Spring Family Fun Activities

**Spring Verse**

Welcoming each season with family traditions, like reading a seasonal verse at meal time, or

whilst on nature walks, connects children to the changing seasonal environment.

*The long golden Spring*

*With the birds that sing*

*Daffodils dance in a bright merry ring*

*Rejoicing together in the warmth of Spring*

**Spring Nature Experiences**

Spring in the Yarra Ranges is a delightful time for children. Time spent outside is vital for children’s wellbeing, development and learning. Let’s get outside to explore and enjoy the

wonders of nature. Are there ideas your family can add to the list?

• Build a posy of native flowers on a walk to display at home

• Lie down on the grass to spot shapes in the clouds

• Stop to smell a blooming rose or a fragrant flower

• Create a Spring flower or gum leaf nature mandala

• Go on a Spring nature colour walk, what colours do you see?

• Make a flower or gum leaf garland

• Go star gazing on a clear Spring night

• Spot a rainbow in the Spring sky

• Plant Spring vegetables, herbs or flowers

• Breathe in the smells of the earth after a Spring thunder-storm

**Spring Time Potions or Mud Cakes**

Outdoor kitchens for children are treasured places to create, imagine and play. Is there an outdoor space where you and your child can set up a potion or mud kitchen? Gather a small table, mixing bowls, cups, old cutlery, wooden spoons, whisks, funnels, muffin tins, and a collection of buckets. Metal, wood and stone objects are best and most sustainable. Visit your local opportunity shop or ask family or friends to help gather these items.

Assist your child to collect lavender, rose petals, herbs (rosemary, thyme, or oregano) and leaves. Be sure not to collect plants that are poisonous. Take all the ingredients to your outdoor kitchen, with a bucket of water and begin creating vibrant mixes and potions. If mud cakes are on the menu, simply dig dirt into a bucket, add water, mix and get little hands dirty!

**Spring Outdoor Nature Fun**

**Nature Sculptures**

Nature can provide us with wonderful materials to make art. Go outside to your garden or local park to collect items with your child such as stones, leaves, Spring flowers, feathers or twigs. Perhaps you might try making a 3D self-portrait, or a real or imaginary creature.

For example, a centipede could have a small log for its body with hundreds of sticks for legs.

**Nature Alphabet**

Look for letters in elements of nature: twigs, stones, patches of lichen and moss, or clouds. Try to find all the letters of the alphabet and take photos so you have a record of your nature alphabet.

**Spring Nature Detective**

Spring is a busy time in nature and a perfect time for young detectives to observe and record reflections in a nature journal. This can happen anywhere – in your yard or garden, on a neighbourhood walk, or perhaps by a local river or creek where animals go to drink and eat. Encourage you child to quietly observe. They might notice fragrant smells, footprints, cloud forms, changing colours, birdsong, new blossoms, or insect trails on tree trunks. They can then record their reflections with words and drawings in their journal.

**Moon Diary**

Begin a moon diary with your child after a full moon, or during the next school holidays. At the same time each night go outside and look up into the sky to find the moon. Support your child to write the date of the entry and draw or write a few words or sentences about what they see. What shape is the moon? What colour? What details are visible? Does the moon change shape each night? What shapes can you see together in the stars?

**Spring Flower Garland**

A flower garland made from natural materials can be a yearly activity to celebrate Spring. Selecting seasonal activities you do each year with your child offers routine and connection to the natural environment.

**Materials:**

• Natural items found on walks or in the back yard (gum leaves, flowers, feathers) to decorate

• 1 metre lengths of jasmine or grape vine, willow, peppercorn or thin branches that bend

• Raffia or thick natural string can be used if you are unable to find vines or branches

**Instructions:**

1. Measure the circular base: measure your child’s garland by wrapping the branches or vine around their head to determine the size of the circle you’ll need.

2. Making the circular base: wind the ends over and around the base circle to secure them, and strengthen the base by weaving in more branches or vine as you like.

3. Add decoration: weave and arrange the natural decorations into the circular base, and delight in your wearable creation!

4. **Tip**: for children who don’t like flowers, try decorating with gum leaves instead.