

Garden

April 2026



flowers in the toddler garden—>

In the Garden

We will be transplanting carrot & lettuce starts this month next to our many pea plants, which we've been watching grow in anticipation of munching on tasty pods. We'll also work on preparing other garden beds and, in the toddler garden, transplanting the strawberry plants that were thinned in March. We'll start squash, sunflowers & cosmos in the garden room as we continue to prepare for our annual plant sale. We will harden off starts outdoors and have some spring flowers & lettuce for sale by the front door some random days this month. We'll enjoy sampling chard & lettuce. Finally, we'll get a few chicks or pullets to watch grow before putting them in their new home in our chicken run.

In the classroom

Mar 31 - Apr 3 — Spiders

Activities

- Spider discussion: functions, types, parts, habitats, actions
- Spider photos & specimen jars
- Sing "Itsy-Bitsy Spider" (English & Spanish)
- Felt spider puzzle (build-a-spider)
- Spider coloring sheets or draw your own
- Toddler spider craft

Vocabulary

- Spider / *aranya*
- Thorax
- Abdomen
- Leg
- Fang
- Eyes
- Spinneret

Objectives

- Identify parts of a spider
- State activities of a spider
- Recognize variations of spider activities, habitats, appearance
- Give examples of how spiders are helpful in gardens & ecosystems

Apr 7-10 — Insects, Pt. I: Ladybugs & Other Beetles

Activities

- Read “Meet the Beetles”
- Discuss insect characteristics: exoskeleton, six legs, antennae, wings (usually)
- Discuss ladybird beetles
- Ladybug lifecycle puzzle
- Seek & find beetles with specified characteristics
- Seek & find animals that start with “B”
- Ladybug math: roll a die, draw the corresponding number of dots on each side of the ladybug
- Beetle maze & dot-to-dot (Pre-K)

Vocabulary

- Insect / *insecto*
- Beetle
- Ladybug
- Die/dice
- Legs, wings
- Exoskeleton
- Antennae

Objectives

- Identify beetles as insects
- Discern beetles with specific characteristics
- Recognize the sound of the letter “B”
- Count dots on dice & ladybug wings
- Identify ladybugs as beetles & insects

Apr 14-17 — Insects, Pt. II: Ants & Aphids

Activities

- Circle time: Discuss ant benefits & behavior; beneficial & harmful insects; aphid behavior & ants as aphid farmers
- Ant craft (read Insects in Action, toddlers)
- Ant, aphid & ant lion photos
- Farm floor puzzle
- Ant coloring sheet with labeled parts
- Insect specimen jars

Vocabulary

- Ant / *hormiga*
- Aphid
- Insect
- Beneficial
- Harmful

Objectives

- Explain the difference between beneficial & harmful
- Identify ant body parts, trace labels
- Distinguish between ants & aphids
- Complete a group puzzle



Apr 21-24 — Insects, Pt. III: Bees & Wasps

Activities

- Compare and contrast bees & wasps
- Discuss queen, worker & drone bees
- Bee & wasp photos
- Insect specimen jars
- Discuss/view wasp & bee homes
- Insect parts trace & color sheet
- Bee dot-to-dot & moth maze (Annex)
- Bee craft (Tods as a group)
- Wasp nest observation

Vocabulary

- Bee / *abeja*
- Wasp
- Aggressive
- Predator, pollinator
- Beneficial
- Sting
- Queen
- Worker
- Drone

Objectives

- Distinguish between predator & pollinator
- Complete insect parts sheet
- Identify bees & wasps
- State roles of queen, worker & drone



Apr 28 - May 1 — May Day

This week we will celebrate Spring by marching around the maypole. As we engage with the maypole we'll practice the colors of its ribbons in English & Spanish.

Once we're back in the garden room we'll have a tea party and discuss the signs of Spring that we've been observing. We'll build with colored wood blocks and color with crayons. We'll also have time to investigate things in the garden room such as shells, rocks & plant parts.

