

Garden

April 2025



flowers in the toddler garden

In the Garden

We will be working on some of our garden beds this month, stirring in leaves & organic fertilizer, planting pea, spinach, pak choi & beet starts, as well as thinning & transplanting baby carrot plants. We'll start squash, cucumbers, watermelon, sunflowers & zinnia in the garden room as we prepare for our annual plant sale. We will harden off starts on the annex porch & have some spring flowers, pak choi & spinach for sale by the door some random days this month. We'll enjoy sampling chard, lettuce, mustard & kale, discuss the flowers coming up in our gardens and check on & stir our compost.

In the classroom

Mar 31-Apr 4 — Worms

Activities

- Read Diary of a Worm or Wiggling Worms at Work
- Discuss parts of a worm
- Investigate worms with fingers & magnifying glasses
- Plant more seeds & spray starts under grow-lights
- Observe scat jars with labels & animal photos
- Farm magnets
- Free coloring

Vocabulary

- Dig, dirt, compost
- Segment, Clitellum
- Anterior, posterior
- Mouth

Objectives

- Describe how worms benefit plants in the gardens
- Understand what worms do in the compost
- Identify the parts of a worm
- Observe live worms

Apr 7-11 — Spiders

Activities

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

Vocabulary

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

Objectives

- Identify parts of a spider
- Say spider in English & Spanish
- State activities of a spider
- Recognize variations of spider activities, habitats, appearance
- Answer how spiders are helpful in gardens & ecosystems

Apr 14-18 — 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 21-25 — 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

Objectives

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

Vocabulary

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



Apr 28 - May 2 — 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 or markers. We'll also have time to investigate things in the garden room such as scat jars, rocks & plant parts.

