

Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!



Easter Activities for All Ages



Getting Started

Easter is fast approaching! This booklet of activities is designed to help you celebrate Easter with the children. We are focusing on bunnies, eggs and chicks. Of course, if you prefer to add religious aspects of this holiday into your program, you will see options for this in the activity plans. You can also simply focus on eggs, chicks and bunnies without the Easter connection if you so choose. The activities in this booklet address all ages from infants through school-age. Many of these are designed to be conducted outdoors as well. **Any materials printed in red may require a little more time to gather or prepare.**

At Gee Whiz, we use a series of picture symbols to help you identify the developmental areas addressed by each activity. Below you will find a chart that matches each picture to a developmental area. As you review the experiences presented in this guide, you will quickly see that each experience addresses many different developmental areas. For more information on these developmental areas, please check out our User's Guide <https://geewhizeducation.com/gee-whiz-users-guide/>

Program Symbols for Developmental Areas

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 🗨️ = 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 |



Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!

Enjoy the following activities with your entire group!

Get Moving!

Exploring Together: Easter Bunny

(all ages,  ?      )



Materials:

Cotton balls, masking tape, plastic Easter eggs

- Easter falls on April 9th 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?*
- *What other tool could you use to roll the egg?*
- *What do you think would happen if eggs were square instead of round?*

Questions to Spur Thinking

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

Get Moving!



Exploring Together: Easter Egg Roll

(all ages,      ? )

Materials:

Plastic Easter eggs
 Spoons (assorted types)

- The White House Easter Egg Roll has been a tradition for more than 100 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?

Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!

Enjoy these activities with small groups of children.

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. 8 for recipe)
- Paintbrushes (thick & thin ... for different children with differing levels of fine motor development)
- 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. This is especially important for ELL/DLL children as well as Toddlers/Twos who are building receptive language skills.
- 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?*
-
- *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.

Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!

Enjoy these activities with small groups of children.

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.
-
- What do the eggs do when you put them in the water? Why don't you think they sink?
 - What tool works best for "catching" the eggs? Why do you think that is?
 - What other tools could you use to catch eggs?

Water & Egg Fun

(Infants, 🗨️ ❤️ 🖐️ ? 😊 🍷)

Materials:

- Water table or container (or containers) of water
 - Plastic Easter eggs**
 - Kitchen strainers, slotted spoons, kitchen tongs, etc.
 - Plastic bowls
- Water play is not just fun for children, it helps them to build eye-hand coordination and fine motor control. While participating in water play, children also need to practice following simple rules and sharing materials.
 - Set up the water table or a container (or containers) of water. Include plastic Easter eggs, kitchen strainers, slotted spoons, kitchen tongs, etc. Include plastic bowls as well. Feel free to add other items you feel the children will enjoy using for this experience.
 - As the children play, they can use the tools you added to attempt to "catch" the Easter eggs in the water. Some may choose to put the eggs they "catch" in bowls or other containers. Others may simply just enjoy catching the eggs (with tools or their hands) and then putting them back in to catch again. This is the type of experience where you can observe, record anecdotal notes and ask lots of open-ended questions. It would also be a very appropriate time to talk about colors.
 - Advanced Preschoolers: These children can be challenged to describe which tools work best for "catching" eggs. They can also be challenged to count the number of eggs they "catch."

Sequence It!

(Toddlers–4 years, 🖐️ ① 🍷 ? ❤️ 🗨️ 😊)

Materials:

- Sequencing Teaching Tool** (p. 9) - 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.



Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!

Enjoy these activities with your infants.



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!

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.



Chicks, Bunnies & Eggs ... Oh My!

Enjoy these activities with your school-age children

Colorful Resist Art

(School-Age, 😊 ❤️ 🖌️ ? 🙋 🗨️)

Materials:

- White paper cut in the shape of eggs or crosses**
- White crayons, watercolor paints, paintbrushes

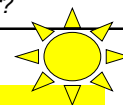
- This activity is designed to help older children explore the art technique of resist. It is also a fun way for them to explore cause and effect.
 - Provide children with white crayons and pre-cut paper (egg or cross). Invite children to draw designs on the white paper with white crayons. What happens? 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?*
-
- *How far do you think you are going to hop? How accurate was your prediction?*
 - *What do you think you could do to hop farther?*

Get Moving!



How Far Can You Hop?

(Infants - ❤️ 🙋 📏 ? 🙋 🗨️)

Materials:

- Tape measure or yardstick**
- Large sheet of white paper and marker or pencil

- This experience involves math (measurement), science (making & testing predictions), social/emotional skills (cooperation/taking turns) and physical development (gross motor). If the weather is nice, you might want to take this experience outdoors.
- Everyone knows the Easter bunny hops! This experience invites the children to pretend to be the Easter bunny while they hop...but with a twist. The children will be challenged to predict how far they can hop and then use a tape measure or yardstick to identify the actual distance.
- Each child can take a turn by predicting the distance (number of inches) they will be able to hop forward from a standing position. Write down each child's prediction and then have him/her hop. The other children can help you use a tape measure or yardstick to identify the actual distance. You can write this down beside the prediction. How close was the child's prediction to the actual results? Be sure to invite the child to predict and hop multiple times. Do their predictions become more accurate?

EXTEND FOR ANOTHER DAY: Repeat this activity for at least one more day. Then use the data with the children to create a graph.

LITTLE BUNNY

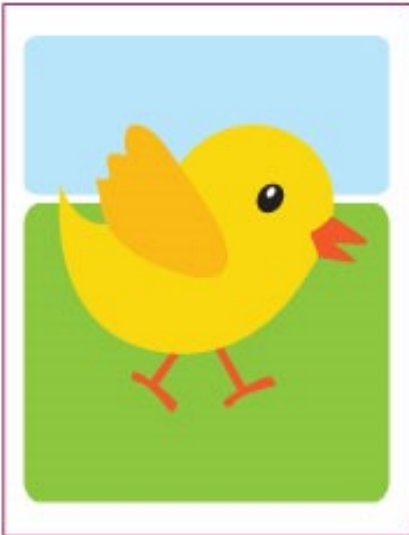
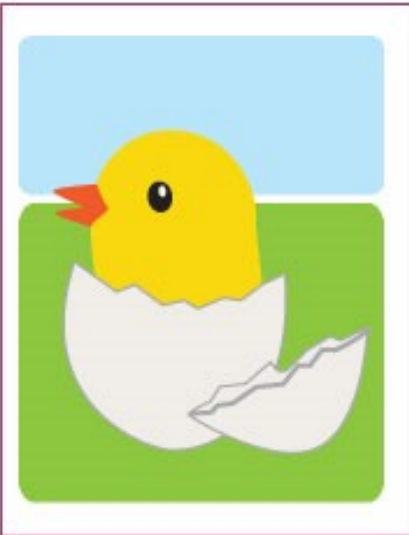
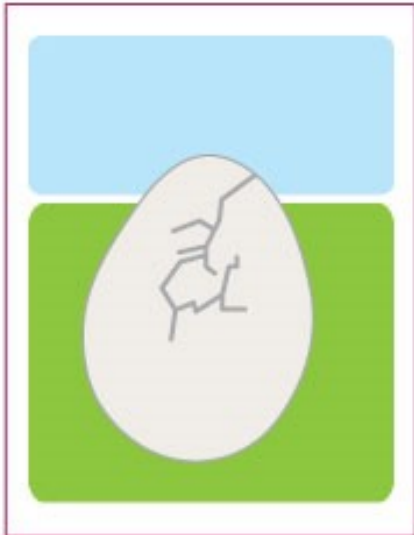
(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

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.





“Fun with Easter Eggs” Printable Activity Options

On the next page, you will find a sheet of Easter eggs. You can use these in many different ways but here are just a few options. For some options, you may want to make more than one copy!

Sort the Eggs

Invite interested children to sort the eggs by color or pattern. Talk about how the eggs are the same and how they are different. Count the number of eggs in each group.

Hide, Find, Count

Hide the eggs inside or out and have the children find them. Reinforce positional concepts as they find the eggs. Then, count the total number of eggs they find.



Egg Patterning

Working with more advanced children, explore copying, extending and creating patterns with the eggs. Remember ... copying patterns is easier than creating them.



Egg Craft

Craft projects can be fun for children IF they can do them on their own. While they are not art, they do help children build fine motor skills, practice following a series of steps and encourage persistence. For this craft, have the children use any materials they would like to create Easter baskets. These can be recyclable materials like empty boxes. Then, once their baskets are complete, the children give each child his/her own sheet of eggs to cut apart to put in his/her basket.

Jump and Touch

Print out a copy of the sheet and cut apart. Use short pieces of yarn/string or crepe paper streamers. Tape an egg to one end of each piece of yarn, string or crepe paper streamer. Then, hang the eggs from low hanging branches in your outdoor play space. Challenge interested children to jump and touch the eggs. More verbal (and advanced children) can name the colors of the eggs they touch.

