

The Scoop in Family Child Care

March 2026 | Issue 57

Featured Book

In this classic illustrative book, Lois Ehler guides children through a vibrant garden, where they watch plants grow and learn the colors of the rainbow. Through brilliant, textured cut paper collages, the story follows the progress of a mother and daughter in their backyard as they plant bulbs, seeds, and seedlings, and nurture their growth into flowers. The stylized representations of flower species are labeled throughout, allowing young children to understand how each flower type contributes to the rainbow effect. This story is a dazzling celebration of gardens, the power of shape and color, and the harmony of text and image.

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehler



<https://youtu.be/YnnxYs-8awY?si=zOHMFUGQ1sN7fAG>

Sensory

Flower Sensory Soup

Materials Needed

- Large Tub
- Flowers (fresh or plastic)
- Kitchen utensils
- Containers

Possible Ways to Interact With the Materials

Children could play with the different utensils to pick up flowers, sort the flowers based on color, texture, or shape in the smaller containers, count the number of flowers by each category, compare the sizes of the different flowers, especially when wet, and more!



Art Project

Paper Flower Crown

Materials Needed

- Construction Paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Paper Cutter and/or Scissors
- Glue Stick
- Stapler
- Ruler



Instructions

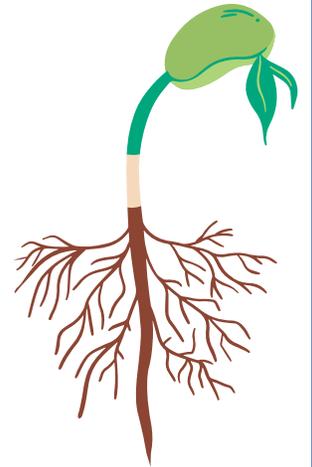
Cut a piece of construction paper in half lengthwise. Fold one of the halves of the construction paper in half lengthwise. Fold again in half, so that it is folded into fourths. Then, create shapes to make their flowers. For further instructions, go to www.thebestideasforkids.com/paper-flower-crown/

Finger Play

The Seed

(To the tune of the Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

I'm a little planted seed
See the rain falling on me
Sun shines down through the trees
These are things I need indeed
Oh how happy they make me
I'm a little growing seed



Nutrition

Fruit Flowers

Ingredients

- Strawberries
- Green Grapes
- Kiwi
- Orange
- Raspberries
- Blueberries



Directions

Slice the strawberries in half and one into quarters lengthwise. Slice all the grapes in half. Peel the kiwi and cut it in half, then cut a thick round slice from the middle. Cut the orange in half and cut a thick round slice from the middle. Now, have your child make their own flower arrangement!

12 Seasonal Books



The Scoop in Family Child Care

March 2026 | Issue 57

Referral Services

Submit Your Complete Update Survey

If you have not done so, please take ten minutes to follow the QR code to fill out the Complete Update Survey. This year, the State is using the data we collect to set the new CCAP Reimbursement rates, so it's crucial that we get your response.



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

Trainings

Recognizing and Responding to Seizures

1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime. 1 in 10 people will have a seizure. This training teaches you how to recognize and respond to seizures at your program and how to support those with epilepsy.

Tuesday, March 17

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | 1445 Chartres St, LaSalle 61301

Registration Deadline: 11:55 p.m. Monday, March 9

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

Health & Safety

Keeping Children Safe from Potentially Harmful Substances

1. Teach children to "always ask first" before eating or drinking anything.
2. Store potentially harmful substances and products in cabinets with child-restraint safety locks, or high and out of children's reach.
3. Keep perfumes, colognes, cosmetics, and other personal care products out of children's reach.
4. Keep all potentially harmful products in their original container with original labels.
5. Rinse out all empty containers before discarding.
6. Know the Poison Control Center Helpline - 1-800-222-1222.

Grants

Did you know that as a licensed child care program, you can apply for a training stipend through the Quality Improvement Funds?

This stipend offers providers \$10 per hour for trainings for programs working towards or maintaining an ExceleRate Illinois Circle of Quality.

To learn more about this stipend and if your program qualifies, contact our Provider Services Manager, Kami, at kmclure@salccc.org or (309) 686-3750, Option 5.

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