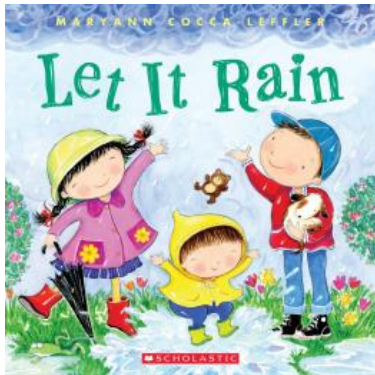


Book: Let It Rain by Maryann Cocca-Leffler (Ages 3-5)

Introducing the book:



Exploring the Cover

Place a sheet of paper hiding the cover. Show bits of the cover to the children leaving just a part of the image to be seen. Play a game where children have to guess what the book will be about based only on the part they can see. Once you reveal the whole cover, ask children to name the different things they see.

Building Background

Ask children if they know what season we are transitioning to. Tell them that March 20th is the Spring Equinox (The first day of spring in the northern hemisphere). Ask children: Do you notice any changes in the weather, nature and around you? Why do you think the children are playing in the rain? What does that mean? Explain that as the weather gets warmer and more humid, rain falls more often during this time of the year which is great for the flowers, plants and trees to grow!

Reading the book:

As you read the story, show children the signs of spring listed in the book: the clothing we wear, the animals we see, the flowers and trees changing, the warmer weather, the rainbows and rain; the gardens, etc. Ask them what their favorite activity is to do in the springtime.

After reading the book:

Gardening – Planting seeds activity

This activity will teach children what we need in order to plant a seed.

You will need:

- Egg Carton
- Soil
- Seeds (cucumber, tomato, bell peppers, or any seed you want)
- Measuring cup
- Spoon
- Scissors
- Spray bottle

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Using the scissors, cut off the egg carton closing flap and lid.
- Place a little bit of soil using the spoon into each section of the egg carton.
- Place a seed inside each section. Cover lightly with a little bit of soil.
- Repeat with all of the egg carton sections.
- Using the measuring cup, water each section of the egg carton just a bit. Don't overwater as it will soak the egg carton and you'll need to place something underneath it.
- Place onto a sunny spot, water with the spray bottle daily and watch the seeds sprout and grow!



Spring Suncatcher:

As the weather is getting warmer and we see nature blooming everywhere, children will have an opportunity to go for a walk and collect leaves, petals and anything that catches their eyes.

You will need:

- Various flowers, leaves, and petals
- Contact Paper
- Hole Punch
- Twigs
- String
- Bag to put nature “treasures”

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Head out on a hunt to find beautiful treasures in nature.
- Gather your items in your bag.
- Make sure you grab some sticks.
- Cut some contact paper out. Make it double the length (or width) so that you can just fold it on top of itself when you are done placing your flowers.
- Trim the edges of the contact paper.
- Use a hole punch to punch a hole in each corner of the contact paper.
- Tie the contact paper onto the twigs using string.
- Trim the excess string.

**References and resources:****More on Spring equinox:**

<https://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-spring-vernal-equinox>

Activities:

https://www.toddleratplay.com/2020/05/10/planting-seeds-activity/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes&utm_term=1114512326_54152072_176782

<https://www.icanteachmychild.com/spring-suncatchers/>