

# Wee R Kids Provider News – April 2011



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## Upcoming Statutory Holidays

### April 22 & 25

Providers receive this day off  
and the office will be closed  
on this day.

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday ~ Friday  
8:00am ~ 4:30pm

**Reminder:**  
Most Fridays there is  
only one staff member  
in the office. Please  
call ahead if you need  
to see us.



Dear Providers:



As I write this message to you, we are still in the deep freeze of winter, so I hope that by the time you read this newsletter, Spring really will have sprung!

I love Spring. I love flowers, sunny mornings, the birds chirping a new song every morning and of course the wonders of everything in the world new again.

Spring is a wonderful time to teach children. So many fun ideas and of course, so much outdoor fun!

I just know you have a lot of fun ideas planned for this season! Happy Spring and a Joyous Easter to you all!

*Angel*



"I love spring anywhere,  
but if I could choose I  
would always greet it in a  
garden."

~Ruth Stout





## Easter Egg Bagels

### What you need:

Bagels  
Cream Cheese  
Food Colour

Different fruit sliced up



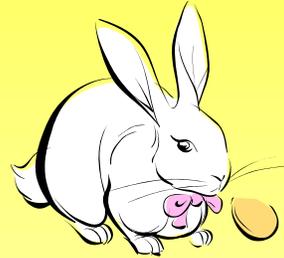
Tint the cream cheese with different Easter colours. Have children spread the cheese onto their bagels and decorate with the fruit slices.

## Cooking

## Easter Cut Cake

### Mix together to dissolve:

Sheet cake mix  
Icing  
Candies



Make sheet cake as directed. When cool, pop out of pan and lay it on the table, allow children to take cookie cutters and cut shapes out of cake. Tint icing to many colours, allow children to ice and decorate their mini cakes.

## Easter Bonnet

### What you need:

Paper plates  
Flowers  
Plastic Eggs  
Ribbon  
Glue  
Other Decorations



Give each child a plate. Make sure to punch a hole in each side of the plate before decorating so that you can tie a ribbon through.

Allow children to decorate their bonnet anyway they would like with flowers, eggs, and any other decorations that you have. (The Dollar Stores are a great place to find lots of Easter decorations.)

When everything is dry, help the children tie a string into each of the 2 punched holes, now they can wear the hats.

Another great idea is to have an Eater parade down the block for everyone to see.

## Arts and Crafts



## Cookie Cutter Stamping

### What you need:

Easter cookie cutters  
Paint  
Paper  
Glitter

Pour paint onto paper plates. Have many different Easter/Spring colours. Allow children to dip cookie cutters into the paint and stamp onto their paper. This also makes great wrapping paper.

You can have the children do this on a large piece of paper and hang on the wall as a backdrop for an Easter or Spring bulletin board.



## Spring Butterfly

### You will need:

Celery  
Peanut butter or Cheese Wiz  
Pretzels

Cut celery stalks, fill with peanut butter or cheese, spread some on the sides, place pretzels in the goo on each side and viola, a yummy Butterfly!



## Cooking Activities

### Eat Dirt

### You will need:

Oreo Cookies Crumbled  
Chocolate Pudding

In a cup pour some cookie crumble, then fill the rest with pudding. At the top sprinkle more cookie crumble. You now have cups of dirt for the children to eat.

It is a great idea to serve this with fruit as well. You

can also use raisins and pretend they are seeds. The children can "plant" the seeds in the dirt and then eat them up!



## Craft Activity

### Tissue Garden

### You will need:

Paper  
Tissue paper  
Glue  
Pencils

Pre cut flower large flower shapes out of coloured paper. Pre cut small squares out of tissue paper.

Have children put a pencil's eraser end onto the middle of a tissue square. Have them fold the paper around the pencil and dip into glue, put glued end onto flower, and repeat until all of the flower is covered.



### Butterfly

### You will need:

Clothes Pins  
Tissue Paper  
Google Eyes  
Pipe Cleaner  
Felt Pens

Have children colour clothes pins with felts.

The pins will serve as the body of the butterfly. Have children choose the colour of tissue paper they want for wings. (Make sure to pre cut tissue paper) Help children to squeeze tissue paper together, open clothes pin and pinch the middle of the paper in the pin.

Fluff out paper wings. Add eyes and pipe cleaner antennae.

Fluff out paper wings. Add eyes and pipe cleaner antennae.

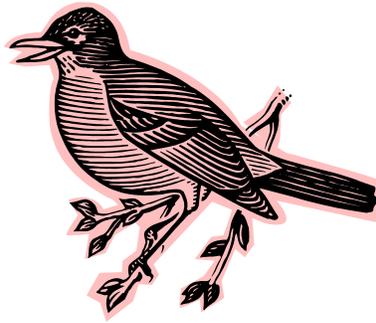


## Songs and Finger plays

### Little Robin Redbreast

Little Robin Redbreast sat upon a tree,  
Up went pussycat and down went he,  
Down came pussycat, away Robin ran,  
Says little Robin Redbreast, "Catch  
me if you can."

Little Robin Redbreast jumped upon  
a wall,  
Pussycat jumped after him, and al-  
most had a fall.  
Little Robin chirped and sang and  
what did pussy say?  
Pussycat said "Meow", and Robin  
flew away.

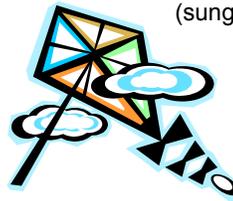


### Apricot Tree

I looked out the window and what did I see?  
Popcorn popping on the apricot tree.  
Spring has brought me such a nice surprise!  
Popcorn popping right before my eyes.  
I can take a handful and make a treat.  
A popcorn ball that smells so  
sweet.  
It wasn't really so, but it seemed to  
be  
Popcorn popping on the apricot  
tree.

### It Is Spring

(sung to "If You're Happy And You  
Know It")



It is spring  
and it's time to fly a  
kite!  
It is spring  
and it's time to fly a kite!  
It is spring  
that's the season!  
We don't need  
a better reason!  
It is spring  
and it's time to fly a kite!



## Gross Motor Activity

### Spring Scavenger Hunt

Give each child a list of "Spring things." If the children are very small, use photos for your list. If they are reading age you can write it out. Take the children out for a walk and see how many spring items from their list they can find.

When you come back, as an art activity, the children could draw every thing that they saw. Some Spring ideas: Robins, Green Grass, Flowers, Someone mowing the lawn or gardening, bees, ants, other bugs, people washing cars, etc.

## Sensory Activity

### Dirt Play Dough

#### **What you need:**

2 Cups or Flour  
4 Tablespoons of Cream of Tartar  
2 Tablespoons of Cooking Oil  
1 Cup Salt  
2 Cups Boiling Water  
Brown Food Colouring  
Coffee Grounds

Put all ingredients into a mixer and mix well. Then pour it all out onto a kneading board and knead it by hand until smooth. The coffee grounds will make it feel like dirt and the brown colouring will make it look that way. This is a great sensory activity.

You can add small plastic flowers to the centre for the children to stick into their mud as well.

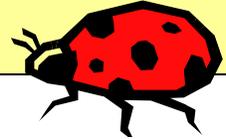
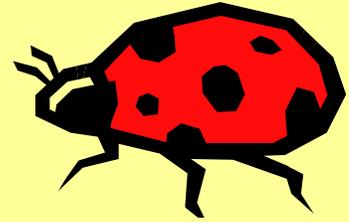
## Lady Bug Count

Materials:

Paper red & black

Glue

Make 10 lady bug shapes out of red paper. Cut out dots for the bugs. On the first glue on 1, and the second 2, all the way up to 10. Laminate all of the bugs and have the children count the dots with you. You can make 20 of them and have the children match them up as well.



## Dramatic Play Activity

### Flower Shop

You can make a background of a flower shop on a tri-fold backdrop or a large box. Make sure to have something like a box that the children can use as a counter.

A toy register works well in this area too. Stock up on flowers from the dollar store, plastic vases and ribbon. You can have some cards cut out that can be written on and play money.

Make sure to have aprons and gloves for the staff to wear. This is a really good centre to have after a field trip to a flower shop.



## Math Activity

## Science Activity

### Flower Pot

What you need:

Flower Seeds

Flower Pots

Potting Soil

Potting tools



The great thing is, during the Spring all of these items

can be found at the dollar stores.

Have the children in an art activity decorate or paint their pots. Once pots are dry, help the children pour dirt into their pot. Help them to place the flower seed in. If you can, purchase a few different kinds of flower seeds, this way the children can choose which one they would like.

Make sure to remind and help the children to care for their plants each day, you can even monitor the growth on paper for older children. Once the flowers have bloomed, the children can either plant them into the ground at your home or take them home for their parents.

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**Rain Painting**

**You will need:**  
Paper Plate  
Food Colouring

Give each child a plate. Let children sprinkle a few drops of food colouring onto their plates. Take children outside, into the rain and let them hold their plates under the rain for about a minute. Then let them come in and look at the designs the rain made.

**Craft Activity**

**Rain Book**

**You will need:**  
Paper  
Magazines  
Scissors  
Glue  
Felt Pens

Fold and staple a few sheets of paper into a book form. Write on the cover, "Rain Helps Things Grow." Let the children look through magazines and cut out pictures of things that rain helps to grow. Let the children paste them into the book.

**Science Activity**

**Making Rain**

**You will need:**  
A Pot  
A Pan  
Ice  
Water

Boil water in a pan until steam forms above it. Fill a pie pan with ice cubes and hold it above the pan in a steam "cloud." Observe that when the steam comes in contact with the cool air rain begins to form and fall.



*Joke Corner...*

**Q:** Why is the letter A like a flower?

**A:** A B~EE comes after it!



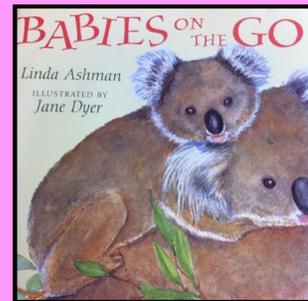
HA!  
HA!  
HA!

## The Reading Corner

### Babies on the Go

By Linda Ashman

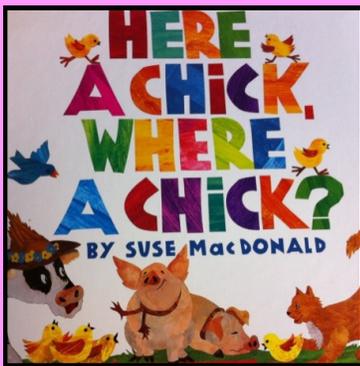
A book about babies of all types, people babies too. What do they do, how do they act?



### Here a Chick, Where a Chick

By Suse MacDonald

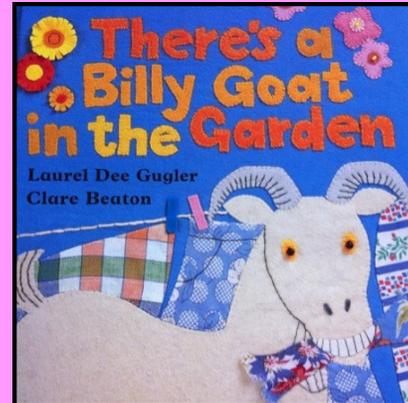
A beautiful book filled with paintings and pop up pages. Where is chick?



### There's a Billy Goat in the Garden

By Laurel Dee Gugler

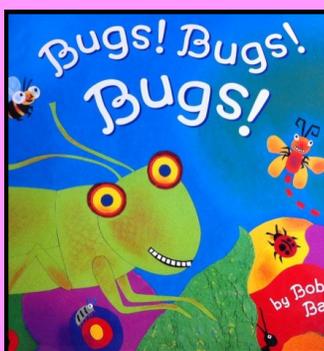
A wonderfully designed book about a bunch of people and animals trying to get a billy goat out of the garden.



### Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!

By Bob Barner

A colourful and wonderful book about bugs. This is a great addition to any day home, and to any spring, summer or bug theme.



### Wee R Kids Lending Library

All of these books are available to providers through our lending library. We have over 250 titles available. Come and take a look! If you are looking for a book on a specific title or by a specific author, let me know, we might just have it here in the office.

## The Reading Corner Staff Resources

### Early Childhood Art

By Barbara Herberholz/Lee Hanson

Future teachers will discover methods of helping children understand, investigate, and develop critical thinking skills about art..

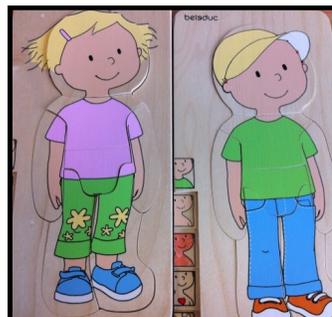
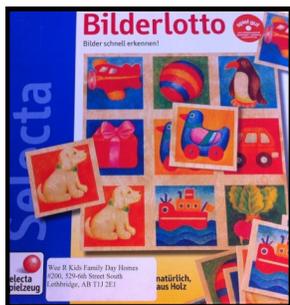
### Family Day Care: A Caregiver's Guide

By Lee Dunster

The most complete handbook for providing Child Care in your home. This Alberta edition was made possible through a project sponsored by the Alberta Association for Family Day Home Services. It includes everything from organizing your home to taking care of you.

## Lending Library

These are a sample of some of the wonderful things we have to borrow in our Lending Library. Check out our **Lacing** and our **Ocean Floor Puzzle**. If you are in need of something different, please make sure to check our shelves out next time you visit with us.



### Wee R Kids Lending Library

All of these books are available to providers through our lending library. We have over 250 titles available. Come and take a look! If you are looking for a book on a specific title or by a specific author, let me know, we might just have it here in the office.



## April Visits:

This month I will be walking you through FCCERS. We will not be doing it officially yet, but will be discussing it with you.

Please go through the sheets that were given to you in the February meeting and make any changes necessary before I come out this month. If you have any questions or need advice please let me know when I come out.

*Angel*

## Reminders:

Please remember that you do need to post all of your weekly sheets by the time the first child arrives on Monday morning. Please look at your provider handbook to find out everything that needs to be posted.

Please also remember that it is important to comply with all regulations, standards and agency policies. If you have a question or need something clarified please do not hesitate to call or ask when I am out.

*Merci*

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Gracias

*Thank You*

## Provider Appreciation



This month the Provider that we are mentioning is Mianna Bevans.

Mianna has been with the agency for a while now, most recently she came back in March 2010 after the birth of her fourth child.

Mianna is a level three and seems to have a great passion for children. Mianna offers nutritious meals, and fun crafts in her day home.

We would like to thank Mianna for all that she does and for caring for the children in her care so well.

If you see Mianna give her some encouragement!



*Merci*

ขอบคุณ

Gracias

*Thank You*

## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO:



22 ~ MIANNA



## Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, the providers and we would like to hear from you. If there is anything that you would like to see in this newsletter that hasn't been added please let me know. Any suggestions you might have can be forwarded by email to [weerkids@telus.net](mailto:weerkids@telus.net), call the office or suggest it at a provider meeting whatever format you are most comfortable with.