

CURRICULUM BUILDERS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHILD CARE RESOURCE SERVICE

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

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www.crs.ymca.org

SUPPORTING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



ABOUT THE STORY

The Reason for a Flower

By Ruth Heller

Children love to learn but often it can be boring. "The Reason for a Flower" by Ruth Heller teaches children botany without intimidating. The bold colorful illustrations coupled with the rhyming text holds the attention of even the youngest children while teaching them parts of plants, the pollination process, how flowers benefit humans and other animals and much more.

STORY STRETCHERS

Read this book several times to children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them to learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better.

Questions to ask children:

- What kind of flowers do you see in the story?
- What animal was drinking the nectar of the flowers?
- What does a flower do?

CRS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Curriculum Resource books are available to check out at our library. Call 619-521-3055 ext.2304 to make a library appointment.

WEBSITES

Here are some websites to give you more curriculum ideas:

<http://www.pre-kpages.com/plantseed/>

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/preschool-spring.htm>

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/spring/>

CONNECT WITH CRS!

Learn about upcoming events, Wellness Wednesday, Frugal Friday and more:

www.facebook.com/YMCA.CRS



PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Materials:

- Poster Board
- Colored Markers
- Empty Seed Packets
- Small Plastic or Styrofoam cups
- Potting Soil
- Seeds
- Water
- Plastic Wrap

Instructions:

- Encourage children to help draw a sun in the top corner of the poster board
- Draw in the soil (with brown marker) at the bottom of the poster board
- Draw black seeds in the soil, adding a small amount of green to each seed
- Add water drops (with blue marker) just above the sprouts
- Next, use the cups and soil to help students plant seeds in their own cup.
- Add a few tablespoons of water and cover with plastic wrap
- Set in a sunny window and keep warm at night.
- When the plants sprout, uncover.

LITERACY

When Spring Comes
By Robert Maass

Spring
By Tanya Thayer

Now I Know What Makes the Weather
By Janet Palazzo

When Will it be Spring?
By Catherine Walters



SOIL SENSORY PLAY

Into a container, add potting soil, small gardening tools, artificial flowers, seeds, and small planting pots. Allow children to explore these materials.

FLOWER PATTERNS

Materials:

- Patterning grid (one per child)
- Foam Flower stickers or stamps

Instructions:

- Give each child one patterning grid.
- Place the foam stickers or stamps in the center of the table in a container.
- The students will use the stickers or stamps to create a pattern on the grid.

MY SPRING GARDEN

Here is my little garden,
Some seeds I'm going to sow.
Here is my rake to rake the ground,
Here is my handy hoe.

Here is the big, round yellow sun;
The sun warms everything.
Here are the rain clouds in the sky;
The birds will start to sing.

Little plants will wake up soon,
And lift their sleepy heads;
Little plants will grow and grow
In their little, warm earth beds.