

Everyday and Everyway Talking about... May



May means spring has finally arrived! Many people start planting their gardens with flowers and vegetables. Mother's Day is in May. May will have some rainy days and there still may be snowstorms. Whatever happens with the weather, there are still lots of new things to talk about!

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing, and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Activities

Planting a garden

Let your child help you when you are working in the garden.

- She can dig in the dirt beside you with her toy shovel or a spoon.
- Have her count how many rocks and worms she finds while digging.
- When planting seeds, she can help by putting seeds in each spot in the ground.
- Talk about what the seed will grow into.
- With your help, your child can put water on the planted seeds. Talk about how the plants need some water, but not too much!

Rainy days

Adults like to stay inside when it rains, but children like to play in the puddles. Put on your rubber boots and try splashing in the puddles together.

- Talk about the clothes you need to play in the rain – raincoat, umbrella, hood, rain hat, rubber boots, and rain pants.
- See who can make the biggest splash.
- Go for a walk and count how many puddles you find.
- Keep an eye out for the worms on the sidewalk. Explain that they don't like to stay in the ground when it rains. Count how many you see.

Mother's Day

- Talk about how this is the day you show your mother how much you love her. You thank her for all the things she does for you.
- Talk about the things your mom does for you.
- Talk about what things you can do to help your mom on Mother's day.
- Plan a meal for mom and have your child help out.
- Help your child make her own card, picture, or craft for her mom.





Songs and rhymes

Want to learn more songs and rhymes? Look for a parent-child music class in your area.

I'm a little flower pot

Author unknown

(sung to the tune of *I'm a little teapot*)

I'm a little flower pot, Mum put out.
If you take care of me, I will sprout.
When you water me, I will grow,
Into a pretty flower don't you know.



Books

Go to your local public library to find these and many more great books.

The carrot seed by R. Krauss

Our granny by Margaret Wild

Mrs. McNosh and the great big squash by Sarah Weeks

Mrs. McNosh hangs up her wash by Sarah Weeks

The lady with the alligator purse by Mary Ann Hoberman and Nadine Bernard Westcott

I'm mighty by Kate and Jim McMullan

Spring's sprung by Lynn Plourde



Crafts

For more craft ideas go to www.wondertime.go.com

Planting hair seeds

Materials needed

Paper or styrofoam cups

Crayons and markers

Potting soil

Bean or grass seeds (they sprout the fastest)

Water

Instructions

Have your child draw a face on the cup with crayons or markers.

Put some potting soil in the cup so it's almost full.

Have your child place some seeds in the dirt.

Cover with some more dirt.

Help your child pour some water into the cup. But be careful, not too much.

Put the cup in a window.

Have your child check the cup every day to see if it needs more water, and if any sprouts are starting. Eventually the happy face on the cup will have hair!

Mother's day pasta necklace

Materials needed

Different shapes of pasta

Felt markers

Yarn

Masking tape

Instructions

Help your child colour his pasta with felt markers.

Cut a piece of yarn long enough for a necklace to be put on over your head. Put a small amount of masking tape on one end and a large knot in the other end.

Help your child string the pasta onto the yarn.

When you've got enough pasta strung, tie a knot in the other end. Tie the two ends together.

When making crafts...

How the craft looks when it's done is not as important as the fun your child has making it.

Remember to . . .

- Follow your child's lead
- Add new words and ideas
- Repeat new words over and over

Go to www.parentlinkalberta.ca for more Talk Box ideas.