



Parrot Kindergarten's

# Spring Sprint

Below you'll find ideas for learning adventures this spring season! Ideas include vocabulary, crafts, books, foods, together time, and tablet fun!

They are sorted into "deep dive" topics:

- Plants, Trees & Flowers – Things that Grow Outside
- Learnin' Weather & Temperature
- Swimmin', Flyin', Hoppin', Walkin' & Runnin' – How Things Move!
- Cute Springtime Baby Animals & Buglets

\*\*Extra favorite activities

# Plants, Trees & Flowers – Things That Grow Outside

## LESSONS:

### **Seeds & Sprouts**

Introduce your little learner to the beginnings of plants! You can show them seeds and sprouts, and then watch as seeds become sprouts.

### **Plants, Grasses & Flowers**

There is color all around us! Teach your bird the words for the plants, grass, and flowers they see to bring springtime to life!

### **Trees & Bushes**

Oak trees and willow trees, beautiful bushes in our landscaping... Learning trees and bushes will give your learner a fuller understanding of their vibrant outside world.

### **Parts of a Plant – leaves, stems, tree limbs, flowers**

You can teach your bird the parts of trees, bushes and flowers to expand their knowledge and understanding of things that grow outside!

### **Learn Big/Small with Seeds & Sprouts**

Seeds and sprouts provide a wonderful resource for big and small in different contexts – from big and little seeds and sprouts to little seeds that become big sprouts and plants!

### **Learn Up/Down with Flowers & Leaves**

## SCIENCE EXPERIMENT:

### **Demonstrate How Water & Sun is Needed to Grow a Seed!**

Step 1: Condition words for sun, water, and seed (using a bean). Grab 3 jars.

Step 2: With your learner's help, soak mung/red/garbanzo beans overnight in water.

Step 3: Line all three jars with a paper towel, with the seed between the cloth and the glass. Place sun/water symbols on the jar with the seed, access to sunlight, and daily water. Place water symbol on a bean-seed jar with only daily watering. Place a sun on a bean-seed jar with only sun. Watch how water AND sun are needed to grow a plant!

## CRAFTS:

## Grow and eat sprouts!

Drop a few seed in some soil and watch them grow! My girls watched as we grew beans, corn, and okra from seed this year. We checked on them every day and they were VERY invested in all the changes the little seedling made! (Alternatively you can begin to grow them in a jar with a paper towel holding the seeds against the wall of the jar and watch the changes underneath too!)



## Decorate a Planter

Grab stickers, paint, or mixed media materials like flowers, bugs, fairies, moss, and stones from the craft store. Let your learner pick their favorites and then glue the selections to your planter! This will be a decoration you'll cherish forever. Great for gifts, too!

## Make a Dried Flower & Leaf Collage

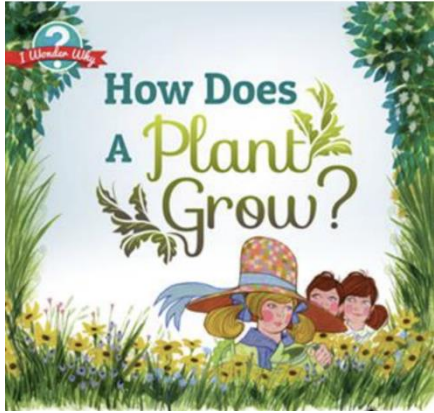
Grab dried (or synthetic) flowers and leaves from the craft store as well as a piece of paper or canvas. Let your learner pick their favorite materials and if you want, they can even touch the canvas to pick where to put their picks! In ours, I let them pick their favorite glitter color to make the tree leaves.



## Foam or Sticker Flower Collage

You can make pictures with foam and sticker flowers! Grab a set on Amazon ([here are some cute ones!](#)) and let your learner pick their favorites as you create a pretty canvas together! Hint: I love mixing flowers and butterflies too! Some of my favorite canvases are: [little wood ornaments](#), [mini canvases](#) (great to add magnets for the fridge), [watercolor painting paper](#), or traditional canvases!





## BOOKS:

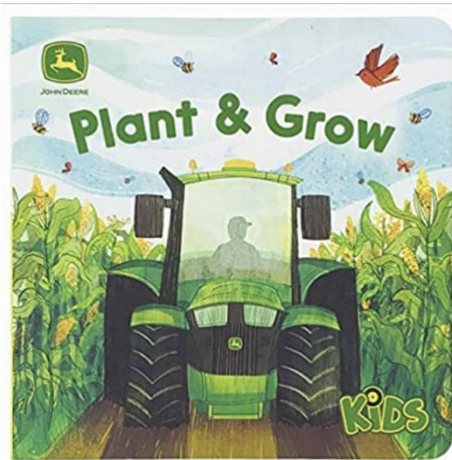
### **How do Seeds Sprout? – Evan Rhodes**

Examines the steps involved when a seed sprouts to form a plant.

### **How Does a Plant Grow?**

Children don't have to be botanists-in-training to discover the message of this book: "All plants are interesting. Even the weeds." Young readers are sure to be intrigued by the wide variety of shapes, sizes, and functions in flowers, fruit trees, and all sorts of other flora. How Does a Plant Grow? will inspire

children to be newly alert to the many wonders of the plant world, from how seeds sprout to why leaves turn to the light to the vital roles of stems and roots. How Does a Plant Grow? is part of the I Wonder Why book series, written to ignite the curiosity of children in grades K-6 while encouraging them to become avid readers. These books explore the marvels of plants, animals, and other phenomena related to science and nature. Included in each edition is a Parent/Teacher Handbook with coordinating activities. The I Wonder Why series is written by an award-winning science educator and published by NSTA Kids, a division of NSTA Press.



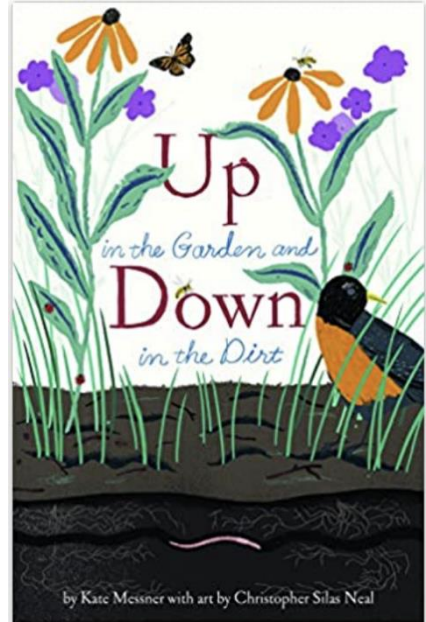
### **Plant & Grow (a John Deere Lift-a-Flap book)**

Nothing runs or reads like a John Deere Lift-a-Flap farming book! Introduce your little one to the wonderful world of farming with this adorable and sturdy board book filled with fun farm facts, tractors, harvesting machinery, and lively rural scenes designed to educate and entertain your little John Deere enthusiast. Simple sentences reinforce future language structure while grasping and lifting the durable flaps helps develop fine motor skills. A perfect first farm book!



## Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt

Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt there is a busy world of earthworms digging, snakes hunting, skunks burrowing, and all the other animals that make a garden their home. In this exuberant and lyrical book, discover the wonders that lie hidden between stalks, under the shade of leaves...and down in the dirt.



## TABLET:

### Add Plants & Flowers to the CommBoard

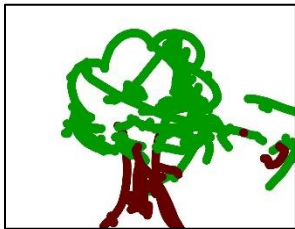
We have a “Talk About” menu that includes the themes the birds learn, including seasons, temperatures, and themes. You could add a Plants menu to your CommBoard and then boxes as they learn vocabulary so they can ask to learn more, read books, or look at their favorite plants!

### Color a Flower in the Coloring App

The Kids Coloring Book app has a cute flower menu (for purchase) to color flowers and plants. There is also a free flower in a pot under the alphabet menu “P”.

### Color Leaves in the Coloring App (under L) in alphabet

Like the Flowers, there are leaves your little learner can color in the Kids Coloring book! These are great exercises to practice pressure touches and build motor skills.



### Paint a Tree

Some of my favorite moments together have been in the Paint app. This is a blank canvas for free-form coloring and drawing, a great tool for letting your learner practice their movements and tablet touches. I drew a tree and picked the color as my girls filled in the lines. It was so cute to make together!

## TOGETHER TIME:

### Nature Scavenger hunt – collect leaves and flowers together outside

If it's safe for your bird to be outdoors (and they like it), go for a fall-filled adventure, collecting leaves and flowers. You can point out all the different parts of plants, too!

### Go for a nature drive and look at the spring flowers

For birds that love car rides, this can be a beautiful way to share the fresh season together.

## Plant a Garden Together

If it's safe for your learner to go outside, they can join you as you plant a garden, watching it grow over time.

## Play "Which Hand?" with Flowers & Leaves

Amongst us siblings, the "Which Hand?" game was a favorite in the backseat during car rides. The game itself is really easy – teach your bird to touch your hand on cue (like target training). Then hide a tiny spring-themed token in one of your hand (such as a flower or leaf!) and ask, "Which hand?" When they select, open your hand. If they're right, they get a treat, and if they're wrong, they get to try again.

## Sprouts, Plants & Flowers Cartoon Playlist

My birds have a springtime playlist of about 4 hours just on "Plants and Dirt." Baby Sensory cartoons include soft, fun music with flower themes, and you can also check out plant themes from your birds' favorite shows: Peppa Pig, Bernstein Bears, AlphaBlocks, Sesame Street... A general YouTube search for "toddler sprouts and plants" filtered to 20+ minute videos has great results too, and is quick to turn into a playlist.

# FORAGING:

## Sprout, Leaf & Flower Foraging

Sprinkle (safe) sprouts, leaves, and flowers in your bird's food and let them play with it while they eat. Some of my favorites are herbs from the grocery store such as dill, basil, lavender, oregano, etc.

## Flower Foraging Bags

I love themed foraging bags!! Hide favorite treats in springtime flower (paper) bags. For added fun, fill with shredded paper or hide treats in crumpled paper towels dropped into the treat bags.



## Braided Tissue Paper Foraging

Using plant and flower colored tissue paper, wrap treats into braided ropes for foraging fun! Grab pink, green, yellow, purple and blue tissue paper. Lay it out flat and sprinkle some seeds. Fold it in half over and over again until it is a "rope." Do the same with two other colors. Then, using a zip tie, connect three together at the top. Braid the 'ropes' and tie with a zip tie at the bottom.

## FOOD & RECIPES:

### Grow & Eat Sprouts!

If you need some inspiration, beans are SO easy to grow (and the sprouts are yummy to eat, too). We love mung beans and garbanzo beans best. Soak them overnight and then rinse. You can leave them out to grow, rinsing again twice a day.

### Sprouted Mung Bean & Pomegranate Snacks

Pick up some mung beans at the grocery store (or grow them yourself!) and sprinkle 50/50 with pomegranate seeds for a fresh and delicious snack – bird and human approved!

### Sprout Omelets

Add sprouts (and chop too, if you want!) to eggs for a tasty omelet.

### Flower Pancakes

Mix up 1 banana and 2 eggs for a simple 'pancake' mix. Grab a metal flower cookie cutter or flower-shaped pancake pan, pour batter into the mold, and cook!



# Learnin' Weather & Temperature

## LESSONS:

### Temperature Vocabulary: Hot & Cold

I used cups of water (warm and cold) to teach "hot" and "cold." (You could also teach hot, warm, cool, cold.) Then I also taught them "inside" and "outside" vocabulary with a ball – ball inside, ball outside. For seasons, I taught them: Fall – cool outside, Winter – cold outside, Spring – warm outside, Summer – hot outside.



### Temperature Vocabulary: Inside & Outside

Teach your bird vocabulary for "inside" and "outside". I grabbed a ball and first taught my birds the word for "Ball." Then I made symbols for inside and outside. I let them see the ball inside, and conditioned "ball inside." Then I let them see the ball outside and conditioned "ball outside." As always, two new words and then a quiz!



### Weather Vocabulary: Sun, Cloud & Rainbow

Teach your learner weather concepts by letting them look at pictures associated with the words sun, cloud, & rainbow. Show them the sun and clouds outside, too, and if you're lucky enough to see a rainbow, I bet they'd love to see that too! [Click here for a demo lesson in Ellie's Lesson Library.](#)

### Weather Vocabulary: Rain, Thunder & Lightning

Show your learner videos of rain, and then lightning and thunder, carefully teaching each concept individually. You can reinforce the lesson by watching rain and storms together, and letting them touch their word symbols.

### Weather Vocabulary: Wind & Snow

I taught wind by blowing lightly on them (in a way that wasn't scary), and then letting them feel the wind come in through the window. We played "windy curtains," watching the wind in the curtains and then letting the curtains blow on us (if they aren't afraid of that) on windy days. Fun fact: Ellie named the air conditioner "cold wind" and the blow dryer "hot wind!"

### **Learn to Count with Cloud & Sun Cutouts**

Make some cutouts or grab a foam/felt clouds and suns. Practice counting by teaching "one cloud" paired with the number one, "two clouds" paired with the number two, etc. You can ask "how many sun? How many cloud?" as an additional mental challenge. [For a counting lesson, click here!](#)

### **Sort Clouds, Raindrops & Suns into Separate Bins**

With the counting lessons, you can combine fun autumn themes to your little one's learning by letting them count leaves (or pumpkins, or acorns)! I put stickers on index cards (1 pumpkin, 2 pumpkins, 3 pumpkins...) to help them practice their counting AND have fun with our holiday themes! You can also teach your bird to sort items into baskets – hold up, for example, a leaf and ask "Which one?" and then hold up two baskets and let your learner help pick out which baskets get leaves, which ones get acorns, etc.

## SCIENCE EXPERIMENT:

**Weather Birds Charting!** Each day for the duration of the theme (or longer if your parrot enjoys it), chart the type of weather you are having. Have your parrot touch the correct sticker (rain, sun, cloud) and attach it to the chart. You could do this very simply on a piece of paper or as complex as making a giant wall pictograph with cut out shapes of the different weather variations, which your parrot can help you add to each day. This activity can lead to discussions about comparisons, seasonal weather, statistics and predictions, etc.

## CRAFTS:

### **Rainbow Windsock**

To give your parrot a visual for when the wind is blowing, make this wind sock together and hang outside a window of your home. You will need a piece of white cardstock, various colors of crepe ribbon, markers, a hole punch, glue, and string. First, color designs on the cardstock. Then, cutout similar lengths of crepe ribbon in different colors (about 20" is good). Flip the cardstock design side down, and glue the ribbon strands along the bottom edge of the back of the paper. Then, make a cylinder with the paper and glue the edges together-you'll need to hold it still until it starts to dry. Punch four holes unequal distances around the top rim of the cardstock. Cut four pieces of string a foot long and tie one in each hole, then tie them together at the top. Voila! As long as your parrot is comfortable with it, hang the windsock outside for your parrot to observe changes in the wind



### Sun and Cloud Refrigerator Magnets

Help your learner make super cute sun and cloud refrigerator magnets! You can stick them on your own fridge or give them away as gifts. Grab or make sun/cloud designs ([here's a foam kit I used](#)). You can find this [craft lesson here in Ellie's Lesson Library](#), too!

### Color Practice Paper Plate Rainbow

Cut a paper plate in half (or use a blank piece of paper). Let your learner practice their colors and then paint rainbows together!

### Parrot-Friendly Thermometer

Grab some weather-themed color paint and a plastic thermostat. When teaching hot/warm/cool/cold you can also associate the temperatures with a thermometer painted with the color symbol representing the temperature.



## BOOKS:



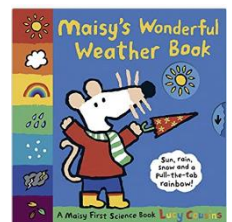
### Little Cloud

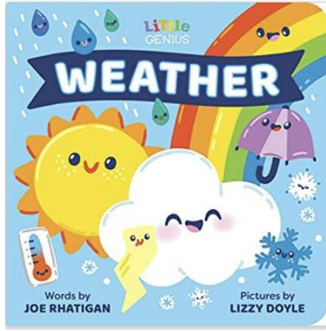
Little Cloud likes to stand out from the crowd. When all the other clouds drift up, he goes his own way, changing shapes to become a sheep, an airplane, a shark and a funny clown. It's all lots of fun, but so is playing with friends. So this time, Little Cloud joins the crowd, gathering with his pals into one giant cloud. And then they rain!

In Little Cloud, Eric Carle celebrates the possibilities of imagination with textured collages of sky-blue and white in a story that will encourage the youngest child to "read" clouds.

### Maisy's Wonderful Weather Book

In this interactive First Science Book, Maisy shows how wonderful weather can be.





### **Little Genius Weather Book**

With super-simple explanations about rain, wind, humidity, storms, the seasons, and more, Little Genius: Weather presents just the right amount of information for little learners. Children will love following along as a cute, smiling cloud guides them through simple weather events and explains what causes them using simple, rhyming text. Each spread also features a fun fact for kids who are ready to learn even more! It's the perfect gift for budding climatologists and meteorologists!

### **Explore My World: Weather**

Packed with colorful photographs of adorable animals braving the elements, this picture book for preschoolers introduces kids to the weather they experience every day, including rain, clouds, sunshine, snow, storms, and more.

From snowflakes to raindrops to puddles, from sunny days to cloudy days to blustery days, young readers will be amazed by the wondrous and ever-changing world of weather. These engaging Explore My World picture books, on subjects kids care about, combine simple storytelling with unforgettable photography. They invite little kids to take their first big steps toward understanding the world around them and are just the thing for parents and kids to curl up with and read aloud.

### **The Wind Blew (Rise and Shine)**

The wind blew, and blew, and blew! It blew so hard, it took everything with it: Mr. White's umbrella, Priscilla's balloon, the twins' scarves, even the wig on the judge's head. But just when the wind was about to carry everything out to sea, it changed its mind!

With rhyming verse and colorful illustrations, Pat Hutchins takes us on a merry chase that is well worth the effort.

## **TABLET:**

### **Add Temp & Weather as a Menu on the CommBoard**

You can add buttons for HOT, COLD, SUN, CLOUD, RAIN, WIND, SNOW. Optionally, each of those buttons can be a menu for activities beneath – to tell you they are hot/cold or to say they want to be hotter or colder. For weather, they can ask for crafts, books, and learning related to the weather elements!

### Paint a Weather Collage in the Paint App

Choose weather colors and help your learner “color” clouds with blue, sun with yellow, rain drops with dots, white snow, or angry storms! Picasso!

### Rainbow Coloring in Kids Color App

Find a beautiful coloring book rainbow under “R” in the Kids Color app and let your learner play with colors and motor skill development while enjoying the rainbows theme.

### Balloon Pop (Bambimi Kids)

While several “Balloon Pop” games are around, this particular one has rainbows, a sun, clouds, and day/night themes.

## TOGETHER TIME:

### Cloudbabies Cartoons!

Cloudbabies are a cartoon series on YouTube Kids. Little cloud kids are friends with the sun and moon and explore all kinds of weather themes in the context of other themes – like colors, feelings, counting, seasons, and more! We added it to the Cartoons Menu on our CommBoard, too.



### Windy Curtains

You will need to wait for a windy day to do this activity, but it is super easy to facilitate at the last minute! All you need are some curtains. Place your parrot near enough to watch the curtains as they blow in the wind. Watch how the curtains float when you hold them in the air. Let go of them and see them float back down. Does your parrot want to play with the curtains blowing in the wind? Let your bird explore how the wind moves the curtains for some truly hands-on learning!

### Raindrop Exploration



For this activity you will need two bins or bowls. One, you will fill with cotton balls, small (1") squares of wash cloth, or even a small plastic cup, and the other you will fill with water. Set your bird nearby and invite them to explore, or watch you as you play. They can transfer the cotton balls or washcloth squares to the water, observe what happens when they lift the cotton balls up and drop "raindrops", use their hands to explore the sensation of rain clouds, etc. If they like it, you can drop "raindrops" onto them gently too! This open-ended activity is a great kinesthetic learning experience

### **Weather-Watching**

Watch the sun, clouds, or rain together and talk about the weather you see.

### **Ambient Weather Music Playlist**

Turn on (or even add to your CommBoard) different kinds of weather sounds – storms, rain, even daytime bird song or nighttime crickets.

### **Birdie Tea Party(!!)**

Grab your favorite tea cups for a unique tea party—that is, a BIRD tea party! We had warm and cool teas and of course our favorite little tea snacks

## **FORAGING:**

### **Warm and Cold Water Sensory & Foraging Bowls**

Grab two shallow bowls and add bird safe materials – treats, herbs, stones, etc. Fill one with warm water and the other with cool water so your bird can enjoy foraging and contrasting temperatures.



### **Rainbow Pinatas**

We found these awesome (HUGE!) pinatas at WalMart for less than \$15. They measure about 21"x16" – it's giant and lasts a good long time for tons of fun!

### **Orange and Blue! Warm carrots and frozen blueberries in their foraging bowl**

Add some warmed carrot shreds and frozen blueberries to a foraging bowl (with some treats too) and let your learner touch different temp items while having fun exploring!



### Blue & yellow shredded paper

I love theming out the foraging materials around their learning topics! Blue and yellow shredded paper can be added to foraging bags and bowls and reinforce the weather theme! You can do this with temp-themed colors (red, orange, light blue, dark blue) too!



### Rainbow treat bags for foraging

One of the cutest and easiest ways I “theme out” their learning is with foraging bags! I fill them with shredded paper or paper towels and drop in some treats to keep those little beaks SUPER BUSY while they get to see their learning materials too!

## FOOD & RECIPES:

### Cloudy Blueberry Smoothie

Ingredients:

*Pint of fresh blueberries*

*Full-fat coconut milk*

Rinse and dry the blueberries. Set aside.

Place the coconut milk can in the refrigerator upside down overnight. Open the can right side up and scoop off the thickened layer. In a high-speed mixer, beat until stiff peaks form. This can also be done in a blender or by hand (but it will take a long time by hand!).

In serving cups, layer the blueberries (rain) and the whipped cream (clouds).

### Banana-Blueberry Rain Snack

Decorate a plate with banana slices for clouds and pieces of blueberry as rain for a cute snack.

# Cute Springtime Woodland Animals

(Feel free to adapt to your fav baby animal theme!)

## LESSONS:

### Bunnies & Squirrels

You can use flash cards, pictures on your phone or tablet, or even baby shower cutouts (we love these!) to teach your learner about bunnies and squirrels. Baby shower cutouts usually come in a large set, so you can play cards with them, decorate the wall, and use them for discrimination practice. Don't forget to ask, "Which is your favorite?" to find out their favorite baby animals!



### Deer, Fox & Mice

Following along the theme, we often teach two new animals per week, and love getting books from the library to pick out the pictures of our new animals!

### Butterflies & Caterpillars

Spring adventures are super fun with bugs! Butterflies and caterpillars are not only out and about, they're a great way to learn about life cycles.

### Ladybugs, Ants & Spiders

I love giving names to the things my girls see so often! Learning about ladybugs, ants, and spiders always spurs us to little scavenger hunts trying to find them around the house and in the garden.

### Learn to Play Card Games

Card games are one of my favorite way to reinforce vocabulary – especially over weeks and months. It's fun, connecting, and challenging and they'll hear the words they're learning over and over again! I just grab some stickers from Amazon and add them to blank playing cards. You can [learn to play the Game of War](#) to practice more and less concepts (but with cute baby animals!) OR work on matching and [learn to play Go Fish!](#)

### Yes/No Symbol Training

You can teach the [yes/no symbol training skill](#) with cute baby animals. Check out the lesson here – and then extend it to your new vocabulary! "Is this a bunny? YES! You're right!... Is this a deer? NO! You're also right!" Our sweet birds are so cute!!

## CRAFTS:

### Baby Animal Bookmarks

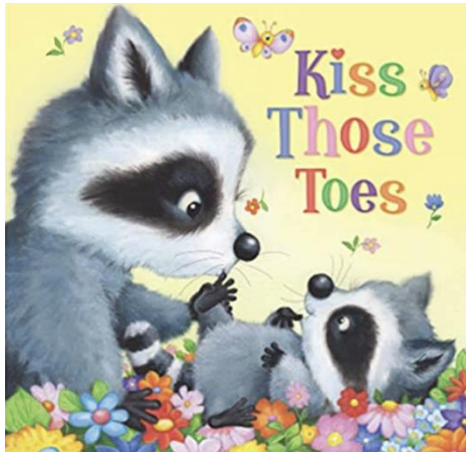
Cut paper into bookmark-sized rectangles. You can use pictures or stickers of baby animals and other materials to create adorable bookmarks together! Some of my favorite materials include: buttons, lace, dried flowers, and stickers! (I usually grab decorative paper at the Dollar Store or for 70% off at Michael's.) Elmer's glue is great too!

### **Butterfly Refrigerator Magnet**

We got some refrigerator magnets at Walmart in a pack and have LOVED using them for themed crafts! Pick up some butterfly stickers and silk flowers at the craft store or Amazon and have tons of fun letting your learner pick their favorite butterflies and flowers to glue to your little magnet canvas. These make GREAT gifts, too!

### **Favorite Bug Canvas**

Print pictures of the bugs you're learning about (or you can even grab some plastic physical bugs too!). Show your learner pairs of bugs and let them pick out their favorites – then add to the canvas! You can also let them pick their favorite “grassy” materials for the bottom to make a pretty bug landscape!



## **BOOKS:**

### **Kiss Those Toes**

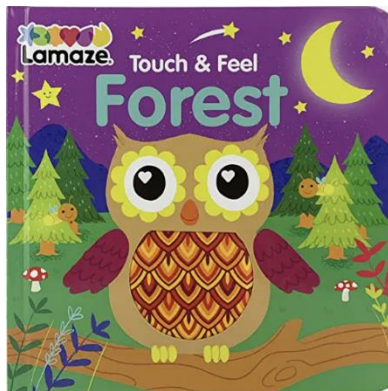
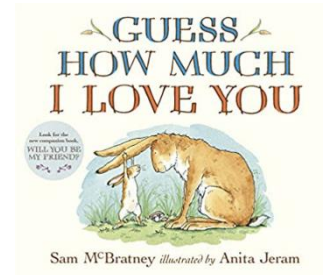
This sweet, rhyming story follows a group of forest animals as they play a game of hide-and-seek with their children and playfully kiss their toes, noses, cheeks, and bellies when they find them! With adorable illustrations and playful rhymes, this large, padded board book is sure to become a family favorite.

### **Itsy Bitsy Spider (Touch and Feel)**

Charming touch-and-feel books for little hands to explore! Introducing these lovely touch-and-feel books for young children. Read these well-loved nursery rhymes and enjoy the charming illustrations. With amazing touches for little hands to explore, these books make for a tactile reading experience!

## Guess How Much I Love You

How much does Little Nutbrown Hare love his daddy? And how much does Big Nutbrown Hare love him back? The cherished tale of boundless affection is ready for boundless sharing in a durable board-book edition for the younger set.



## Touch and Feel Forest

Let's explore in the forest with Lamaze! Play with sensory features in this sturdy board book for your curious baby and toddler. Touch, feel, trace, and talk about the creatures of the forest. Smell the raccoon's spruce tree, touch the owl's feathers, feel the bears sticky honey, say hello to the beavers and feel their lodge and touch the moose's antlers! Bright, bold illustrations and patterns are the perfect way to introduce woodland creatures and plants! Interactive touch-and-feel books inspire hands-on learning.

## Babies in the Forest (Peekaboo! Lift a Flap Book)

Introduce your baby or toddler to forest animals including foxes, deer, bears, beavers and more in this adorable lift-a-flap board book. Simple sentences reinforce future language structure while grasping and lifting the sturdy flaps helps develop fine motor skills. A perfect first book!



## TABLET:

### Add Animals & Bugs Menu to CommBoard

When we learn new themes, I add the vocabulary to a main menu called Talk About. In this case it would be Talk About – Animals – Baby Animals - <list of baby animal vocab>. In this way, my birds can ask to watch cartoons, read books, or look at pictures and talk about their favorite baby animals!

### Kids Connect the Dots – Animals

Connect the Dots is a fun and easy game for birds. The “next” dot lights up after a few seconds, so they just trace around, following the orange dot, until the animal appears! Awesome for motor skill development!

## Color Ladybugs, Ants, Bunnies, Deer & More in Kids Coloring Book

What better way to practice screen-touches than coloring?! The Kids Coloring Book is chock full of cute bugs and animals for coloring! [Here's a quick lesson on how to use it!](#)

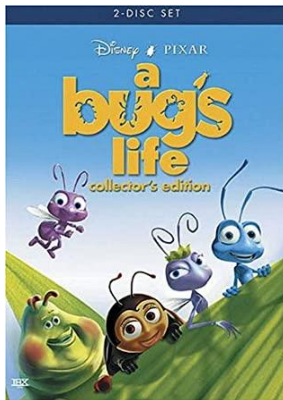


## Play Peppa Pig Matching Game

Peppa Pig has a great matching game on the tablet. You can make it simpler with only 3 matches. To teach it, I start out by only leaving two cards up for matching – so your learner has quick success and understands they are trying to make a match. After a bit I'll go to 2 matches on the screen, and for advanced kids, three!

## Cat Alone Game – Catch the Bugs

The Cat Alone game has a few bug themes – including ladybugs and ants. To help develop motor planning skills and finer motor control, your cute learner can practice touching the bugs! And they'll get a refresher on their cute bug vocabulary too! (Warning: make sure your bird is comfy with the movement! They may need some desensitization.)



## TOGETHER TIME:

### A Bug's Life Movie Night

Grab some popcorn and watch some cute animated movies together! What a wonderful way to watch bugs come to life – and **A Bug's Life** is designed for even the youngest learners, as there are no words! **Bambi** is another beautiful woodland movie (though maybe skip the beginning). There are also cute cartoons about **The Ant and the Grasshopper** too.

## Bug Hunt with Yes & No Symbols

Grab your bug-lovin' learner and yes/no symbols for an adventure! "Is this a ladybug? Is this an ant?" How fun to practice vocabulary and choice communication together while adventuring around the house!



## Raise a Caterpillar

Let your learner watch the cycle of life by raising a caterpillar!  
Bonus, you could plant some seeds in their enclosure and watch as plants AND your pretty butterfly grow together!

## Visit a Pet Store or Animal Viewing Drive-Through

If they like going out, take your learner on visit to see animals in real life! There may be drive-through facilities or pet stores with baby bunnies and other animals your bird can see and experience for cherished memories!



# FORAGING:

## Hide treats in plastic animals

I grab soft plastic animals, cut a line, and drop in a treat or two for foraging! This takes some work for birds, so is a good fit for big ones that like to chew through stuff.



## Baby Animal or Bug-Themed Treat Bags

I love to grab baby shower supplies and favor bags for themed foraging! With baby animal treat bags, you can fill them with paper towels or shredded paper, drop in some treats, tie with a zip tie and let your learner do the rest!

## Bunny Foraging Cup

Find unwaxed cups, drop a few treats in one, then stack one more so the treats are sandwiched between. Loop a zip tie through a sliver at the top and *voila!* Foraging cups! (If you've got a little learner, they may also hide in there!)



## Baby Animal Napkin Foraging Balls

Napkin foraging balls are another easy way to 'theme out' your lesson with baby shower supplies. I grab 4 paper towels and wrap a couple little treats in layers, bunched into a ball. Then I wrap a baby animal napkin around it (like a balloon shape) and tie a zip tie at the bottom! Busy beaks, yay!



# FOOD & RECIPES:



### **Caterpillar Snacks**

Steam some carrot sticks and let them cool until they are just warm. Dot with a little almond butter and add raisins to the top to make snacking caterpillars!

# Swimmin', Flyin', Hoppin', Walkin' & Runnin' – How Things Move!

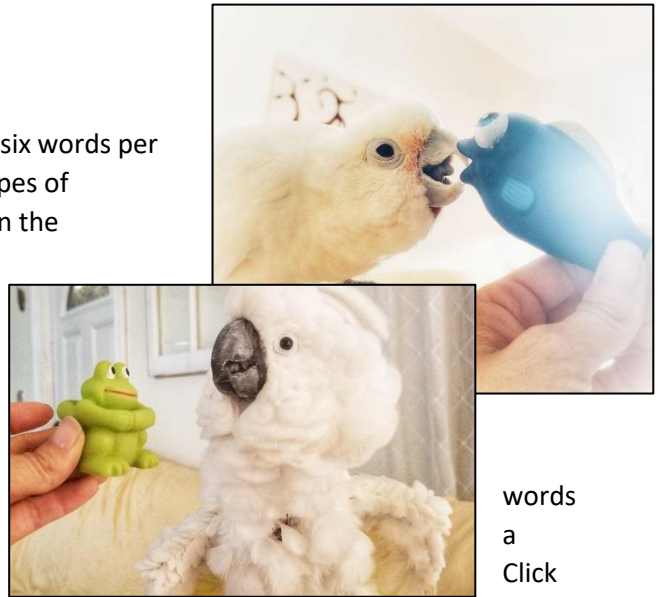
## LESSONS:

### Fish & Turtles (Swim) / Bunnies & Frogs (Jump)

For these lessons, we amp up our vocabulary to six words per lesson-theme. You will teach BOTH the words for two types of movement (swim / jump) and two animals that engage in the movement style. So, the lesson might look like:

- Lesson 1: Fish & Turtle
- Lesson 2: Bunnies & Frogs
- Lesson 3: Fish/Turtles SWIM – Bunnies/Frogs JUMP

Remember we teach two words, pairing the with pictures & videos of the animal, and then little quiz. Did they learn the two new words? here for a [How to Teach Vocabulary Lesson!](#)



### Birds & Bugs (Fly)

Following the format of the prior lesson, you can introduce birds & bugs (fly) and quiz on the three movement styles.

Then add another movement style (and keep quizzin'!) as you go along. Some ideas include:

- **Turtles & Bunnies (Walk & Run)**
- **Fast & Slow (Bunnies & Turtles)**

### Animals and their Movements Bucket Game

Create buckets for the types of movements and then play a game letting your learner pick which animals go in which buckets together.

### Comparisons

You can use bunnies, turtles and other animal friends to teach your bird comparisons! Which is bigger? Which is smaller? Which is fast? Which is slow? Ellie says she's faster than Isabelle, but Isabelle says she is definitely FAST and not SLOW too!

## BOOKS:

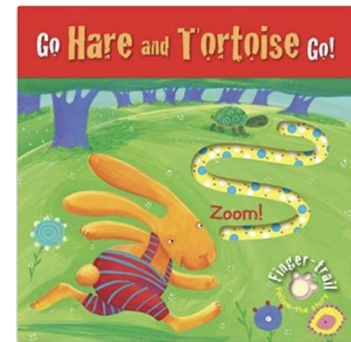
### Go Hare and Tortoise Go! (Finger-trail Animal Tales)

Hare and Tortoise are in a race. Hare is fast but likes to show off, and Tortoise is slow but steady. Young readers can trace Hare's big jumps and Tortoise's big, plodding steps as they run for the finish line.



### Rainbow Fish

The rainbow fish with its iridescent scales is the most beautiful fish in the whole ocean. But since he is also vain and proud, he becomes more and more lonely over time. Then he realizes that you can't win friends through beauty. He overcomes his pride and begins to distribute his glitter scales to the other fish.



### Big Fish, Little Fish

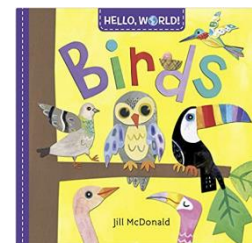
Children will learn opposites in this playful book filled with bright, bold illustrations and sturdy board pages. Finger-holes that decrease in size with each turn of the page add to the fun! Learn opposites with My Little World! Each sturdy board page features an interactive finger-hole for little hands to manipulate as they turn the page. Bright, bold colors and simple scenes follow a variety of fish as they travel through the ocean. Young readers meet friendly fish that are long and short, slow and fast, asleep and awake, happy and sad, and more. The finger-holes decrease in size with each turn of the page, which adds to the fun.

### Baby Touch and Feel: Splish! Splash! (Swimming Animals!)

An interactive touch and feel book for babies that inspires learning, and introduce children to some water-based pals. Tactile elements and delightful imagery will encourage the development of motor skills and early learning. Baby Touch and Feel: Splish! Splash! is an interactive and fun way to help your child learn about words, improve their motor skills, and enjoy their reading time! Bold, bright pictures and colorful illustrations will be more than enough to keep your baby's attention.

### Hello, World! Birds

Young children love watching birds. Now here's a Hello, World! board book that teaches toddlers all about our feathered friends—with colors, shapes, sizes, and super-simple facts. Hello, World! is a series designed to introduce first nonfiction concepts to babies and toddlers. Told in clear and easy terms ("Peck, peck, peck! This noisy woodpecker is looking for



food inside a tree trunk”) and featuring bright, cheerful illustrations, Hello, World! makes learning fun for young children.

## TABLET:

### Add Animals & Bugs Menu to CommBoard

When we learn new themes, I add the vocabulary to a main menu called Talk About. In this case it would be Talk About – Animals – Baby Animals - <list of baby animal vocab>. In this way, my birds can ask to watch cartoons, read books, or look at pictures and talk about their favorite baby animals!

### Color Fish, Turtles, Birds, Rabbits & More in Kids Coloring Book

What better way to practice screen-touches than coloring?! The Kids Coloring Book is chock full of cute bugs and animals for coloring! [Here’s a quick lesson on how to use it!](#)

### Cat Alone Game – Catch the Bugs

The Cat Alone game has a few bug themes – including ladybugs and ants. To help develop motor planning skills and finer motor control, your cute learner can practice touching the bugs! And they’ll get a refresher on their cute bug vocabulary too! (Warning: make sure your bird is comfy with the movement! They may need some desensitization.)

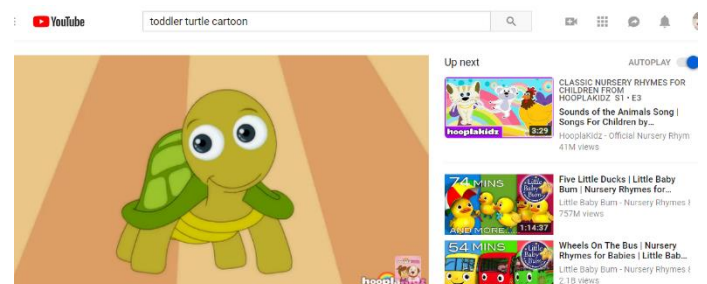
## TOGETHER TIME:

### Watch *Finding Nemo* and review all the types of movements

*Finding Nemo* is not only one of my favorite movies ever, it’s a colorful and fun way to REALLY watch all kinds of movements in action! From walking crabs to flying sea gulls and LOTS of swimming creatures, all kinds of movement can be discovered and shared together!

### Fish & Turtle Cartoon Playlist

Create a playlist with cartoons and kids shows featuring all the different kinds of animals and how they move. This is a great way to reinforce vocabulary while entertaining your bird when you are busy.



### Go Bird (and Fish!) Watching Together

I loved teaching my girls about fish and turtles and then actually seeing them outside together! “These are fish and they are in water!” For birds that like car rides, these fun excursions can be done from the car, too, as you look for fields and trees with birds or ponds with fish and turtles. (Remember: safety first!)

**Visit a Pet Store or a Fish Store**

If they like going out, take your learner on visit to see animals and the way they move in real life! There may be drive-through facilities or pet stores with baby bunnies and other animals your bird can see and experience for cherished memories!

**Practice Jumping, Flying/Recall Training Together Inside the House**

For birds with full feathers, you can practice flying and birds with clips, hops and jumps!