

March's playful learning Checklist

- 1.** Place a squirt of yellow, red and blue washable paint on a plate. Ask your child to dip her pointer finger in one of the colors and her thumb in a different color. Have her rub her two fingers together to make a new color. What combination makes shamrock green?
- 2.** Help your child learn about spring. Talk about how the weather is turning warmer, the sun is shining more and plants are beginning to grow again. Then take a walk together looking for signs of spring {buds on trees, sprouting plants, birds flying, etc.}
- 3.** Make reading a special event. Find out when your library offers its weekly story time for kids and take your child to go and see it.
- 4.** Build your child's creativity by challenging him to use a pile of clean recyclables to create an egg protector. When he's ready, place a raw egg inside the protector, stand on a stepladder, and drop the protector on the ground. Did the egg crack? Help your child troubleshoot ways to improve his design and protect the egg even more.
- 5.** Read the book "Planting a Rainbow" by Lois Ehlert. Then help your child brainstorm seeds and sprouts to plant in your garden this year.
- 6.** Help your child set the table for dinner by placing a plate, fork, knife and spoon at each person's spot.
- 7.** Help your child begin learning subtraction. Place five coins {or pom poms or buttons, etc.} in a line. Count the coins with your child. Then say, "How many would you have left if we took one away?" Encourage her to remove a coin and figure out the number that remains. Continue the activity by having your child take away different numbers of coins.
- 8.** Invite your child to help you cook. Read one step of the recipe at a time and then invite her to measure, mix and pour the ingredients you need. {Close adult supervision required around hot surfaces and sharp objects.}
- 9.** Help your child practice deducing. Think of a word in your head. Invite her to ask yes or no questions and figure out what you're thinking. She could ask, "Is it a food?", "Is it an animal?", etc.
- 10.** Give your child practice following directions by playing Simon Says. If you say, "Simon says ___", she should do what you ask. But if you do not say, "Simon says" first, she should ignore you.