

Lifecycles



Personal, Social and Emotional Development		Communication and Language		Physical Development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explore a range of spring festivals, such as Mother's Day, Easter and Holi. Create a large floor book to capture each festival using photos, drawings and speech bubbles.Talk about how the animals and plants are feeling as they wake up from winter. What words can they use to describe spring?Discuss how spring is a time of new beginnings and growth. Look at how different plants and animals change and grow. How have the children changed and grown since they first joined school? Can they describe changes in positive terms?Look at a Christian church and discuss the features that can be found both inside and outside a church. Perhaps you could visit a local church or explore a church through this Inside a Church PowerPoint.Talk with the children about kind hands in relation to holding baby chicks and other baby animals. Create a 'kind hands' display with children's painted handprints alongside the children's words about the importance of kind hands.Encourage children to share their own family traditions of Easter.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Make a collection of recordings of lifecycle sounds, such as lambs bleating, frogs croaking, rain and birdsong. Can the children identify each sound? Can they copy the sound?Create a pond scene in an activity tray using green slime or jelly, lily pads made from cards or plastic lids and plant foliage. Use a plastic frog to explore preposition, such as 'put the frog under the lily pad' and 'put the frog next to the flowers'.Share themed stories with the children. Talk about the changes that happen to the caterpillar and how the caterpillar may feel. What would the children like to say to him?Encourage children to use positional language by going on an Easter egg hunt. Hide plastic eggs for the children to find and describe where they are hidden.Encourage children to learn and explore new language related to Easter, such as young animal names and vocabulary related to growth.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collect some artificial flowers on stalks and some kitchen colanders. The children can make spring flower arrangements by threading the stalks through the holes.Explore large body movements with a theme, such as floating through the air like blossom, waddling like a duck, buzzing like a bee and jumping like a frog.Using their bodies, children explore how seeds grow from a tiny seed, to a shoot and then a large flower. How can they show this with their bodies?Create a digging area where children can explore a range of garden tools, such as trowels, spades, rakes, forks and watering cans.The children can decorate Easter egg shapes using a large variety of materials and papers for cutting and sticking.Play Easter parachute games by placing plastic eggs onto the parachute. Can the children get the eggs through the hole in the centre? Be careful that the eggs don't fall off as they might smash!Provide yellow playdough, yellow feathers, pipe cleaners and googly eyes for the children to make their own Easter chicks.			
Literacy		Mathematics		Understanding the World		Expressive Arts and Design	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a Garden Centre Role-Play area where lots of opportunities for writing are provided. These could include writing labels, shopping lists, order forms and receipts.Make a bug hotel and encourage the children to write invitations to the bugs asking them to come and visit.Take the children on a spring walk around and outdoor area. Provide the children with a list of simple and decodable themed words, such as rain, seed and plant. Can the children read the items on the list and tick them off as they see them on the walk?		<ul style="list-style-type: none">The children can make a spring garden potion and record the ingredients used. Provide a variety of flowers, leaves, grass and bird seed, alongside spoons, water and bowls. Encourage children to record their ingredients using marks and pictures on a whiteboard. How many ingredients did they use in total?Allow the children to explore these Spring Flower Number Shapes activities where they can explore counting and matching.Provide some plant pots and artificial spring flowers on stalks. Roll a dice and place this number of flowers into the pot.Create your own garden ten-frames using sticks to form the frame. Children can collect natural objects to explore counting.Plant seeds and describe the sequence of events using Plant Sequencing Cards.Provide the children with empty egg boxes, plastic eggs and number cards. Can the children match the correct numeral to the number of eggs in the egg boxes?		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a floor book of the changing seasons. Children can capture spring changes on camera or through artwork and writing.Discuss new life and baby birds hatching. Observe birds in the environment and encourage children to make their own birds' nests from grass and twigs.Explore new life with the children and the life cycles of different species.Turn a Bee-Bot into an Easter Bunny and programme it to reach different locations or Easter eggs.Search for signs of new life in nature and ask the children to record these on a digital camera. The photos could be added to an Easter floor book, alongside children's drawings, observations and writing.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage children to use painted bubble wrap to print pink tree blossom or frog spawn and create a lovely spring scene.Explore colour mixing by adding blue and yellow paint to an activity tray. Mix the colour green by driving toy tractors through the paint. Help the farmer sow seeds by sprinkling bird seed into the paint.	

Themes are loose and we will adjust them and also carry out spontaneous activities in order to follow the children's individual interests at the time. An activity can link and flow into several areas of learning. Learning is a mixture of adult led and child led and is incorporated into the children's play and continuous provision. Activities are adjusted to meet the needs of each individual child and their abilities and targets.