

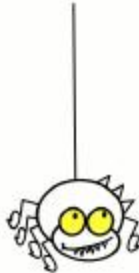
**Age:** Birth—12 months  
**Skills:** Social/ Language/Communication

**Materials:** Lyrics to  
"Eensy Weensy Spider"

### The Eensy Weensy Spider

**Parenting Tip:** " Infants are particularly attentive to the kind of speech that adults tend to naturally use with them—speech with elevated pitch, as well as wide variation in pitch, long pauses, and heavy stress on syllables" (Schickedanz 1999). It is important to talk and sing to your infant during the day. Infants are born "wired" for language". They recognize your speech, facial expressions and gaze intently at you along with smiling and cooing as you talk to them.

**Directions:** Sing to your infant:  
The eensy weensy spider  
Crawled up the water spout  
Down came the rain  
And washed the spider out  
Out came the sun  
And dried up all the rain  
And the eensy weensy spider  
Crawled up the spout again.



**Age:** 18 –24 months  
**Skills:** gross motor/language/communication/  
social/science

**Materials:** Garden  
hose

### Textures of Spring

**Parent Tip:** Toddlers are "do-ers", they want to make things happen. April is a great month for toddler exploration in the great outdoors. You have the opportunity in March to let your toddler discover nature and learn new words, as well as letting your child have the freedom to safely explore the yard with you by their side as the nature guide.



**Directions:** Take your toddler for walks around the yard letting them see and touch many of the trees, leaves and flowers. Tell your toddler about the trees and flowers, describe their color, texture and smell. Next get out the garden hose and allow your child to gently water the flowers and the trees. Toddlers love water play, they will spend lots of time engaged in watering the flowers and trees. Don't be surprised if this becomes a daily habit for your child. Take the opportunity to share nature with them and teach your child new words.

**Age:** 24 to 36 months  
**Skills:** physical/communication/science

**Materials:** none

### Bird Flight

**Parent Tip:** Between the ages of 24 to 36 months your child continues to develop their independence and they demonstrate this through practicing a new skill over and over again. They enjoy jumping, walking by themselves, using hand motions and moving with a purpose. They also enjoy learning new games that you can play with them. This month go outside and look for birds and spread your wings.



**Directions:** Take your child outside and look for birds. Talk to your child about the different birds (sounds, size, color) and let them watch birds land and take off from tree branches. Next tell your child that you are both going to act like birds. Begin by spreading your arms out and turn those arms into wings. Move the arms up and down. Next begin to walk around the yard flapping your wings and flying around like a bird. Stop and make bird sounds, then take off again. Repeat this process and stop for water breaks and to look for birds. You and your child will enjoy the freedom! Bring the inner child out in you. Beware if other children are around—you may soon have a flock of children flying with you.

**Age:** 3 years to 5 years  
**Skills:** science/math/language

**Materials:** Empty water bottles,  
Wild flowers or garden flowers

### Flower Arrangements

**Parent Tip:** Discovery time with your child can provide many opportunities to teach your child about nature. This month is the perfect time to pick flowers and make flower arrangements with your child. As you do this activity together teach them all about the different parts of a flower. Let them describe to you the colors and textures. Have fun making the arrangements.

**Directions:** Gather a variety of spring flowers from outside with your child. Take a walk and decide which flowers you would like to pick or cut. Set the flowers out and discuss the different colors, shapes, sizes, and textures. Next let your child fill a few water bottles or plastic soda bottles with enough water to keep the plants hydrated and also to keep the bottle from falling over. Next let your child pick which flowers will go into the bottles and encourage them to place the flowers gently into the bottles. When you are done you can give the flower arrangements to teachers, friends, grandparents and keeps some for the dinner table. During dinner, discuss with the flower arrangements.

