

The Scoop in Family Child Care

May 2025 | Issue 47

Featured Book

After the cold of winter, comes the warmth of spring. This book takes young children on a journey through the many important events that occur uniquely in the beautiful growing season of spring. From planting trees to sprouting leaves, kids will learn the important changes that happen during the season of rebirth. Featuring bright and colorful pictures of busy landscapes full of life are great for keeping the attention of kids. Children are sure to enjoy this book with a groundhog, blooming flowers, buzzing bees, bugs, humming birds, baby animals, rainbows, and so much more!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kldsA43RBUg>

Sensory

Plant a Flower Sensory Bin

Materials

- Plastic Container
- Dried Black Beans (or Soil/Dirt)
- Small Plastic Flower Pots/Cups
- Silk Flowers
- Shovels
- Old Flower Seeds



Possible Ways to Interact with the Materials

Children can use the shovels to fill the pots with black beans and plant the flowers, separate the flowers based on color or texture, use the pots to scoop up the dirt, and more!

Art Project

Painting with Flowers

Materials Needed

- Tempera Paint
- Paper Plates
- Flowers
- Paper

Instructions

Pour paint onto paper plates. Have children dip flowers into the paint and stamp them onto their papers to create their own masterpieces!



Finger Play

Little Seed: A Scarf Song

Take a scarf and crumple it in one hand

A little seed for me to sow (pretend to hold a seed and plant it in the scarf)

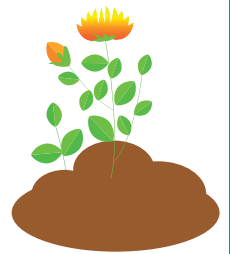
A little Earth to make it grow (pretend to pat the soil down)

A little Sun (hold open hand in the air for the sun)

A little Shower (wiggle fingers move down over other hand)

A little wait (fist on chin, like waiting)

And then a flower (open hands together, the scarf opens up like a blooming flower)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOIfLIG0hoM>

Nutrition

Fruit Flowers

Ingredients

- Orange Slices
- Strawberries
- Blueberries
- Banana Slices
- Raisins
- Dried Cranberries
- Celery or Carrot Sticks

Directions

Slice some oranges and strawberries to make a fruit flower! Kids can build on this healthy snack by adding blueberries, banana slices, raisins or dried cranberries for facial features. Add celery or carrot sticks for a flower stem!



12 Books About Flowers & Gardens



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Referral Services

Submit Your Complete Update Survey

It's that time of year for you to fill out the Complete Update Survey! You should have received an email and paper copies over the past several weeks. You can also scan this QR code to fill out the form. The form should take about 15 minutes to complete.



If you have any questions, contact our Referral Specialist, Jessi, at jguzman@salccc.org or (309) 686-3750, Option 3.

Trainings

Embracing Cultural Diversity: Creating Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms

Participants will explore hands-on activities and small group discussions to enhance their understanding of cultural differences and learn practical ways to integrate every child's perspective into daily classroom experiences.

Tuesday, May 13

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | In-Person or Online via Zoom

Registration Deadline: 11:55 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6

Register at www.salccc.org/provider-services/training.

Health & Safety

Prioritize Connection This Mental Health Awareness Month

Did you know that your relationship with a child affects their learning? Here are some tips on how to build a good relationship with the children in your care.

- Move to the child's level and make eye contact.
- Speak in a friendly voice.
- Share activities.
- Encourage effort.
- Listen to them.
- Empathize with their feelings.
- Support their interests.
- Give warm greetings and goodbyes.

Grants

CPR/First Aid Reimbursements are still available!

Applications are still available to request reimbursement for CPR and First Aid training costs. Be sure to keep your certification current and submit your documentation to take advantage of this ongoing support!

Learn more about how to apply for these funds and what they cover by going to www.salccc.org/provider-services/grant-opportunities.

Home Child Care Network

Home Child Care Network is seeking licensed home care providers to join their **free** program. Their program offers free monthly training, technical support for grants and budgets, mental health support including screenings, and add-on rates for 2nd and 3rd shifts and weekends, with monthly payments guaranteed by the 15th of the month.

For more information, call (309) 685-8064.

Higher Education Navigation

Thinking about advancing your Early Education Career?

Contact a Higher Education Navigator for Help:

1. Determining your educational goals
2. Identifying which programs are available to best fit your needs
3. Connecting you with Early Childhood Education scholarship opportunities
4. Acting as a point of contact with Higher Education Institutions
5. Completing your Gateways membership
6. CDA cohort
7. Other assistance as needed

Call (309) 686-3750 Option 7

Home Daycare Professional Group

Third Tuesday of the Month

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting



For more information on any of our programs and services
Call: (309) 686-3750 | Fax: (309) 686-3850 | Visit: www.salccc.org
Child Care Assistance Program Option 2
Referrals Option 3
Training Registration Option 4
Grants Option 5
Smart Start Grant Expert Option 6
Higher Education Navigation Option 7
Quality Visits or Information on ExceleRate Option 9

SAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

3425 N. Dries Ln
Peoria, IL 61604



@salchildcareconnection