Theme: **GROWING – LIVING THINGS GROW AND CHANGE**

Children learn about themselves and the world around them by learning how things grow. Plants are living things. Some plants are flowers. People can help care for plants and flowers as they grow.

**Talk About:**
Talk with the children about things that grow. Bring in pictures of flowers and share with the children. Tell them about flowers that you have had in your life. Share flowers growing in your yard or window box or a special house plant. Invite the children to share stories about flowers in their lives.

**Read Together:**
Read Flower Garden by Eve Bunting and pause often to ask questions. Encourage the children to talk with a partner about their thoughts. Some questions that you might ask to spark conversation are:

- What colors are the flowers?
- Which flowers do you like? Explain why.
- Why are the people on the bus smiling at the man and his little girl?
- Why is the girl so tired when she finally reaches her home?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- What is a butterfly? What is a ladybug? Why are they visiting the flowers?
- The man and the little girl are lighting the candles on the birthday cake. What do you think they are getting ready for? What do you think will happen next?
- Why did the man and the little girl spread newspapers on the floor?
- Is there a time when you spread newspapers on the floor while working on a project? Tell us about it.
- The author names the flowers in the story – Can we match the names and the flowers?
  - Pansies
  - Daisies
  - Daffodils
  - Geraniums
  - Tulips
- How is the mom feeling about her surprise? How do you know?
- Can you make a connection between this story and something that has happened in your life?

**MUSIC/MOVEMENT**

**I’m a Little Flower Pot**
*(Tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)*

I’m a little flower pot mom put out (point to self)
If you take care of me, I will sprout. (nod head, point to self)
When you water me, I will grow (make sprinkling motions w/ right hand)
Into a pretty flower, don’t you know! (raise left hand slowly up, make wide circle with hands or arms)

**Planting Flowers**
*Tune: Fera Jaqua*

Planting flowers, planting flowers
In the ground, in the ground,
Water them and they grow,
Water them and they grow,
All around, all around.
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<tr>
<th>MUSIC/MOVEMENT</th>
<th>RHYME AND FINGER PLAY</th>
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| **A Song of Flowers**  
Tune: “Sing a Song of Sixpence”  
Sing a song of flowers, flowers all around.  
Flowers that are growing, growing in the ground  
Flowers of each color make a pretty view.  
Red and orange and yellow.  
And blue and purple, too.  | **Relaxing Flowers**  
Five little flowers standing in the sun (hold up five fingers)  
See their heads nodding, bowing one by one? (bend fingers several times)  
Down, down, down comes the gentle rain (raise hands, wiggle fingers and lower arms to simulate falling rain)  
And the five little flowers lift their heads up again! (hold up five fingers)  |
| **ART ACTIVITIES** | **LANGUAGE** |
| **Handprint, Photo Frame**  
Take a picture of each child.  
Cut the picture to a circle shape.  
Have the children cut a flower shape out of construction paper.  
Make sure that the flower is a little bigger than the round picture of the child but small enough so that it will fit on the paper.  
Glue the paper flower to the top of a piece of paper.  
Have the child paint a green stem for the flower.  
Have the child make two green handprints near the base of the stem.  
Glue the picture of the child to the center of the flower.  | **Rhyme Time:** Rhyming is a fun way to help children explore language. Children love playing with words that have the same ending sound.  
What are words that rhyme with _______________ (name of flower)?  
Encourage children to share real or made-up words from children. For example: **Rose:** Doze/ Hose/ Nose/ Toes. |
| **Collage**  
Make a flower collage out of colorful shapes cut out of tissue paper, construction paper, and magazine pictures.  |  |
| **Paper Plate Sunflower**  
Give the children paper plates.  
Have them cut out petals from yellow paper and attach them around the plate.  
They can add sunflower seeds to the middle of the flower.  |  |
| **SCIENCE/COOKING/DISCOVERY** | **DRAMATIC PLAY** |
| **Baggie Garden**  
Wet a paper towel and drop it along with flower seeds into a Ziploc bag.  
Seal the bag (leaving air in the bag) and put it in on a window ledge.  
Children can watch the plant grow.  | **Greenhouse**  
Set up a “greenhouse.” Collect fake flowers, play tools, spraying bottles, garden gloves, big hats and a watering can. Children can pretend to take care of the plants.  
**Flower Stand or Shop**  
Set up a shop or stand to sell flowers. Have bunches of fake flowers and a cash register. Children can sell or buy flowers.  |
|  
**Cookies**  
Make cookies in the shape of flowers.  |
|  
**Flower Food**  
Put a white carnation in a cup of colored water and let the children see how flowers drink water. The flower will get its color changed as it takes in the water.  
**Garden**  
Plant seeds or bulbs and care for the plants as they grow.  | **Game**  
Instead of Duck, Duck, Goose, play Seed, Seed, Sprout.  |
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<th>MATH CONCEPTS</th>
<th>SUGGESTED APPLICATION OF CONCEPT (TOY)</th>
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<td><strong>Sorting</strong></td>
<td><em>Insect Chunky Puzzle</em> by Melissa and Doug</td>
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<td>Collect plastic flowers of different lengths. Have children sort the flowers into piles - long or short.</td>
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<td><strong>Flannel Board</strong></td>
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<td>Create an interactive flannel board. Children can create flowers with different numbers of petals. The flower centers can have the number in the middle.</td>
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<td><strong>Finding Shapes</strong></td>
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<td>Read through the book Flower Garden with the purpose of finding different shapes. Can you find any circles? Triangles? Squares?</td>
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<td><strong>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Planting a Rainbow</em> by Lois Ehlert</td>
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<td><em>The Tiny Seed</em> by Eric Carle</td>
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