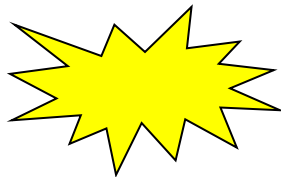


April Parent's Information

Our theme for April is: **Life cycles and investigating mini-beasts**

Our colour is yellow



and shape is rectangle

Vocabulary linked to our theme.

Talk about different forms of new life in spring time and the life cycle of – a flower, chick, frog and butterfly. Plant seeds and bulbs whilst caring for existing plants both indoors and outdoors.

Please talk about these with your child:



tadpoles



frog



bird's nest



birds hatch



caterpillar



butterfly

April songs and rhymes-

Mary, Mary (traditional rhyme)

Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells
And pretty maids all in a row.

Little Miss Muffet (traditional rhyme)

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away!

5 Little Speckled Frogs (Song)

*Use fingers to count and take away a frog
each time.*

5 Little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log
Eating the most delicious bugs, yum yum!
1 jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool
Then there were 4 green speckled frogs,
glub glub!

Repeat 4, 3, 2, 1 frogs until there are no
green speckled frogs.

5 Little Tadpoles (rhyme)

Five little tadpoles swimming near the shore.
The first one said, "Let's swim some more."
The second one said, "Let's rest awhile."
The third one said, "Swimming makes me
smile."
The fourth one said, "My legs are growing
long."
The fifth one said, "I'm getting very strong."
Five little tadpoles will soon be frogs.
They'll jump from the water and sit on logs.

There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf (Song with finger, hand and arm actions)

There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf - wiggle, wiggle.
There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf - wiggle, wiggle.
There's a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar on a leaf - wiggle, wiggle.

He will eat the leaves around him 'til he's full - munch, munch (X2)
He will eat the leaves around him, eat the leaves around him, eat the leaves around him 'til he's full-
munch, munch.

A cocoon is what he's spinning for his home - spin, spin (X2)
A cocoon is what he's spinning, cocoon is what he's spinning, cocoon is what he's spinning for his home-
spin, spin.

Then he'll be a butterfly and fly away - flap, flap (x2)
Then he'll be a butterfly, be a butterfly, be a butterfly and fly away - flap, flap.

So that tiny caterpillar went like this - wiggle, wiggle; munch, munch; spin, spin; flap, flap; (x2)
So that tiny caterpillar, that tiny caterpillar, that tiny caterpillar went like this -
wiggle, wiggle; munch, munch; spin, spin; flap, flap.

A decorative border of black umbrellas surrounds the text. There are 18 umbrellas in each of the four corners, and 18 umbrellas along each of the two long sides, for a total of 126 umbrellas.

How you can help your child at home:-

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

As the weather begins to get warmer encourage your child to put on and take off their own sweatshirt to develop their independence. Let your child put out their own cereal and pour on the milk / butter their own toast or bread.

Language Development

Let your child hold their bedtime story book and turn the pages themselves when you are reading to them. Encourage them to tell the story by looking at all the pictures before you start to read it to them. Throughout the story ask your child what they think will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the story makes them feel. When finished can your child retell the story to you?

Early Mathematical Experiences

Let your child carry / lift different things in the house or outside - compare them and talk about the one that is heavy or not heavy - use the word 'light.' At the park talk about why one side of the see-saw is either up or down - or both the same level. Compare the heights of trees in the park, flowers, people and or equipment - use the language tall, short; taller or shorter.

The Arts

Encourage your child to 'perform' the songs and rhymes included for April. Create a 'new world' with your child - it can be magical, real or invented. Use the reverse side of leftover wallpaper or a flattened box; pens, pencils or crayons; small cars, people, animals. Use empty cartons and boxes for 'buildings', pebbles and twigs from outdoors, small cars, people or animals from the toy box.

Physical Development & Movement

Use very small pencils, crayons or chalks to encourage your child to hold them in a pincer grip. Continue to work with your scissors - snip on paper, cut along a drawn straight, curved or zig zag line.

The World Around Us

Go on a Mini beast Hunt - identify some of the mini-beasts and use appropriate language to compare similarities and differences; shape, size; count the number of legs.