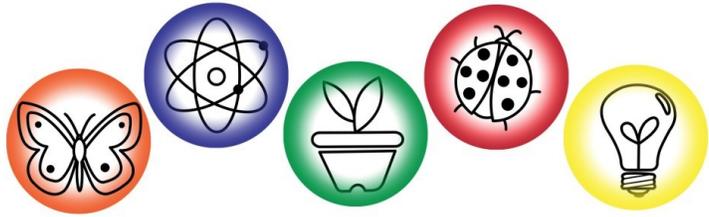


ECFE Learning Links—Spring 2017

Gardens and Flowers



Science Learning



Children's Perspective:

I love to explore and learn about the world. I want to share my discoveries and experiences with you.

Parent Learning:

Parents support development of their children's cognitive development when they:

- * **Provide time and opportunities for their children to explore nature.**
- * **Encourage their children to ask questions and find answers through active exploration of materials, objects, and experiences.**

Minnesota Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework, 2011

Miss Christina's Songs

Plants

sung to: "The Farmer In The Dell"

The farmer plants the seeds,
The farmer plants the seeds,
Hi Ho and Cherry O,
The farmer plants the seeds.

More verses:

The rain begins to fall ...
The sun begins to shine ...
The plants begin to grow ...
The buds all open up ...

The flowers all smile at me ...



Books: *Little Seeds*
Ghigna/Jatkowska

Flower Alphabet Match

Planting a Rainbow Ehlert

Sensory Table: oatmeal
with flower petals

The Tiny Seed Carle

Art: Flower Shaped Paper
Painting

Dramatic Play: Flowers/
Gardening

Gluing Together A Flower
Garden

Fine Motor Activities:
soil in buckets

Math & Science: Planting
Flowers in Plastic Cups

Fill In the Dotted
Flowers

Parts of a
Flower
Craft

Spring Flower Color
Matching



I'm a Little Daisy

sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little daisy Tall and slim (stand up on
tiptoes)

Here are my petals (place hands on side of head
and wiggle fingers)

Here is my stem (hold arms down at sides of legs)

When the sun comes up (make sun with arms)

And the rain comes down (flutter hands to floor
like rain- end in crouching position)

I grow, grow, grow- up from the ground! (slowly
raise up, bringing hand over head)

Tips for Exploring Science with Children

Explanations Do Not Always Help

Explanations, even simple ones, do not always help children (or adults, for that matter!) understand complex ideas. So what's a parent to do? The simple answer is to worry less about explaining to your child, and spend more time modeling the fun of science: going on walks, mixing things, testing to see what will happen, observing carefully and wondering along with your child.

Science Is About Trying to Make Sense of the World

Science is not simply about knowing information—it is equally a way of trying to make sense of the world. Scientists must ask questions, design investigations, try to make sense of the information they have gathered during the investigations, and communicate and defend their thinking to others. They don't always find the answers to their questions, and they don't always agree.

Help Children Think Like Scientists

It is much more important for parents to help children develop the skills they need to think like scientists than to help them understand complex scientific concepts. Even the youngest children are quite capable of beginning to build these skills.

A Few Pointers

Here are a few pointers to keep in mind as you enjoy science alongside your child:

- **You don't need to have answers for all of your child's questions!** Encourage your child to develop his own science thinking skills.
- **Listen carefully to your child.** Engage her in conversation about what she thinks, and encourage her to explain why she thinks as she does by asking questions such as, "Why do you think the snail is eating that leaf?"
- **Don't immediately correct your child.** If your child says something scientifically incorrect, help her discover for herself what is correct rather than correcting her. For example, if she says "heavy things sink, you can ask her, "Which heavy things have you seen sink?" Or, "I wonder if we can find something heavy that can float?"
- **Model curiosity.** Wonder aloud: "I wonder what will happen to this pudding mix when we put the water in?"

Adapted from <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/science/tips/exploring-science/>

Contact Your ECFE Teachers! We love to hear from you.

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