



TODDLER

Week of June 1, 2020

This Week's Theme: Planting!



Garden Walk

Take a nature walk through a nearby garden (or neighborhood) taking in all the sights and sounds you can. Talk to your child about what you see. What colors do you see? What sounds do you hear? What smells do you smell?

Add a little extra flavor to your nature walk. Grab pots and pans from your kitchen, along with a few wooden spoons. Pound the spoon on the pot and pan making a pattern. March to the pattern of the noise you create.

Grass Sensory Activity

Place cut grass into a sensory bin. Add items that can be found in the grass, such as flowers, fake bugs, rocks, pine cones, etc. Talk to your child about what they found in the grass. Have them count the number of flowers, bugs, and rocks. Ask them which of the flowers, bugs, and rocks are the largest? Smallest?

Planting Grass

Grow grass in a small bin with dirt and grass seedling. Water as needed. With an adult's help, watch the grass grow and 'cut' the grass with a child safety scissors. Talk to your child about the smell of the grass. What does the grass feel like?

Story Time by the Garden

On a nice, warm day, take a blanket and a book and go sit by the garden and read a book. If you have time, pack a picnic lunch and enjoy!



*Activities should be done under the supervision of an adult or older sibling.

Please see below for some additional activities that you could try with your child.



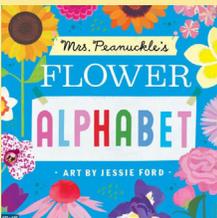
What Is It Bag (Basket)

Add gardening tools, gloves, empty watering can, fake flowers, bugs, etc. to a bag or basket and allow your child to explore the material. Ask them about the contents of the bag. What is it? What color is it? How do you use it in the garden?

Growing Grass

Using an old egg carton, have your toddler fill each area with dirt. Encourage your child to feel the dirt and talk to him or her about how it feels. Add some grass seed. Grass seed is good because it grows quickly. Add a small amount of water to each of the egg holes. Put the carton in the sun and watch it grow. Allow a few weeks for the grass to grow. Allow your child to touch and smell the grass. With the help of an adult, help your toddler cut the grass (with a child's scissors, of course!) Explain to your child this is similar to what you do with your lawn outside.

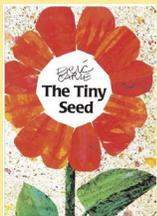
Books



Mrs. Peanuckle's Flower Alphabet
by Mrs. Peanuckle
and Jessie Ford



The Little Gardener (Teenie Greenies)
by Jan Gerardi



The Tiny Seed
by Eric Carle

Freshly Cut Lawn

Take your toddler outside after you have recently cut the lawn. Encourage your child to touch the grass, sit in the grass, put his or her bare feet into the grass, and lastly, smell the grass. Talk about the similarities to the grass that you grew inside.

Gardening Area

Gather the materials below and watch your toddler experiment. Let your child use his or her curiosity and imagination.

Suggested Materials:

- Planter boxes or flower beds
- Watering cans
- Gardening gloves
- Gardening tools
- Flowerpots
- Garden tool holder
- Plastic water bottles to plant things in and hang on fence

*Activities should be done under the supervision of an adult or older sibling.

