

Hooray for May!

Bonus Activities for May 2019



**Gee Whiz**TM
Education

Hooray for May!



Circle Time: Happy Mother's Day!

(all ages, 🗨️ 😊 🌐 🎵 🖋️)

Materials:

- Picture of YOUR mother

NOTE: When introducing Mother's Day, be aware that some children may not live with, or have contact with, their mothers. For these children, focus on another female relative (e.g., aunt, grandmother, etc.)

- Mother's Day is a wonderful time for young children to think about all the many things their mothers, or other female caregivers, do for them each and every day.
- Gather children together and show them the picture of your mother. Can they guess who is in the picture? Point out that it is your mother. Tell children something special about your mother and then explain that a special holiday, Mother's Day, is coming up. Encourage children to share what they already know about Mother's Day and then fill in any important details they are missing.
- Explain to the children that they are going to learn a special song they can sing to their own mothers on Mother's Day. Sing the song, "Thank You For the Things You Do" (p. 6) with the children and invite them to participate in the movements.
- **EXTENSION:** Continue to practice the song for several days until the children know it well.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- What do you see when you look at the flower up close?
- What colors do you see in the flower?
- Why do you think flowers are important to our world?

Questions to Spur Thinking

- Who takes care of you at home?
- What could you do to show your mom (aunt/ grandma) how much she means to you?
- What do you like best about your mom (aunt/ grandma)?

Circle Time: Flower Power

(all ages, 🗨️ 😊 🖐️ 📖 🕯️)

Materials:

- Digital camera or Smartphone
- Unbreakable magnifiers
- Notebooks, markers/crayons, pencils

- Young children gather information about their world through hands-on exploration. Using tools, such as unbreakable magnifiers, enables children to see things they may not have noticed using only their eyes.
- Take the materials listed above outside and invite the children to explore flowers. They can use unbreakable magnifiers to get an up close look at the flowers. As they do so, ask questions (such as those below) to engage the children in conversations about their discoveries.
- Next, provide a digital camera (or Smartphone) and help the children use this tool to take photos of the different flowers they find. How many different types of flowers can they find? What colors do they see on those flowers? Write down the description given by the children in a notebook, naming letters and discussing beginning sounds as you do so.
- At the end of the experience, encourage each child to share which flower is his/her favorite and why.
- **EXTENSION:** Print out the photos the children took and invite them to use them to create a book.



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2 Small Group Activities (Toddlers - 4 Years)

A Mother's Day Surprise

(Toddlers—4 years, 🌍 🖐️ 🌱 🖌️ ❤️ 🗣️ 😊)

Materials:

- Large plastic cup per child, scissors
 - Craft sticks, art tissue, construction paper
 - Digital camera, crayons/markers
 - Paint-soaked sponges or folded paper towels in shallow dishes (several colors)
 - Petunia or other bedding plant for each child**
 - Potting soil**, water
- Working on a project that takes several days to complete is a good way to teach children patience and persistence. The purpose of this activity is to help children create something special they can give to their mothers or other female caregivers in honor of Mother's Day.
 - To begin, have children make several (3-4) handprints using paint on white paper. Have children choose the colors they want to use. Allow handprints to dry completely. See adaptations below for different developmental levels.
 - Then, have children cut out their handprints (or do for younger children) and attach each to a craft stick. Children may then choose to use art tissue to add leaves to make their handprints resemble flowers. While children work on their project, talk with them about their mothers or other special female caregivers in their lives. Encourage them to share what they like best about these amazing people. Then, have children fill their plastic cups with potting soil and add a petunia or other bedding plant. Water a little bit and then have children push the ends of their craft stick handprint flowers into the soil. To complete, take a digital photo of each child and tape to the side of the plastic cup.
 - Toddlers/Twos/Threes: You will probably need to cut out each child's handprints for him/her. Additionally, with your youngest children, plan to work on planting their plants in the cups one-on-one.
 - Fours/Advanced Preschoolers: These children should be able to cut out their own handprints. In addition, they may decide to glue additional pieces of art tissue or other art materials to their plastic cups to decorate them.



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What color of flowers did you choose to make for your Mother's Day surprise?*
 - *How do you think your mom (aunt/grandma) will feel when you give this surprise to her on Mother's Day?*
-
- *What part of the flower are you using as a paintbrush?*
 - *Tell me about the designs you created when using a flower as a paintbrush.*

Painting with Flowers

(Toddlers—4 years, 🖐️ 😊 🖌️ 🌱 ?)

Materials:

- Large sheets of white paper
 - Sturdy flowers (real or plastic/silk)** - Carnations, mums and daisies would be good choices.
 - Paint-soaked sponges or folded paper towels in shallow dishes (your choice of colors)
- Using something in a different way is a great way for children to practice problem-solving skills. In this activity, children will use flowers in a very different way...as paintbrushes!
 - Set out the materials listed above. As children prepare to paint, encourage them to share what is missing. Paintbrushes...of course! Invite children to use flowers in place of paintbrushes as they create. This will require children to think outside the box and problem-solve. As they explore different ways of using the flowers to paint, encourage them to talk about which techniques work well and which do not.
 - Advanced Preschoolers: These children will probably think of more ways to use the flowers than younger children. In addition, they should be able to better verbalize their findings.

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

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What colors of flowers do you have?*
- *What body part should we use next?*
- *What other colors of flowers could we use to play this game?*



For My Mom

(Infants, 🗣️ 👁️ 📖 ❤️)

Materials:

- Paint-soaked sponge or folded paper towels in a shallow dish
- White paper, construction paper

- An infant's mom (aunt/grandma) is one of the most important people in his/her life. Making something special for this amazing person is a wonderful thing to do for Mother's Day.
- Remove the infant's shoe and sock. Gently press the bottom of his/her foot on the paint-soaked sponge or folded paper towels. Then, press his/her foot on white paper. Position it toward the left-hand side. As you do so, recite the following rhyme.

MY LITTLE FOOT

My foot is little, it is true.
I made this footprint just for you.
Over the years my foot will grow
And so will how I love you so!

- Once the paint dries, write the rhyme (above) next to the infant's footprint. If desired, add a construction paper frame before sending home.

Get Moving!

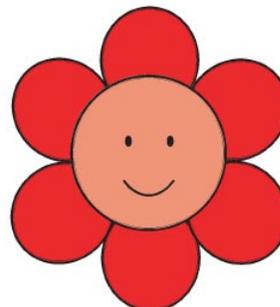
Flower Twist Up

(Toddlers-4 years, 🗣️ ? 👁️ ❤️ 😊 🙌)

Materials:

- Red, yellow, green and blue flower for each child - Print a copy of page 7 for each child and cut apart.
- Blue painter's tape

- This activity is sure to be a hit! It is also a fun way for you to evaluate each child's level of knowledge about body parts and colors.
- To play this game, you will need a good amount of space for each child. First, help each child use loops of blue painter's tape to attach the four flowers to the floor. Just be sure to check the surface ahead of time to make sure that it will not be damaged by the tape! Encourage the child to determine where to tape each flower.
- Now you are ready to begin! Give the children specific directions to follow that incorporate the flowers and their bodies. For instance, "Put your hand on the red flower and your foot on the blue flower" or "Put your bottom on the green flower and your elbow on the yellow flower."
- Once the children understand the game, they can take turns giving directions for others to follow. While the children play, be sure to note who knows their body parts and colors and who might need a little more practice.
- Advanced Preschoolers: These children will enjoy giving directions for others to follow. In addition, they can be introduced to *left* and *right* and then these can be incorporated into the game as well.



Hooray for May!

1 School-Age Activity + 1 Infant Activity

Mother's Day Magnet

(School-Age, 😊 ❤️ ✋ 🖋️ 🗨️)

Materials:

- Clip-type clothespin per child, white paper
- Magnetic tape, digital camera
- Jar lid per child, tape/glue, wrapping paper scraps
- Paint-soaked sponges or folded paper towels (assorted colors), scissors
- Hot glue gun - **Adult use only!**

- Older children enjoy creating something special as a surprise for someone they love. This project, which will require several days, is a very special Mother's Day project.
- To begin, have children make an assortment of thumbprints on white paper using paint. Allow the paint to dry completely. While the paint is drying, take a digital photo of each child's face and print out. Try to size the photo so that the child's face will fit inside a jar lid.
- Later, have each child cut his/her photo out and glue inside a jar lid. Then, have him/her cut out and attach his/her thumbprints around the edge to create petals.
- At a time when children are not present, use a hot glue gun to attach a clip-type clothespin to the back of each child's jar lid flower. Finish by adding a strip of magnetic tape to the clothespin.
- Before children give their magnets to their moms (aunts/grandmas), they can wrap them with wrapping paper scraps.

EXTEND FOR ANOTHER DAY: This project will definitely take more than one day. In addition, older children can be encouraged to create cards to accompany their gifts when they are sent home.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What is special about your mom (grandma/aunt)?*
- *What colors did you choose to use to make your thumbprints? Why did you choose those colors?*
- *How do you think your mom (grandma/aunt) will feel when she receives your gift?*
- *How does it make you feel to make something special for someone you love?*

Flowers In, Flowers Out

(Infants, 👁️ ❤️ 🗨️ ✋ ❤️)

Materials:

- Craft foam or posterboard flowers** (trace a flower-shaped cookie cutter on the craft foam or posterboard and cut out)
- Clean empty diaper wipe box, oatmeal container or shoe box with a lid, prepared** - To prepare, cut a slit long and wide enough for the craft foam or posterboard flowers to fit through. Make sure to cover any sharp edges with masking tape.

- Most infants love to put things in and take things out. This experience invites infants to do just that while at the same time while also building eye-hand coordination and receptive language skills.
- Sit on the floor and hold the infant in your lap. Place the box or container with the slit in front of you along with the foam/posterboard flowers. Pick up one of the flowers and describe it. Put the flower in the slit, inviting the infant to help. Does the infant pick up another flower and attempt to imitate your movements? If so, provide assistance if the infant is very young and has limited eye-hand control.
- As the infant puts the flowers in and out of the container, talk about the color of each and also describe his/her movements.



THANK YOU FOR THE THINGS YOU DO!

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

Thank you for the things you do;
Giving hugs and tying shoes.
(Hug self and then pretend to tie shoes.)
Cooking things for me to eat,
(Pretend to stir food in a pot.)
Picking out a book to read.
(Pretend to read a book.)
Thank you for the things you do;
Giving hugs and tying shoes.
(Hug self and then pretend to tie shoes.)

Program Symbols for Developmental Areas

🗨️ = Language Development

📖 = Literacy Knowledge

① = Math Knowledge

🔑 = Science Knowledge

? = Logic & Reasoning

🌐 = Social Studies Knowledge

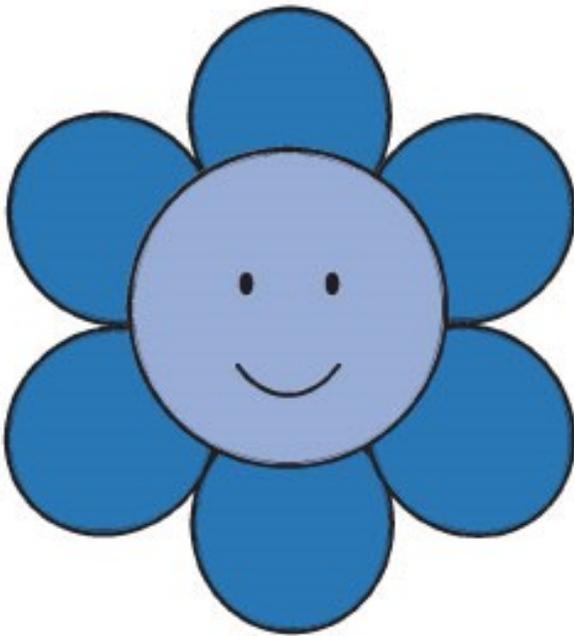
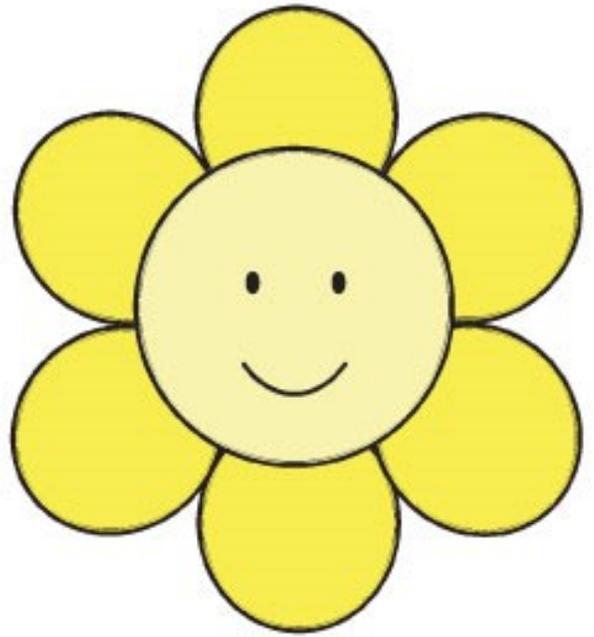
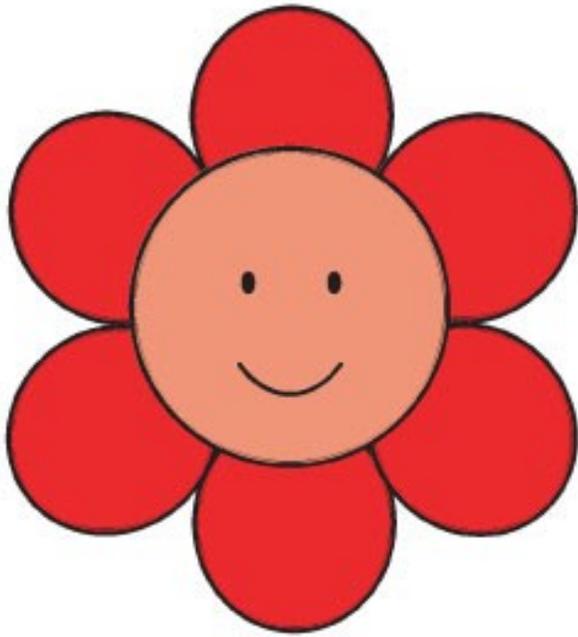
♥️ = Social & Emotional Development

🎨 🎵 = Creative Arts & Music

👐 = Physical Development & Health

😊 = Approaches to Learning





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