## Hello Families!

This week's theme is Spring! Weather permitting, take your child outside for some fun spring experiences! A good outside art experience is tree bark rubbing. The children will each be asked to pick a dark colored crayon and at least 2 pieces of blank paper to bring with them outside. Before heading outside have the children remove all the paper from the crayon so they can color using the sides instead of the tip. Ask the children to pick a tree and place the paper against the bark. For additional support you can bring tape to help secure the paper to the tree. Using the side of the crayon the children will rub and color the paper. Ask questions during the process involving the children's five senses. (How does it feel? Is it rough or smooth? Can you see anything happening to the paper?) Once completed have the child pick a different tree hopefully with a different texture, repeat the process and compare the two.

The letter of the week is T. You can help your child with the letter T sound by describing words that start with T. For example: what grows outside and has leaves? (tree) or what animal is orange and has stripes? (tiger). Your child can practice writing the letter T on paper, dry-erase boards, or chalkboards. They can also use twigs and write in the dirt/mud. If they need help, write it out for them first.

Dramatic play experience: Please supervise children at all times when dealing with these materials. In a large container or outside have the children create their own personal garden using small rocks as seeds and the sticks as flowers or trees. Allow the children to water the garden and pretend that the flowers are growing. To further this dramatic play activity, have the children pretend to have a flower shop with all the flowers they grew in their garden. You can ask them what color flowers or plants are that they have grown and ask them to draw a picture of it for documentation.

Mathematics: **Please see attached PDF.** Counting Garden play dough mats. Have the children explore each page of the attached activity. Print out the attached activity and provide play dough for the children to use. If you don't have a printer you can still participate using things you find around the house instead of play dough that represent each of the things described in the activity. For example, using pebbles for the flowers or cotton balls for the bird's eggs. Write the number in the blank space provided and ask the children if they know how many would they place and observe what they do. Allow the children to be creative and make their own activity sheets if they desire.

Here are some books relating to Spring:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnLUqY-6yfk&feature=youtu.be
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLkK98zuw0c&feature=youtu.be
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aof4SeemEwE&feature=youtu.be
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hPa3OqwlOA&feature=youtu.be

Another great resource is found on Facebook. The Cincinnati Zoo has Facebook live videos featuring different animals at 3PM every weekday. It is a great opportunity for your child to learn about different animals! <u>https://www.facebook.com/cincinnatizoo/</u>

Have a great fun filled week!

Ms. Amanda, Ms. Stephanie, & Ms. Harris