

This is an excerpt from the Starfall Pre-K Teacher's Guide.

If you have questions or comments, please contact us.

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Starfall[®]



Teacher's Guide

Spring Holidays



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Spring Holidays

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Spring

Generally considered to include March, April, and May

The vernal equinox is the day on which daylight lasts for approximately twelve hours, with the hours of daylight increasing as the season continues due to the increasing tilt of the earth's axis toward the sun. Spring is known as a time of new birth, renewal, and growth.



Book Suggestions

- *Are You Spring?* by Caroline Pitcher
- *Curious George Flies a Kite* by Margaret and H.A. Rey
- *Flower Garden* by Eve Bunting
- *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel
- *How Do You Know It's Spring?* by Allan Fowler
- *I Can Read About the Seasons* by Robyn Supraner
- *Just a Rainy Day* by Mercer Mayer
- *The Cloud Book* by Tomie de Paola
- *The Search for Spring* by Else Holmelundi
- *The Wind* by Ron Bacon
- *When Spring Comes* by Robert Maass

Starfall Online Activities

- *Backpack Bear's Books:* "What's the Weather?"
- Calendar
- Holiday Icon: "Garden Shop"
- *It's Fun to Read: Poetry:* "Who Has Seen the Wind?"
- *It's Fun to Read:* Bird Riddles
- *Talking Library:* "Who Likes the Rain?"
- *I'm Reading:* Nonfiction, "A House in a Tree"



Activities and Crafts

Spring Bulletin Board

Use brown bulletin board paper to construct a large tree, making sure you have a branch for each child in your class. Write the children's names on the branches. The children make flowers and decorate their branches of the tree.

Evaporation

Measure one cup of water into each of two clear plastic glasses of equal size. Mark the water level of each cup with a permanent marker. Place one glass in a sunny window and the other somewhere else in the room. Observe the glasses of water over the next couple of days. Ask the children where the water is going. Explain that evaporation occurs when the particles of water become warm enough that they turn into vapors, leave the cup, and escape into the air. Ask which glass of water is evaporating more quickly, and why the water in the sun evaporated faster.

Measuring Rainfall

On a rainy day, set out a container to measure the rainfall. Continue to measure the rain each day, and record it for a few weeks. The children predict how much water will be collected.

Four Seasons

Suggestions for seasonal clothing or Picture Cards:

- Summer — bathing suit, flip-flops, sunglasses, sunscreen, beach ball, fishing rod
- Fall — light jacket, leaf, pumpkin, Halloween costume, turkey
- Winter — coat, mittens, picture of snowman and/or Santa Claus, bare tree
- Spring — picture of rain, raincoat, umbrella, flowers, butterfly

Review the Four Seasons Poster. Assign a Season Word Necklace to four children. Classify items by asking children to which season each item best belongs. Place the items or Picture Cards in front of the child wearing the appropriate Season's Word Card.

Materials

- Starfall Four Seasons Poster
- Word Card Necklaces (Prepare four Word Cards: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring. Attach yarn to make Word Necklaces.)
- Optional:** Add a picture next to each word to help identify it.
- Items or Picture Cards representing each season

Spring Bubbles

Mix detergent, water, and glycerin in a shallow container. Let the solution settle before using. Children dip fly swatters into the bubble solution, then run around and watch the bubbles blow in the wind.

Materials

- 1 cup liquid dish detergent
- 1 gallon water
- 1 tablespoon glycerin

Spring Flowers

The children glue pastel-colored cupcake liners (blossoms) to sheets of colored construction paper to create spring flowers. They draw leaves and stems with crayons, and add scenery, (sun, grass, trees, etc.).

Rain Sticks

Seal off one end of several empty paper towel tubes with tape, or tape heavy construction paper or tag board over one end hole. Poke holes in the sides of the paper towel tubes with either a small nail or an awl. The children insert toothpicks into the holes. They add dried rice or lentils, then use pieces of tape to seal the other ends of the tubes. Cover the tubes with construction paper, then children decorate them as desired. Play your choice of music and demonstrate how to use a rain stick, simply turning it over and listening to the rain. The children take turns playing the rain sticks.

Materials

- Several prepared paper towel tubes
- Toothpicks
- Dried rice or lentils
- Masking tape
- Teacher's music choice

Bean Bag Puddle Toss

Use a hula hoop or yarn to designate a puddle. The children throw bean bags, trying to land them in the puddle.

Materials

- Hula hoop or yarn
- Bean bags

Jump Over the Puddle

Cut puddle shapes small enough for the children to jump over from blue paper or newspaper the children have painted blue. Spread the puddles on the floor and children take turns hopping over them.

Flower Mosaics

The children draw outlines of flowers on pieces of paper. They add glue inside the outlines, and attach colorful confetti and/or glitter to decorate the flowers.

Kite Art

The children cut and glue pieces of paper together and add ribbon to create kites. Make this an open-ended art project by not requiring the kites to be a specific shape. The children add ribbon tails and hang the kites from the ceiling.



Solar Oven

In spring the weather becomes warmer. The children begin to discover how much Earth is warmed by the sun, and how hot the sun is by building a solar oven.

Line a shoebox with aluminum foil. Put kabob skewers through the box. Place plastic wrap over the top of the box. Place the box in the direct sunlight. Try cooking marshmallows or hot dogs.

Games

Worm Home

Put gravel at the bottom of a large clear container. Fill the container with a mixture of potting soil and dry leaves. Finally, add a few large earthworms (available outside or at bait stores) to your container. Let the earthworms settle into their new home for about a week. Explain that earthworms come to the top of the soil when it rains. Pour water into the container and children watch as the earthworms come to the top.

Materials

- Large clear container
- Gravel
- Potting soil
- Live earthworms
- Watering can

Musical Raindrops

Cut several large raindrop shapes from colored paper. Laminate them, cut them out, and place them on the floor. (It is best for younger children to have more raindrops than children.) Play your choice of music as the children walk around the room. When you stop the music, each child stands on a raindrop.

Feather

Pair children and give each pair a feather. They try to keep the feather in the air by blowing it. Explain that the air they are blowing out of their mouths is like the wind.

Ping-Pong Game

Place a child on each side of the table. Children blow the Ping-Pong ball (or cotton ball) across the table to each other without letting it fall. Review how the wind makes things move.

Recipes*

***Always check for allergies and sensitivities before serving food.**

Sunflower Seeds

Serve sunflower seeds for a snack.

The Teacher's Guide Unit 7: Growing provides plans and activities related to plants, caterpillars, and butterflies. Therefore these Spring plans contain general activities related to spring.

Flowers for Snack

Serve fresh broccoli or cauliflower florets. Explain that these are actually flowers that grow in cool, spring weather. Children dip the broccoli and cauliflower florets on toothpicks into melted cheese, ranch dressing, or dip.



Songs, Rhymes, and Finger Plays

Starfall Sing-Along Volume 1:

Track 18, "Little Plant,"

Track 21, "Months of the Year," and

Track 40, "What's the Weather?"

Starfall Sing-Along Volume 2:

Track 16, "If All the Raindrops,"

Track 35, "Six Little Ducks," and

Track 40, "The Ants Go Marching"

Starfall's Selected Nursery Rhymes:

Page 8, "Eensy Weensy Spider,"

Page 20, "It's Raining, It's Pouring,"

and "Rain, Rain, Go Away"

Bye Bye Winter

(Melody: Baa, Baa, Black Sheep)

Bye, bye Winter

Spring is on its way

First comes March, then April

and May

March brings the wind

to fly kites high

April brings raindrops

from the sky

May brings flowers

that smell so sweet

Springtime really

can't be beat!

Spring Is On Its Way

(Melody: Farmer in the Dell)

Spring is on its way

March, April, merry May

No more mittens, hats, or coats

Spring is on its way!

Spring Finger Play

Our fingers go shake, shake, shake, shake

For flowers we will make, make, make!

(Children shake and wiggle their fingers.)

Close your hands to make fists so tight

Don't you let in any light!

(Children make tight fists with their hands.)

Slowly, slowly open your hands to see

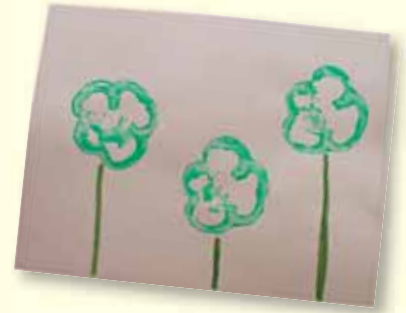
The pretty spring flowers for you and me!

(Children open up fingers.)

St. Patrick's Day

March 17

St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland and commemorates Ireland's patron saint. The holiday, which was made an official feast day in the 17th century, has progressively become a celebration of Irish culture. In the United States, St. Patrick's Day is widely celebrated by Irish and non-Irish alike. Many cities hold parades and parties with Irish music and dancing. It is customary to wear green, or run the risk of being pinched affectionately. In some places, rivers, fountains, and canals are dyed green.



Book Suggestions

- *A Leprechaun for St. Patrick's Day* by Sarah Kirivan Blazel
- *Clever Tom and the Leprechaun* by Linda Shute
- *Jack and the Leprechaun* by Ivan Robertson
- *Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato* by Tomie de Paola
- *Leprechaun Gold* by Teresa Bateman
- *St. Patrick's Day Alphabet* by Beverly Barras Vidrine
- *St. Patrick's Day* by Gail Gibbons
- *St. Patrick's Day in the Morning* by Eve Bunting
- *The Hungry Leprechaun* by Mary Calhoun
- *Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk* by Gerald McDermott
- *Patrick* by Tomie de Paola
- *St. Patrick's Day* by Kathy Ross

Starfall Online Activities

- *More.Starfall.com: Holidays: "Find a Four Leaf Clover"*



Activities and Crafts

Shamrock Numbers

Gather children in a circle. Volunteers help you place paper plates on the floor in order from 1 to 10. Place the shamrocks into a cloth bag. The children take turns picking out shamrocks and telling you what number is written on them. They place them on the correct paper plates, matching the numbers on the shamrocks to those on the paper plates.

Materials

- 10 paper plates numbered from 1 to 10
- Several sets of construction paper shamrocks with numbers 1-10 printed on them
- Cloth bag or "pot"

St. Patrick's Day Windsock

Cut the bottom out of one paper bag for each child. Children paint the bags and decorate them with shamrocks. They use glue sticks to attach streamers to the bottom ends of the bags. Reinforce a small area of each side of the other end of the bag with masking tape. Punch a hole on each side and thread yarn through the holes to form a hanger. Hang the windsocks in the classroom.

Where is the Shamrock?

Prepare a construction paper shamrock. Give the shamrock to one child to hide as the others cover their eyes. When the shamrock is hidden, the children try to find it. The child who finds the shamrock is the next to hide it.

St. Patrick's Day Mixing Colors Activities

- The children guess which colors mixed together would make green (blue and yellow). Put small amounts of the two paint colors into a small plastic bag, and seal it with tape. The children mix the colors by kneading the bag until the blue and yellow paint combine.
- Add green food coloring to the water. Children experiment by dipping their strips of paper towels, and/or coffee filters into the water and watching the green water make its way up the strips.
- Pour yellow and green dry tempera paint into old shaker bottles or saltshakers. Children carefully shake yellow and green paint onto white paper. They then spray a small amount of water onto their paint, revealing how the colors mix to make green.

Hidden Treasures

Spray paint small rocks with gold paint. Hide these gold nuggets in your Discovery table for children to find the gold a leprechaun lost.

Shamrock Prints

Children dip the cut side of green bell peppers into green tempera paint and stamp pictures onto construction paper.

Materials

- Paper bags (one per child)
- Streamers
- Paint
- Green construction paper shamrocks of various sizes
- Glue sticks
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Various other art supplies

Materials

- Small plastic bags
- Packing or masking tape
- Blue and yellow tempera paint
- Several cups of water in a container
- Green food coloring
- Strips of paper towels and/or coffee filters
- Blue and yellow tempera paint powder
- Spray bottle with water
- Shaker bottles or saltshakers
- White paper

Materials

- Green bell peppers, seeded and cut in half
- Green tempera paint
- Construction paper



Leprechaun Notes

Prepare for this activity several days before St. Patrick's Day:

- Mess up the classroom prior to the arrival of the children.
- Using chalk dust or talcum powder, make fingerprints in the areas that are messed up to represent leprechaun footprints.
- Prepare a note from Gingerbread Boy that reads, "Last night I woke up and saw leprechauns playing all over our classroom. They were laughing and having a great time. I fell back to sleep and when I woke up the classroom was a mess!"

Read a book about leprechauns. Discuss how they love to be mischievous. Children decide if the leprechauns were being mischievous, or if they just forgot to clean up.

Write a class note to the leprechauns. The note should discuss how important it is to clean up after play. Include questions the children may have, or ask where they keep their pot of gold. For several days leading up to St. Patrick's Day, mess up the classroom and prepare notes from the leprechauns responding to the children's notes.

On St. Patrick's Day, do not mess up the classroom. Prepare a treat from the leprechauns and a note telling the children to have fun celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Finding Ireland

Locate Ireland on a map or globe. Ireland is surrounded by water so it is considered an island. It is the third largest island in Europe. In fact, Ireland is commonly referred to as the "Emerald Isle" because it is so green with vegetation due to its mild climate and abundant rainfall. Interesting facts:

- Vehicles are driven on the left side of the road.
- There are no snakes in Ireland.
- There are around 400 species of birds.
- The common lizard is the only reptile native to Ireland.
- Dublin is the region visited by the most tourists.

Games

"Tape the Gold in the Pot"

A variation of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey."

Pretend the large black circle is a pot, and the children's small circles are pieces of gold. Blindfold children in turn, twirling them three or more times. The children count the twirls. They then try to place their coins onto the pot. Afterwards, count the coins on the pot, and discuss the locations of the other coins using position words (above, below, next to).

Materials

- Large black construction paper circle
- Small circle of gold or yellow construction paper for each child, with tape attached
- Blindfold or scarf

"St. Patrick's Day Toss"

Set up several coffee cans in row. The children pretend to throw gold into pots by taking turns tossing Ping-Pong balls or painted clothespins into the cans.

Materials

- Several coffee cans covered with black construction paper
- Ping-Pong balls or painted (gold) clothespins

Recipes*

*Always check for allergies and sensitivities before serving food.

Shamrock Shakes

Blend the frozen yogurt, milk, and green food coloring to make shakes.

Shamrock Mashed Potatoes

Boil enough potatoes for your class. Drain the potatoes. Add milk, butter, and salt to the cooked potatoes. Choose volunteers to add green food coloring to them, then use a masher or mixer to mash the potatoes.

Eat Green Day

Provide all green foods in honor of St. Patrick's Day: green milk, grapes, celery, green peppers, broccoli with ranch dressing, green eggs and ham, etc.



Ingredients

- Vanilla frozen yogurt
- Milk
- Green food coloring
- Blender

Songs and Poems

Way Down Yonder at the Rainbow's End

(Melody: "Paw Paw Patch")

Where, oh where are the dear little leprechauns?
Where, oh where are the dear little leprechauns?
Where, oh where are the dear little leprechauns?
Way down yonder at the rainbow's end.

Come on kids, let's go find them!
Come on kids, let's go find them!
Come on kids, let's go find them!
Way down yonder at the rainbow's end!

They're picking up gold coins, puttin' them in black pots,
Picking up gold coins, puttin' them in black pots,
Picking up gold coins, puttin' them in black pots,
Way down yonder at the rainbow's end!

Can't Catch Me!

(Melody: "Skip To My Lou")

Can't, can't, can't catch me!
Can't, can't, can't catch me!
Can't, can't, can't catch me!
I'm a leprechaun, you see!

Looking for Leprechauns

(Melody: "I'm a Little Teapot")

Let's look for leprechauns little and green
Most of the time, they can't be seen
At the end of rainbows we've been told
That's where we'll find their pots of gold!

Five Little Leprechauns

Five little leprechauns running by my door
One jumped away, and then there were four

Four little leprechauns sitting in a tree
One hid in the leaves, and then there were three

Three little leprechauns, wondering what to do
One went for a pot of gold, and then there were two

Two little leprechauns, having lots of fun
One jumped over the rainbow, and then there was one

One little leprechaun, having too much fun
He slipped off for a nap, and then there were none

Earth Day

April 22nd

The original Proclamation of Earth Day was by the city of San Francisco, where it was first celebrated on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring. Gaylord Nelson, a United States senator then called for a day to teach the public about the environment, or Earth Day, which was celebrated on April 22, 1970. In the United States Earth Day is now celebrated each year on April 22nd, and is celebrated throughout the world by more than a billion people! It is a day meant to inspire awareness and appreciation of nature and the environment, and honor our home, planet Earth.



Book Suggestions

- *Fun with Recycling* by Marion Elliot
- *Grover's 10 Terrific Ways to Help Our Wonderful Word* by Anna Ross
- *It's Earth Day* by Mercer Mayer
- *Let's Get Ready for Earth Day* by Lloyd G. Douglas
- *The Lorax Earth* by Dr. Seuss

Starfall Online Activities

- Holiday icon: "Every Day is Earth Day"
- *I'm Reading: Nonfiction, "It's Earth Day, Dear Dragon"*



Activities and Crafts

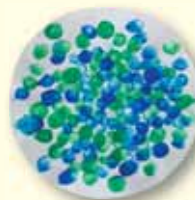
Pollution Pond

Put fish in the pond. Explain to children that the fish used to live happily until people started coming to the park for picnics and throwing their trash into the pond. (A volunteer throws a piece of trash into the pond.) Remove a fish. Repeat until all the fish are gone.

Tell children that some people decided to clean up the pond. Have children remove their trash one piece at a time and add a fish. When all the trash is gone the water is clean and the fish have room to swim.

Be Kind to the Earth

Each child dips his or her hand in either green or blue finger paint and stamps it on the circle. After it dries, cut out the circle and mount it on your bulletin board. Label the board, "Be Kind to the Earth."



Materials

- Small kiddie pool, or large piece of paper painted blue (pond)
- Construction paper fish
- Trash (newspaper, clean empty cans or bottles, empty cereal boxes, etc.)

Materials

- Poster board with a large circle drawn on it
- Green and blue finger paint

Coffee Filter Planet Earth

The children flatten out coffee filters on paper plates. They use the markers to color the coffee filters using the globe as a reference. Children spray the colored filters a time or two with water and watch the colors flow. Allow the filters to dry.

Materials

- Coffee filter and paper plate for each child
- Blue and green washable markers
- Spray bottle of water
- Globe

Litter Bags

Children decorate white lunch bags with markers or crayons and stickers. They use the bags to collect litter, or take them home to hang in the family car.

Materials

- White lunch bag for each child
- Markers, crayons, stickers

Sorting Cans

Collect cans to recycle in your classroom. Children sort them by color, brand, or other physical attribute. When cans have been sorted, take them to your local recycling center and use the profits to buy supplies to create a class recycling book.

Note: The cans should be clean. To avoid cuts, warn the children not to stick their fingers into the tops of the cans.

Recycling Activities for Math

- Collect sticks (or other natural elements) for children to create various geometric shapes.
- Take children on a nature walk and have them collect natural math manipulatives such as rocks, seeds, and nuts and use them to practice counting, patterning, and sorting.
- Measure the length of natural objects using standard and nonstandard units of measurement.
- Collect and measure rainfall. Use the collected rainfall to water plants.



Games

Activity

Affix box lids so that they easily open and close to view the items inside. Inside the boxes attach fabric squares above the holes (creating flaps) and place a different natural object.

Children take turns inserting one hand into the box and guessing what the natural object might be by feeling it. Open the lid for children to see if they correctly identified the objects.

Recycle Relay

Set up three containers at one end of the classroom or playground, labeled with different types of recycling ("Paper," "Plastic," "Aluminum") and tape a picture next to each to help children identify them.

At the other end of the classroom, place two collections of materials, each with an equal number of objects to be recycled. Children form two teams and line up behind the recyclable materials. At the start, each child chooses something from his or her collection and runs to deposit it in the proper bin. Instead of racing each other, children could race the clock.

Songs and Poems

Tree Poem

*Oh, little tree grow straight and tall
With green leaves that shade us all.*

*Birds will make their nests on you.
Owls will find a home there too!*

*Rabbits will burrow under your trunk
You might be home for a skunk!*

Clean Up the Earth

*(Melody: "Way Down Yonder in the
Paw Paw Patch")*

*Pick up paper put it in the trash can.
Pick up paper put it in the trash can.
Pick up paper put it in the trash can.*

Way down yonder in the recycle bin!

*Pick up tin cans put them in the trash can.
Pick up tin cans put them in the trash can.
Pick up tin cans put them in the trash can.*

Way down yonder in the recycle bin!

*Pick up plastic put it in the trash can.
Pick up plastic put it in the trash can.
Pick up plastic put it in the trash can.*

Way down yonder in the recycle bin!

Materials

- Several medium-sized cardboard boxes with 6" diameter holes cut at one end; attach lids so that they can easily open and close
- 8"x10" fabric pieces or felt squares
- Various natural objects

Recipes*

**Always check for allergies and sensitivities before serving food.*

Nature's Bounty

Children snack on a variety of foods that come directly from nature, such as apple slices, orange segments, fresh berries, and sunflower seeds.



Cinco de Mayo

May 5

Cinco de Mayo, Spanish for “fifth of May,” is celebrated regionally in Mexico and by Mexican-Americans throughout the United States. The day celebrates the Mexican heritage and commemorates an unlikely Mexican victory in battle against the French in which the Mexican army was outnumbered, ill equipped, and poorly armed, yet they won against incredible odds, with courage and spirit. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated with fiestas, music, dancing, parades, and food.

Book Suggestions

- *Carlos Goes To School* by Eloise A. Anderson
- *Celebrate! It's Cinco de Mayo!* by Janice Levy
- *Cinco de Mayo* by Mary Dodson Wade
- *Cinco de Mayo: Celebrating the Traditions of Mexico* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith
- *Cinco de Mouse-O* by Judy Cox
- *Maria* by Joan Lexau

Starfall Online Activities

- If you have a membership with *Starfall.com*, you have access to the ABCs in Spanish. To view them, use the following URL: <http://more.starfall.com/m/abc-es/abc-index-es/load.htm>



Activities and Crafts

Where is Mexico?

Indicate where you live in relation to Mexico. Demonstrate a route you might take if you were going to take a trip to Mexico. For example, if you lived in New York, you would indicate New York on the map or globe, then show the path you would take south and west to get to Mexico. Discuss how you would travel there. Would you drive, walk, bike, or ride an airplane? The children take turns suggesting other possible routes to Mexico.

Materials

- Large wall map or globe

Mexican Flag

The colors of the flag of Mexico are green, white, and red respectively. Distribute prepared white papers to each child. Children tear green and red construction paper into small pieces and glue them on the appropriate section of the white paper to create a Mexican flag. To add authenticity, provide copies of the eagle positioned in the center of the Mexican flag and children glue it to the white section of their flags.

Materials

- One sheet of white construction paper with lines drawn dividing the page into thirds (lengthwise) for each child
- Green and red construction paper
- Glue or glue sticks

ABC Pattern (Green, White, Red)

The children use objects to create ABC patterns (green, red, white, green, red, white).

Materials

- Provide a large assortment of objects in green, white, and red. Suggestions: plastic linking chains, bingo chips, squares of paper, small blocks, crayons, markers, counters, etc.

¡Hablemos Español!

Teach the children words and phrases in Spanish.

Please	Por Favor	(poor fah-vohr)
Thank You	Gracias	(grah-see-aahs)
You're Welcome	De Nada	(day nah-dah)
Good Morning	Buenos Días	(bweh-nos dee-ahs)
Hello	Hola	(oh-lah)
Goodbye	Adiós	(ah-dee-ohs)
Good Night	Buenas Noches	(bweh-nahs noh-chays)
See You Tomorrow	Hasta Mañana	ah-stah mahn-yahn-ah
Goodbye Friends	Adiós Amigos	(ah-dee-ohs ah-mee-gohs)

Counting in Spanish

Teach the children how to count to ten in Spanish.

One	Uno	(oo-noh)
Two	Dos	(doss)
Three	Tres	(tress)
Four	Cuatro	(kwa-tro)
Five	Cinco	(seen-ko)
Six	Seis	(saiss)
Seven	Siete	(syete)
Eight	Ocho	(o-cho)
Nine	Nueve	(nwai-be)
Ten	Diez	(dyess)

Maracas

Explain that maracas are instruments that are used throughout Mexico. They are shaken to create sounds. Distribute two small paper cups to each child. Children decorate the paper cups with markers or crayons. They pour a handful of uncooked dry beans into one cup and place the other cup on top. Secure the cups by wrapping masking tape or electrical tape around them. Play mariachi music as children shake their maracas.

Materials

- Two small paper cups per child
- Masking or electrical tape
- Uncooked dry beans
- Crayons, markers

Dance Streamers

The children decorate their paper towel tubes using crayons or markers and cutting shapes from a variety of colors of construction paper and gluing them. When they finish decorating, help them tape or staple crepe paper streamers around the edges. Play Latin music and children wave their dance streamers as they dance.

Materials

- Paper towel tube for each child
- Variety of colors of construction paper
- Colorful crepe paper streamers
(several per child)
- Tape or a stapler
- Markers, crayons, glue sticks
- Latin music

Products from Mexico

Place some Mexican products in your Discovery Center for your children to touch and smell. Explain that these are just a few of the products that we get from Mexico.

Suggestions: coffee, sugar (cane), wheat, cotton.

Mexican Hat Dance

The Mexican Hat Dance is the official dance of Mexico. It is a symbol of pride and is even taught in public schools in Mexico.

To perform the dance, children stand with their feet together and their arms at their sides. When the music starts, they kick up their heels three times alternating feet and clap two times. They repeat this until the chorus of the song, then link elbows with a partner and skip around in a small circle. They switch elbows and skip in a circle in the opposite direction. They return to kicking up their heels until the chorus plays again, and link arms with a different partner and skip in circles in both directions.

Games

Be a Burrito

Wrap a child in a sheet or a blanket. He or she rolls down the hill burrito style! Repeat until each child has a turn. If you don't have hills or an area to do this, children may roll across the floor. Their friends will be more than happy to help them.

Recipes*

***Always check for allergies and sensitivities before serving food.**

Burritos

The children take turns adding what they like to the center of their tortillas. Help them roll their burritos.

Songs and Poems

We Can Count in Spanish!

(Melody: "If You're Happy and You Know it")

We can count in Spanish yes we can (clap clap)
We can count in Spanish yes we can (clap, clap)
Uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco so what do you thinko?
We can count in Spanish yes we can! (clap, clap)

Cinco de Mayo

(Melody: "The Farmer in the Dell")

Today's the 5th of May
Cinco de Mayo we say
Let's have a fiesta
And then a siesta
It's Cinco de Mayo today!

Sombrero

I have a big sombrero
I wear on Fiesta days
Like Cinco de Mayo
Which is the 5th of May!

Materials

- Large sheet
- Small outside hill

Ingredients

- Small tortillas
- Fillings (diced tomatoes, meat, beans, guacamole, cheese, etc.)

Mother's Day

Celebrated on the second Sunday of May in the United States and Canada

Mother's Day is a celebration of motherhood and the influence mothers have in society. It is celebrated throughout the world in a variety of ways on various days. Many of these celebrations of motherhood can be traced back to ancient festivals. In the United States, Mother's Day is presently celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Teachers must be especially sensitive around Mother's Day to children who live without mothers due to death, divorce, or abuse. One way to do this is to include various caregivers such as grandmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, aunts, or fathers who are raising their children alone in your Mother's Day discussions. Explain that anyone special who cares for a child can be honored or remembered on Mother's Day.

Book Suggestions

- *Biscuit Loves Mother's Day* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- *Did I Tell You I Love You Today?* by Deloris Jordan
- *Happy Mother's Day!* by Mercer Mayer
- *Happy Mother's Day Mami!* by Leslie Valdes
- *I Like Noisy Mom Likes Quiet: A Mother's Day Story* by Eileen Spinelli
- *Love you Forever* by Robert Munsch
- *Siempre Te Querré (Love You Forever, Spanish Edition)* by Robert Munsch
- *The Mother's Day Mice* by Bunting

Starfall Online Activities

- *I'm Reading: Fiction/Nonfiction: "Happy Mother's Day Dear Dragon"*



Activities and Crafts

Hand Flowers

Trace each child's hand onto construction paper. Help the children cut them out. Glue a photo of each child in the middle of his or her handprint. The children each paint a craft stick green. Glue or tape the hand shapes to the sticks to create hand-shaped flowers.

Variation: Each child decorates a paper or styrofoam cup. The children place a small amount of play dough in the bottom of the cup, then push the craft stick and the attached flower into the dough.

Materials	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction paper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photo of each child
<input type="checkbox"/>	Craft stick for each child

Special Person Puzzle

Each child draws a picture for his or her special person. Write "I Love You!" on the whiteboard for children to copy.

Assist children in cutting their papers into 6 to 8 pieces to create puzzles. The children take their decorated puzzle pieces home in envelopes.

Materials	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction paper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crayons, scissors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large envelopes

Bath Salt Gifts

Children paint designs on the baby food jars. When the paint dries, assist children in filling the jars with bath salts. Tie a ribbon around each jar to create special Mother's Day gifts.

Materials	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Empty baby food jars
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bath salts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paint
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ribbon

All About Mom (or another significant person)

Prepare a worksheet as follows. Each child dictates his or her responses and you write them. The children decorate the pages and write their names.

- My mom's favorite color is _____.
- My mom's favorite food is _____.
- My mom's favorite story is _____.
- My mom's favorite place to go is _____.
- My mom's favorite song is _____.
- My mom's favorite thing to do with me is _____.
- I love my mom because _____.

Coupon Books

Staple together several rectangular sheets of construction paper for each child to create coupon books. Discuss how coupons are used, and explain that they will each make a coupon book as a Mother's Day gift. Generate a list of kindnesses the children can do for their mothers, grandmothers or other special people. Suggestions: a hug, a kiss, drawing a picture, cleaning up their rooms, washing dishes, folding their clothes and emptying the trash. The children decorate the covers of their coupon books, then dictate one action they will perform on each of their coupons. You write the actions. The children illustrate and write their names on each page.

Materials

- Prepared coupon books
- Markers, crayons

Memory Handprint

Mix the flour and salt, then add enough water to create a firm clay-like mixture. Remove ½ cup of dough and form it into a circular shape on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Be sure the shapes are large enough to fit a child's hand or foot with fingers or toes spread. Push children's hands or feet firmly into the dough. Allow the dough to dry for several weeks or bake them at 225 degrees for 2 to 4 hours, depending on the thickness of the dough.

Materials

- 1 cup flour, 1 cup salt, water, and food coloring (optional) for each child

Games

"Mother Says"

Play "Simon Says," replacing Simon with Mother.

Recipes*

***Always check for allergies and sensitivities before serving food.**

Mother's Day Tea

Plan a Mother's Day Tea for snack to honor mothers and all caregivers. Serve a variety of sandwiches and cut them into fourths. Serve juice or lemonade for the children to drink.

Our Mothers' Favorite Snacks

Ask the children to think of their mother's or other caregiver's favorite snacks. Make a chart paper list of their responses. Choose one or more of the healthier ideas for children to enjoy for snack for several days before and after Mother's Day.

Songs and Rhymes

Starfall's Selected Nursery Rhymes: Page 44, "Three Little Kittens"

Mommy's Care

(Melody: "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

*This is the way mommy brushes my hair
(The children brush their hair)*

Brushes my hair

Brushes my hair

*This is the way mommy brushes my hair
Mommy takes care of me*

This is the way mommy slices my bread...

This is the way mommy blows me a kiss...

This is the way mommy reads to me...

This is the way Mommy tucks me in bed...

Someone Special

To someone special that I love

A great big enormous hug, hug, hug!

There is someone that I love and here is a clue,

She takes the best care of me YES! It's YOU!