

Everyday and Everyway Talking about... April



April is the start of spring in many areas. It is often when Easter happens. We think of baby animals, bunny rabbits, chicks, and coloured eggs.

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing, and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Activities

Easter

There are many things to talk about when celebrating Easter.

- Decorate eggs and talk about what happens when you dip a blue egg in the red dye or a yellow egg in the red dye.
- Hide the eggs and let your child find them. Talk about where you found all the eggs. This is a good way to practice words like *behind*, *under*, *beside*, *on*, and *in*.
- Make a bunny ear headband and have your child pretend to be the Easter bunny. Let her hide some eggs around the house.

Farm animals

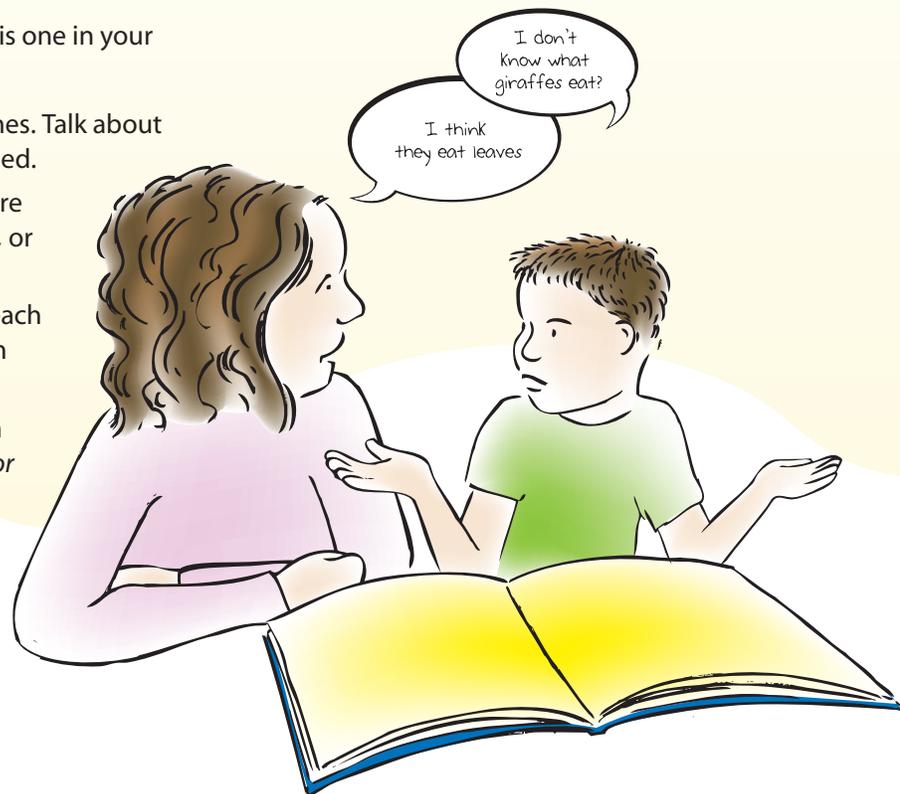
Go visit a petting zoo, if there is one in your community.

- Talk about the animals' names. Talk about what the baby animal is called.
- Talk about how they feel. Are they *soft*, *fuzzy*, *rough*, *hairy*, or *slippery*?
- Talk about what you think each animal eats. Maybe you can feed the animals.
- Talk about the parts of each animal. (*Does it have paws or hooves? Does it have long or short ears? What kind of tail does it have? What about its nose?*)

Zoo animals

It is nice to visit the zoo even when it's not hot outside. A warm spring day can be a great time to go. If you don't have a zoo to visit, go to the library and sign out some books about zoo animals. Pretend you are at the zoo as you read together.

- Talk about the animals' names.
- Talk about what they look like. *Do they have long or short legs? Do they have fur or skin?*
- Talk about what parts of the world the animals come from.
- Talk about what the animals are doing.
- Take turns pretending to be a certain animal. Move around like the animal and make sounds.





Songs and rhymes

Want to learn more songs and rhymes? Look for a parent-child music class in your area.

Bears are sleeping

(sung to the tune of *Frere Jacques*)

Bears are sleeping,
Bears are sleeping,
In their caves, in their caves.
Waiting for the springtime,
Waiting for the springtime.
Shh! Shh! Shh!
Shh! Shh! Shh!

Sleeping bunnies

(child lays on the floor pretending to sleep and parent sings or says rhyme)

See the little bunnies sleeping,
Sleeping until noon,
Come let us gently wake them,
(parent rubs child's back)
With a happy tune.
Are they ill?
Oh so still . . . (pause for surprise)
Wake up bunnies, hopping, hopping,
(child jumps up and hops like a bunny)
Wake up bunnies, hopping, hopping,
Wake up bunnies, hopping, hopping,
Wake up bunnies hop and stop.

Singing is a great way for children to learn new words. Don't forget to make up actions for songs.



Books

Go to your local public library to find these and many more great books.

Too many bunnies by Matt Novak
Happy Easter eggs by Joan Holub
Farm 123 by Rod Campbell
I went walking by S. Williams
Hattie and the fox by Mem Fox
Dear zoo by Rod Campbell
Pigs by Robert Munsch
If you give a mouse a cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Have you seen my cat? By Eric Carle
The rainbow fish by Marcus Pfister
Bear wants more by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman



Crafts

For more craft ideas go to www.wondertime.go.com

Making Easter eggs

Remember to hard-boil your eggs before decorating them. You can easily make your own food colour dye.

Mix ½ to 1 tablespoon of food colouring with 2 teaspoons of vinegar in a cup that is deep enough for the eggs. Add water so the cup is half full. Gently place the eggs into the cups. The longer they are left in the dye, the darker the colour will be. When you take the egg out, pat dry with a paper towel and put it in a holder.

Wax crayon resist

Colour on the Easter eggs with wax crayons before placing them in the dye. Draw on dots, lines, shapes, or swirls. The wax will keep the dye away from your picture and your picture will show through.

If you don't want to use dye, just colour the eggs with crayons.

Collage eggs

Decorate your eggs with whatever craft supplies you may have. Use white or craft glue to stick on sequins, buttons, glitter, beads, or stickers. You can even colour with markers. Go wild!

Children learn through everyday moments. Check out next month's activity page for more ideas.

Go to www.parentlinkalberta.ca for more Talk Box ideas.