



Nature Walk With a Purpose - Spring

Overview/Description: Explore the garden searching for signs of the current season and talk about what is happening

Big Idea: There is a time for everything.

Guiding Question: What is happening in Spring?

Grade Level: Any season)

Lesson Time: 30 minutes

Season: Spring (can be adapted to any season)

Type of Activity: Garden Exploration

Materials Needed: Trowel or shovel

Preparation: Walk around the garden and make a list of things that look interesting for the season that the students should see.

What to do:

- At the Opening Circle ask the students for their favorite season. What is new or different in the garden in Spring? *New life, shoots, buds, etc, garden is waking up after long winter rest, birds are active.*
- Walk around and look for “**Signs of Spring**” (shoots, bulbs, buds, flowers, young leaves).
- **Dig up a bulb** that has shoots out of the ground - look at the bulb, roots, shoots. *Before long the baby plants and bulbs will turn into something new...what do you think they will be?*
- Find something blooming - daffodil, hyacinth, crocus - talk about “a time for everything.” *Why do we have a harvest festival (with pumpkins, corn, apple cider) in the fall, and not winter or spring?*
- Look at a bud on a freshly sprouted bulb and a bud on a tree - same word “bud”, but they look different, how are the buds same and different when you are looking at a tree vs a flower?
- Look for organisms - birds? plants? worms? bugs? Look under logs, rocks, in the compost pile. Find as many living things as you can.
- Find something to taste: chives, pea shoots, lettuce leaves, kale, etc.

Teaching Points:

- This is really a time for kids to explore and discover; don't rush this experience.
- Cycles - How are seasons of the year are like times of the day? Spring is morning (everything is waking up!), Summer is mid-day, Fall is afternoon/evening, and Winter is night.
- People need to rest at night, store up energy to work and play during the day. Plants need to rest in the winter (dormant season) to grow and thrive.
- We need to take care of plants in all of their stages.
- Vocabulary: Dormancy = A period when an organism's life cycle when growth and development are temporarily stopped. Organism = An individual living thing. Examples of organisms: animals, insects, plants, bacteria.

For extended lessons:

- Have clipboards with paper and pencils and let the students disperse in pairs to draw their favorite sign of Spring.
- Scavenger Hunt