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May Activity Sheet

Spring Time Fun

Make a walk in the park into a language rich activity

You will need:

- A digital camera,
- A small box, e.g. child's shoe box
- A large sheet of plain paper, e.g. A3 size
- Some glue, or sticky tape, felt pens or pencils



Take the camera or the notebook and pen, and the shoe box, out with you when you take your little one out for a very special walk. You can head to the park, take a walk along footpaths, into the woods, or go to a petting farm.

Spring time is a great time for new things appearing, and everything looks so bright and fresh! This is a listening and looking activity, so be on the lookout for anything that might interest your child, for example, wild flowers such as bluebells, dandelions, blossom on trees, fresh green leaves, newborn lambs, calves, birds. Point things out and say what they are, and take a photo, or write a reminder of what you saw in your notebook. Pick up any little things of interest and stow them in the box, but do not pick the uncommon wildflowers (like bluebells) or take anything which will harm your child or deplete the ecology. Also – Listen out for sounds together: make a note of these in your notebook, or even record them if you can. Can you identify the sound? Hopefully you will hear birds singing, and maybe you will hear some other animal noises, vehicles and people. Listen too for the noises you make, e.g. crackling underfoot as you walk along a woody or stony path, or water tumbling along in a brook – point these out to your child too.



2-3 years: When you get back home, take out the bits and bobs you have stowed in your box and place them on the paper, perhaps stick them, if you can, to make a big picture. Include any photographs you were able to take. As you do this, see if your child can say what they are, but be ready to prompt, as these may be new words for him/her. Talk about where you saw them, and also what you could hear at the time. The picture you create together gives your child something to show and tell later, and another chance to practise the new words.

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At each step, reinforce words by talking about what you can see together. Always wait first to see what your little one says spontaneously - try not to ask "what's that?" If he doesn't seem sure then it's fine to help – he might even try saying the word himself!

Over 3 years: When you get back home, take out the bits and bobs you have collected and print off the photos if you took any. Try to sequence the things that you saw and heard so as to create a picture/object story trail on the piece of paper. Let your child do the remembering as far as possible, but be prepared to prompt him/her. You can even draw a track or path on the paper to show the sequence more clearly starting from home. Remember to always start at the top left corner of the paper, and draw the trail clockwise. This is important for later skills of learning to read and write from left to right. Any things you heard or weren't able to take a photo of can be drawn on the trail, by you or your child. The finished product will be great for Show and Tell at school or nursery.



NB: You can do this at any time of year!

How Does This Game Help To Develop Language?

- ✓ By introducing new vocabulary
- ✓ By developing listening and observation skills
- ✓ By developing descriptive language
- ✓ By developing narrative and sequencing skills