

Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!



Bonus Activities for April 2019



Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!

Enjoy the following activities with your children!

Get Moving!

Exploring Together: Easter Bunny

(all ages, 🗨️ ✍️ 🙌 😊 🎵 ❤️)

Materials:

☐ Cotton balls, masking tape, plastic Easter eggs

- Easter falls on April 21 this year. This experience encourages dramatic play as children pretend to be Easter bunnies. If you prefer, you can easily adapt this activity to just focus on bunnies instead of the Easter bunny.
- Use masking tape to attach a cotton ball to your backside and hop around the room. As children become interested, give each of them a cotton ball tail as well. Talk a little bit about the Easter bunny (or just bunnies in general) as children hop around. Then sing the following song and invite your little Easter “bunnies” to participate in the movements. If you prefer a song about bunnies in general, see p. 6.

EASTER BUNNY

(tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”)

Easter bunny, hopping ‘round.
Hopping, hopping, up and down.
Hiding eggs to find, it’s true
On the floor or in a shoe!
Easter bunny, hopping ‘round.
Hopping, hopping, up and down.

- **EXTENSION:** Have children take turns being the Easter bunny hiding plastic eggs for others to find.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What type of spoon did you choose to use?*
- *How did your spoon work? Is there another type of spoon you would like to try? Which one?*

Program Symbols for Developmental Areas

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 🗨️ = Language Development | 🌐 = Social Studies Knowledge |
| 📖 = Literacy Knowledge | ❤️ = Social & Emotional Development |
| ① = Math Knowledge | 🎵 & ✍️ = Music & Creative Arts |
| 🔍 = Science Knowledge | 🙌 = Physical Development & Health |
| ? = Logic & Reasoning | 😊 = Approaches to Learning |



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *Where are you hopping, Easter/Little Bunny?*
- *If you were the Easter bunny, where would you hide the eggs?*

Get Moving!

Exploring Together: Easter Egg Roll

(all ages, 🗨️ 😊 ① 🙌 ? ❤️)

Materials:

☐ Plastic Easter eggs
☐ Spoons (assorted types)

- The White House Easter Egg Roll has been a tradition for 139 years! This experience invites children to have their own Easter egg roll while experimenting and practicing self-regulation at the same time. If you do not plan to celebrate Easter, just have an egg roll instead.
- This is a great activity to do outdoors on a nice day. Provide children with plastic Easter eggs and assorted types of spoons. Have them help you choose a starting and ending point for the Easter egg roll.
- Then, have each child choose an egg and a spoon. The object of the Easter egg roll is to use the spoon to push the egg across the grass to the finish line. Before children begin, encourage the children to predict how the spoons they chose will work. Then, have them use their spoons to roll the eggs. Were their predictions correct?
- **EXTENSION:** Invite children to explore using different sizes and types of spoons for the Easter egg roll. Which work well? Which do not? Why?



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2 Small Group Activities (Toddlers-4 years)

Shiny and Beautiful Art

(Toddlers-4 years,     )

Materials:

- White paper cut in the shape of an egg or cross** (your choice)
- Corn syrup paint** - assorted color (see p. 6 for recipe)
- Paintbrushes
- Vinyl tablecloth** (if available)

- When corn syrup paint dries, it has a beautiful sheen! The children will also discover that this type of paint has a different “feel” as well. Also, if possible, cover the table with a vinyl tablecloth to make clean up easier. After all, this experience just might get a little sticky!
- Provide each child with a white paper egg or cross and access to the corn syrup paint. As children decorate their eggs/crosses, engage them in conversations about how this type of paint is different for paint they may have used in the past.
- As children create, talk about the colors of paint they choose to use as well as the unique designs they create.
- Advanced Preschoolers: These children can use smaller paintbrushes to add more intricate designs to their eggs/crosses.



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What do you notice that is different about this type of paint?*
 - *What colors of paint did you choose to use on your egg/cross?*
 - *What other tools could you use as a paintbrush?*
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- *Where should we go next, little chicks?*
 - *Why do you think real baby chicks follow their mamas?*

Get Moving!

Follow Mama

(Toddlers-4 years,     )

Materials:

- None needed

- This activity group game challenges children to pretend as they follow directions.
- Play this game as you would, “Follow the Leader.” But instead of simply being a “leader,” you are a mother hen and the children are your baby chicks!
- To begin, invite children to pretend to be baby chicks as they move freely around the room. Then, introduce the game. Explain that you are going to pretend to be the mother hen and they should all follow you and imitate your movements.
- As you move around, describe your movements to incorporate an element of language and positional concepts. Such as, “OK...little chicks...let’s all go around the table.” The children can peep as they pretend to be chicks imitating your motions.
- Advanced Preschoolers: These children can take turns being the mother hen leading the baby chicks as they do different motions.

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1 Infant Activity + 1 Small Group (Toddlers-4 years)

Questions to Spur Thinking

- Which cards belong together?
- In this group, what happens first? Next? Last?
- If you were a baby chick hatching from an egg, what would you do? Show me.

My Little Bunny

(Infants, 🗨️ ❤️ 📖 🧠)

Materials:

None needed

- A fingerplay is a fun way to build language skills with infants.
- Hold the infant in your lap. Using your hand, make it look like a bunny by holding up your pointer and middle fingers up while using your thumb to hold down the other two. Make the finger "bunny" hop as you recite the rhyme.

LITTLE BUNNY

Little bunny, hopping 'round.
Hopping up and hopping down.
Hopping down your arm and then
Hopping right back up again!

Sequence It!

(Toddlers-4 years, 🗨️ 🧠 🗨️ 😊)

Materials:

Sequencing Teaching Tool (p. 7) - To prepare, print out copy of page and mount to heavyweight paper. Cut cards apart where indicated.

- Using sequencing cards challenges children to group by like characteristics and then sequence. Because you will probably have children at different developmental levels, adapt and modify.
- Spread the cards for the Sequencing Teaching Tool on the table and invite more verbal children to describe what they see. This is the perfect time to help children build both expressive and receptive vocabulary skills. From this point, adapt and modify as needed.
- Toddlers/Twos/Young Threes: These children can work with you to sort the cards into groups. For instance, say something like, "Let's find all the bunnies and put them in a pile." For this group, just sorting the cards is fine. Talk about how the cards in each group are the "same" and how they are "different."
- Older Threes/Fours/Advanced Preschoolers: Have these children work together to group the cards according to the event being sequenced. They will need to put all the cards for the flower growing in one group, the bird hatching in the other group and the baby bunny in the last group. Once sorted, children can work together to sequence the cards in each group. Encourage them to use language to describe their choices as they arrange the cards.



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1 School-Age Activity + 1 Infant Activity

Colorful Resist Art

(School-Age, 😊 ♥ 🖍️ 🎨 🗣️)

Materials:

White paper cut in the shape of eggs or crosses

White crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes

- This activity is designed to help older children explore the art technique of resist. It is also a fun way for them to explore cause and effect.
- Provide children with white crayons and precut paper (egg or cross). Invite children to draw designs on the white paper with white crayons. What happens? Is this an easy or difficult task? Why?
- Once children finish drawing, provide them with watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups of water and folded paper towels. Children can then paint over their eggs/crosses with watercolors. As they do so, encourage them to describe what happens. Can they figure out why the paint does not stick to the areas with crayon?
- Allow paintings to dry completely and then tape to windows, if possible, for a colorful display all can enjoy!

EXTEND FOR ANOTHER DAY: Children can cut paper into different shapes as they continue to explore the art technique of resist.



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What happens when you draw with the white crayon on the white paper?*
- *What do you think is going to happen when you paint over your drawing?*
- *What actually happened? Were your predictions correct?*
- *What colors of paint are you using on your creation? What happens when the colors bleed together?*

Sensory Egg Shakers

(Infants - ♥ 🎧 🗣️)

Materials:

- Sensory egg shakers** - To make, fill plastic eggs with assorted materials that make different sounds. Suggested materials include uncooked rice, uncooked beans, sand, small pebbles, etc. Put the items inside the eggs, close tightly and wrap the seam with plenty of tape so that infant cannot open. Also, store out of reach when not supervising closely.
- Sanitized empty egg carton OR basket

- Infants use their senses to explore and learn about their world. Sensory egg shakers are a fun way for them to do this.
- Sit with the infant in your lap. Place the egg carton or basket with the sensory egg shakers on the floor in front of you. Invite the infant to choose an egg.
- If the infant is older, he/she can shake the egg to discover the sound. If not, you may need to help the infant shake the egg. Use plenty of language to talk about the sounds created by the eggs. As the infant explores all of the eggs, compare and contrast the sounds created.

LITTLE BUNNY
(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Little bunny, hopping 'round.
Hopping, hopping, up and down.
Hopping through the sweet green grass
Wiggle your tail as you hop past.
Little bunny, hopping 'round.
Hopping, hopping, up and down.

Corn Syrup Paint

To make, mix 4 tablespoons of corn syrup with 1.5 teaspoons of liquid dish soap. Mix in enough liquid tempera paint or food coloring to tint. Repeat for each color. Make several different colors.



