowers in a small flower bed or a flower box. They will be excited to show their flowers to their parents each day.
- ❖ Read books about flowers.
- ❖ Talk about what flowers need to grow. This would be a good time to do the science activity listed above, where you let the children plant seeds and watch them grow.
- ❖ Flower sequence cards – Make flower sequence cards showing the different stages of a flower’s growth, from seed to full flower. Let the children put them in the correct order.
- ❖ What is your state flower? Show one to the children and tell them the story of how it became your state flower. (This information should be available on your state’s tourism website, for example, or in the encyclopedia under your state.)
- ❖ Work together to make a large flower bouquet. Cut flowers from construction paper (or fabric spray-mounted onto cardstock); glue flowers to straws, pencils, pipe cleaners—whatever you have available. Put them all together to make a large centerpiece for your snack table.