



Little Rock School District Pre-K (AMI) Alternative Method of Instruction Activities Week 4: The Seasons

Theme 7: Nature all Around Us/Week 4: The Seasons (April 27 – May 1)

- **READ.** Read a book with your child every day.
- **Letter Ww.** Write the letter w. Point out that the lowercase letter w has four short slanted lines and the uppercase letter W has four long slanted lines. Do they look the same? How are they different? Invite children to go on a letter hunt and search for examples of both letters. Explain that letter Ww makes the /w/ sound like wagon, weather, and walk.
- **Hearing Words that Rhyme:** Encourage your child to listen for words that rhyme when you say them aloud, such as *fun, sun; hat, cat; and fish, wish*. See if your child can produce new words that rhyme with the words you say — *fan, sit, hop, hat*.
- **Seasons.** Discuss the Seasons. Explain to your child that the seasons are the four different times of the year. Ask your child to share what they know about the seasons. They may enjoy telling what the weather is like when it's their birthday. Describe a scene to your child. For example, *It is raining a lot. Flowers are beginning to bloom. What season is this? (spring)* Repeat with descriptions and scenes for other seasons.
- **Clothes for the seasons.** Gather a variety of clothes from different seasons. Name a season and have them dress up in what they would use or wear during that season, such as mittens in winter, umbrella in spring, jacket in fall, and sunglasses in summer. Invite children to share what they might wear during each season. For another variation, have your child sort the clothes by the season. For example, all the winter clothes in a pile, summer, etc.
- **The Apple Pie Tree.** •Watch the book, *The Apple Pie Tree*, on YouTube. Explain that a bare tree does not have any leaves, that some trees grow buds, which are tiny flowers that have not opened yet, and that when buds open they are flower blossoms. Review with children what happens first, next, and last as an apple tree grows apples. On a piece of paper, draw a horizontal time line to record the stages of apple growth: the tree is brown and bare; leaves grow; buds appear; blossoms cover the tree; small, green apples grow; apples get bigger; apples are ready to be picked! When the time line is complete, add season words where appropriate, winter, spring, summer, fall.
- **Walk, Waddle, Wiggle** Play a game of Simon Says, using actions words that begin with /w/, such as walk, waddle, wiggle, wave. Also include action words that begin with sounds other than /w/, such as skip and hop. Challenge children to do only those actions that begin with /w/.
- **Pictures of /w/ Words** Gather materials to create a picture of something that begins with Ww. Challenge your child to show something that relates to a season. (I walk on leaves in the fall. I eat watermelon in summer. I swim in the water in summer.) Write the letter Ww and ask children to copy it on their papers.
- **Seasonal Celebration Pictures** Discuss with your child seasonal traditions they have as a family. In summer, for example, they might have family reunions. Have children draw pictures of your family enjoying their seasonal traditions and then dictate a sentence describing what is happening.
- **Cloudscape** Provide cotton balls, glue, paper, and crayons and invite children to create pictures of fluffy clouds. To depict seasons, children can draw raindrops for spring, snowflakes for winter, or a bright sun for summer.



Little Rock School District Pre-K
(AMI) Alternative Method of Instruction Activities
Week 4: The Seasons

Theme 7: Nature all Around Us/Week 4: The Seasons
(April 27 – May 1)

- **What Makes the Seasons.** Watch the book, *What Makes the Seasons*, on YouTube. Tell your child that when we are curious, we ask questions to find out things about our world. *When I read the story, I was curious about why it rains so much in spring. What do you think?* • Discuss the reasons why it might rain so much in the springtime • Tell children that they are going to do an experiment that will help them understand about clouds and rain in the springtime. **Create Clouds of Water** Provide cotton balls and shallow pans of water. Encourage children to feel the cotton balls. *What do you notice? Are they heavy or light?* Invite children to dip cotton balls into the water and then hold them above the pan. How do the cotton balls feel now? (heavy) What are they doing? (dripping water) • Explain that clouds, like the cotton balls, get heavy with water during spring. Much of the water found on the ground during the winter gets soaked up into the clouds in the spring. Then when the clouds get heavy, the water falls from the clouds as rain.
- **The Snowy Day.** Watch the book, *The Snowy Day*, on YouTube. Introduce the story words heaping and melted. Guide children to think of things they have seen placed in heaping piles, such as laundry, sand in a sandbox, or snow, and to share what it feels like to touch melted ice cubes. *Melting Snow and Ice-Talk about rain and snow. When it is very cold, snow falls instead of rain.* Discuss any experiences children have had with snow and review that it is made up of small pieces of ice. Then, bring out ice cubes for children to observe and touch. Prompt children to describe how the ice changes as it sits in a warm room and make the connection to the melted snowball in Peter's pocket.
- **Leaf Prints** Collect different leaves on a nature walk. Gather a marker or crayon, and a piece of paper. Have children trace the leaf on each side of the paper and color the leaf or do a leaf rubbing. Have children describe the leaf and dictate as you write. For example, *my leaf is green and shiny.*
- **Leaf Patterns.** Using the leaves you collected on your nature walk, help your child organize them into a pattern (repeats itself over and over)-*This is a pattern. If we continued this pattern, what would come next?* Continue to create different patterns, challenging your child to find what comes next in the pattern.

Suggested books:

“The Apple Pie Tree” by Zoe Hall <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hjs7T3okYIs>

“The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmZCQfeWjeQ>

“What Makes the Seasons” by Megan Cash https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g123oeOr_eQ

Additional Books found on YouTube:

“The Tiny Seed” by Eric Carle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Is6wTeT2cKA>

“Ox Cart Man” by Donald Hall <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6KVw09oGaU>

“Fall” by Sian Smith <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLBKZwgQDNY>

“How Do You Know Its’ Spring” by Lisa Herrington
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_fIEWViJyE

“Animals in Winter” by Henrietta Bancroft and Richard Van Gelder
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6NX7l8g044>

“It’s Summer” by Linda Glaser <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMF366Op88s>