



*Spring is  
Coming!  
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Birdies Build  
Your Nest!*



# Gather flowers...

Take your child on a walk...in your yard, or neighborhood street, anywhere there are blooming signs of spring!



Supplies: child scissors, something to carry clippings in like a basket or bag, stronger adult cutters like snips.

What to do: pick by hand or cut blooms and greenery

TIPS: let your child do cutting if they can. Adult can use heavy-duty clippers for branches or harder to cut items. Also, be sure to cut long enough to have a fair amount of stem. Let your child carry the basket or bag.



# Make a Bouquet

SUPPLIES: cut flowers & greens, various jars or vases...and water.

**WHAT TO DO:** let your child pour water into vases. Then let your child trim stems & flowers and greens and place in jars.



TIPS: try to let your child do all the work. If you have yarn or ribbon you can tie it on the jar. Place the bouquet(s) in a prominent place so you can all enjoy! Children love this cutting & arranging flowers in class. Have them help tidy up after.



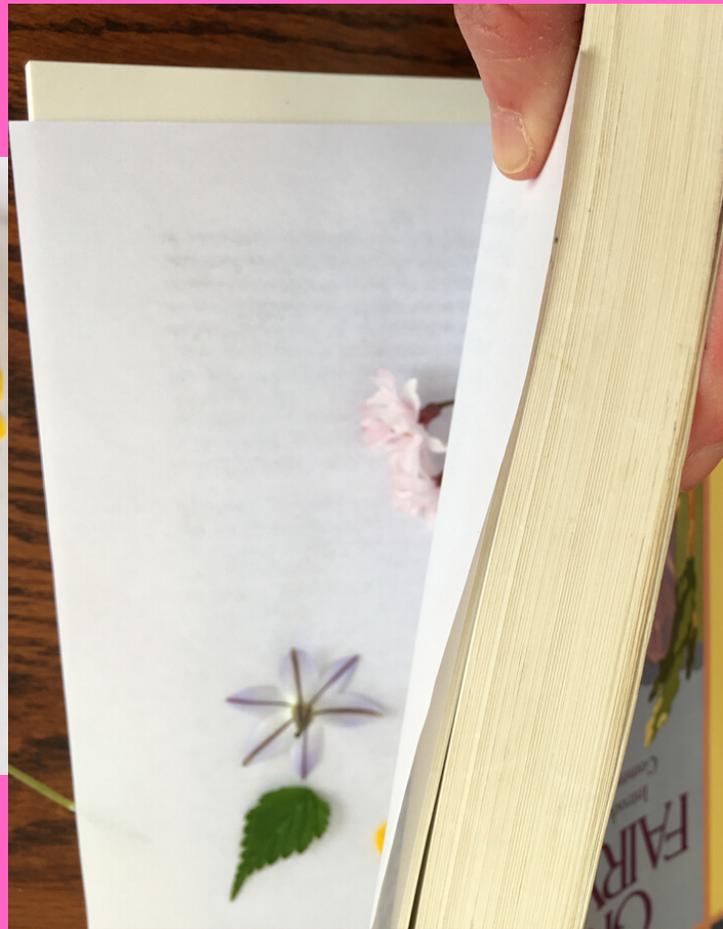


# Flower Press!

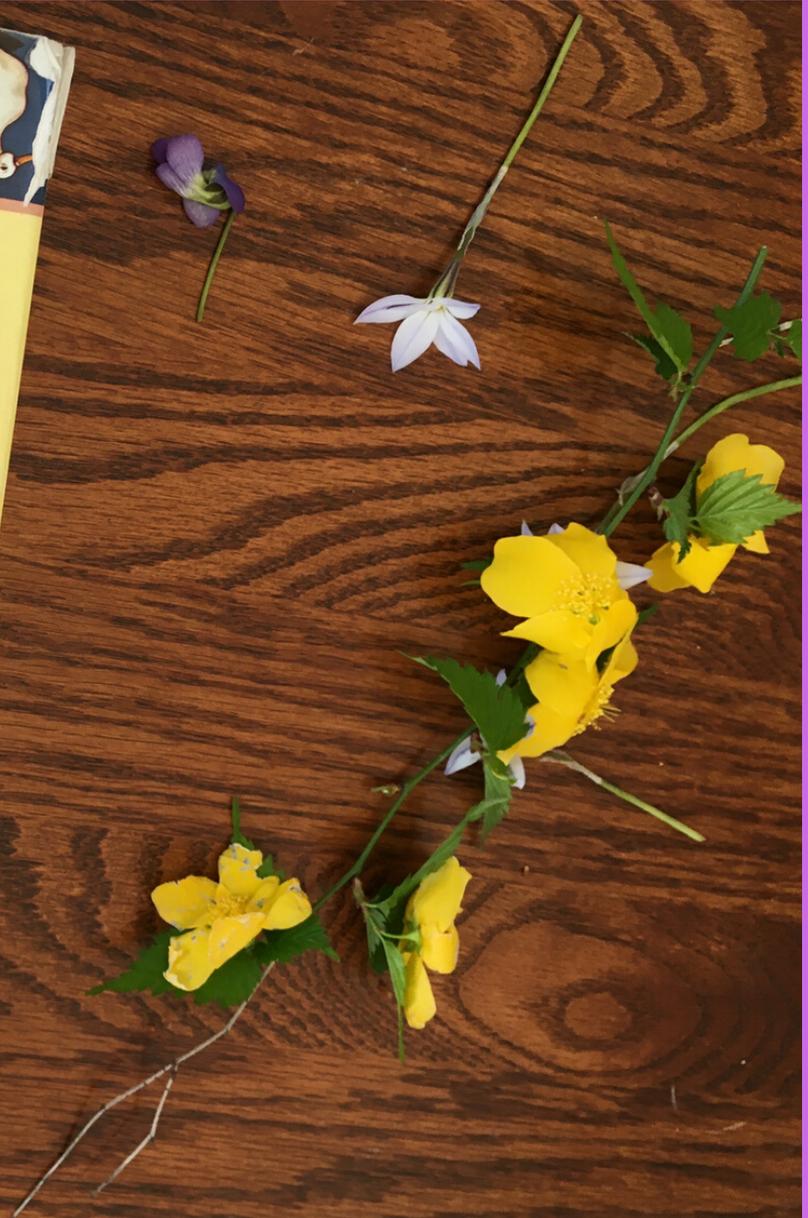
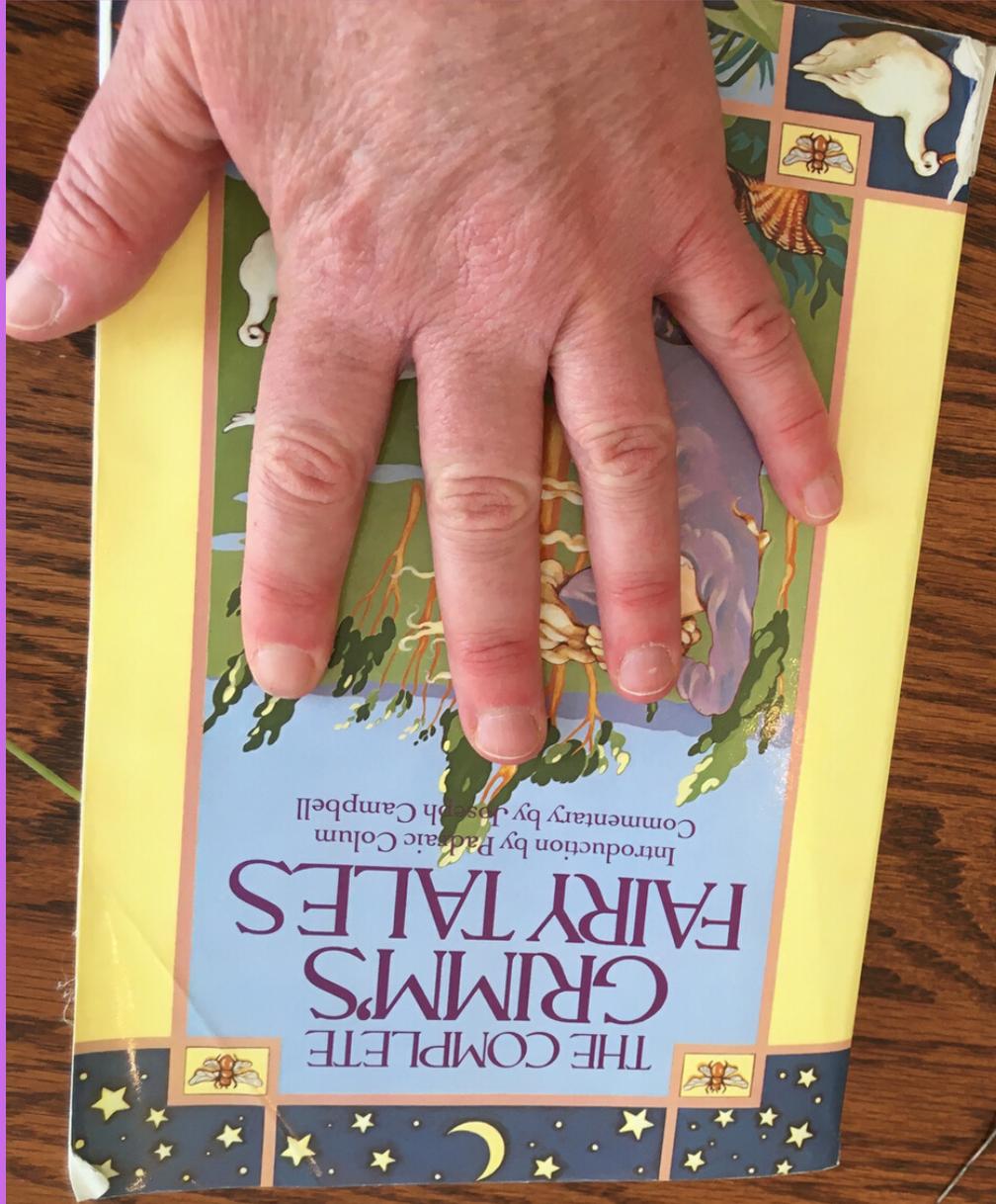
SUPPLIES:  
flower press  
or thick book,  
fresh flowers  
& greens,  
paper

WHAT TO DO: gently lay  
flowers between pages in  
press & gently cover.  
Tighten screws. If using a  
thick book, place clippings  
apart between two pieces of  
paper, then close book.

TIPS: it can be tough  
to get kids to do this  
delicately, but just try  
& keep flowers  
spaced apart. Also,  
be sure to sandwich  
flowers between  
paper or use a book  
it's ok to get messy!



*Use a book to press!*





# Make a budding branch

SUPPLIES: sticks  
(preferably with smaller  
branches coming off) &  
beeswax

WHAT TO DO: go on a walk  
with your child & collect small  
tree branches. Round up any  
old beeswax you have  
around...



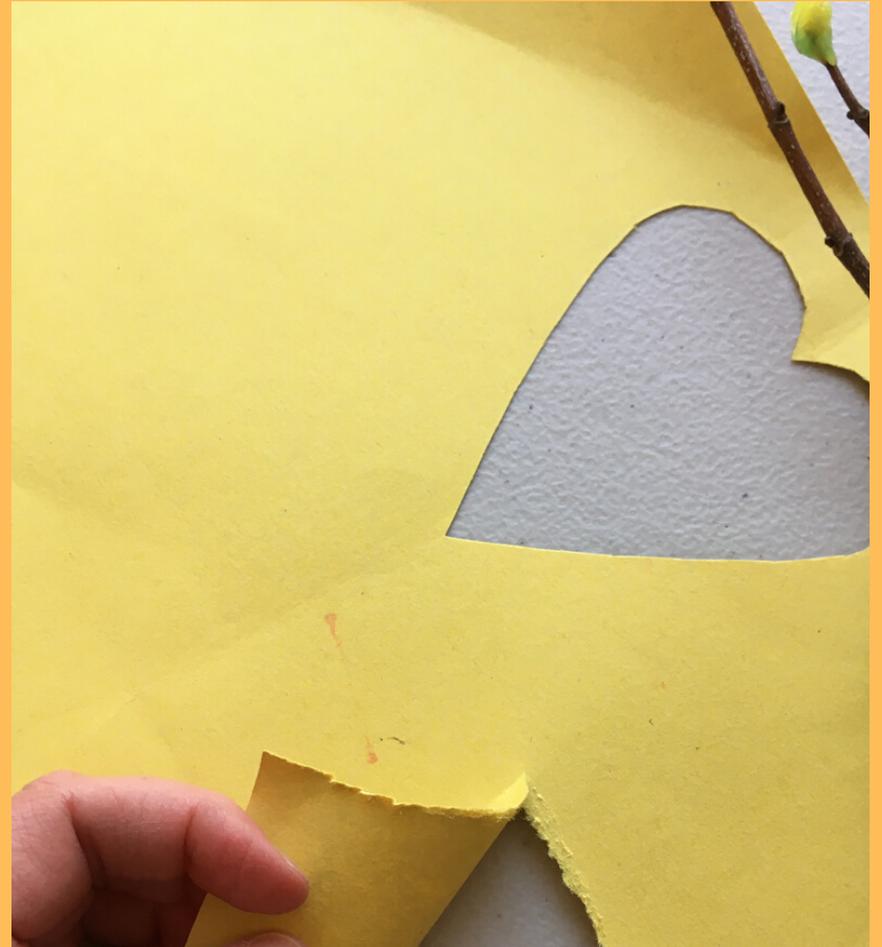
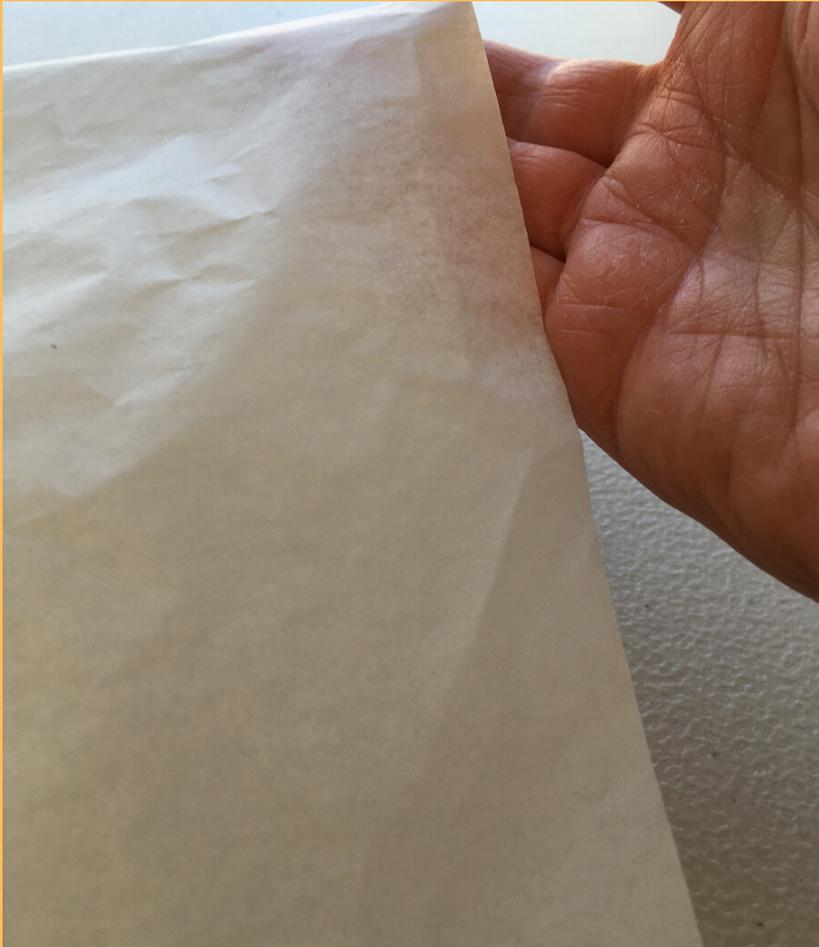
**Softening the beeswax can be challenging & children are eager to get going. Try & help them slow down & encourage them to keep working it.**

**We always tell the children to soften & work the wax in their hands until "you can see the light of day."**

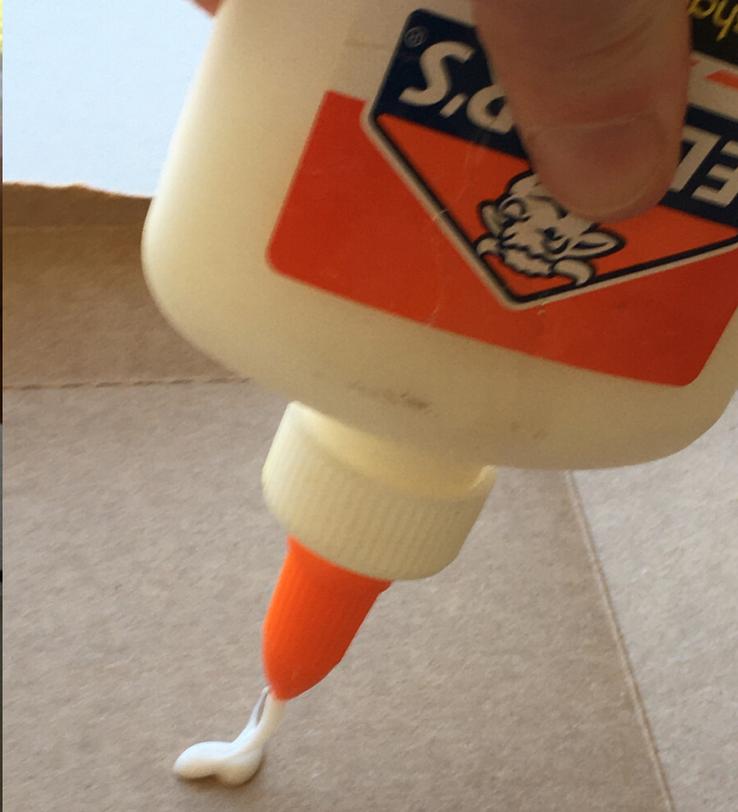
**Once softened, wrap beeswax around the tips of branch where "buds" would flower.**



*If you don't have beeswax...*



You can use tissue paper or soft construction paper to make flowers...





TIPS: children love glue!!  
Let them be messy. Use  
any tissue you can find (I  
only had white).

Construction paper can  
be tougher, but if it's soft  
it can work.



*Another  
bouquet*



*...with yarn!*



SUPPLIES: Yarn or ribbon or colorful string; simple straight sticks, scissors.

WHAT TO DO:

Go on a nature walk & pick up sticks. Short straight ones are best.

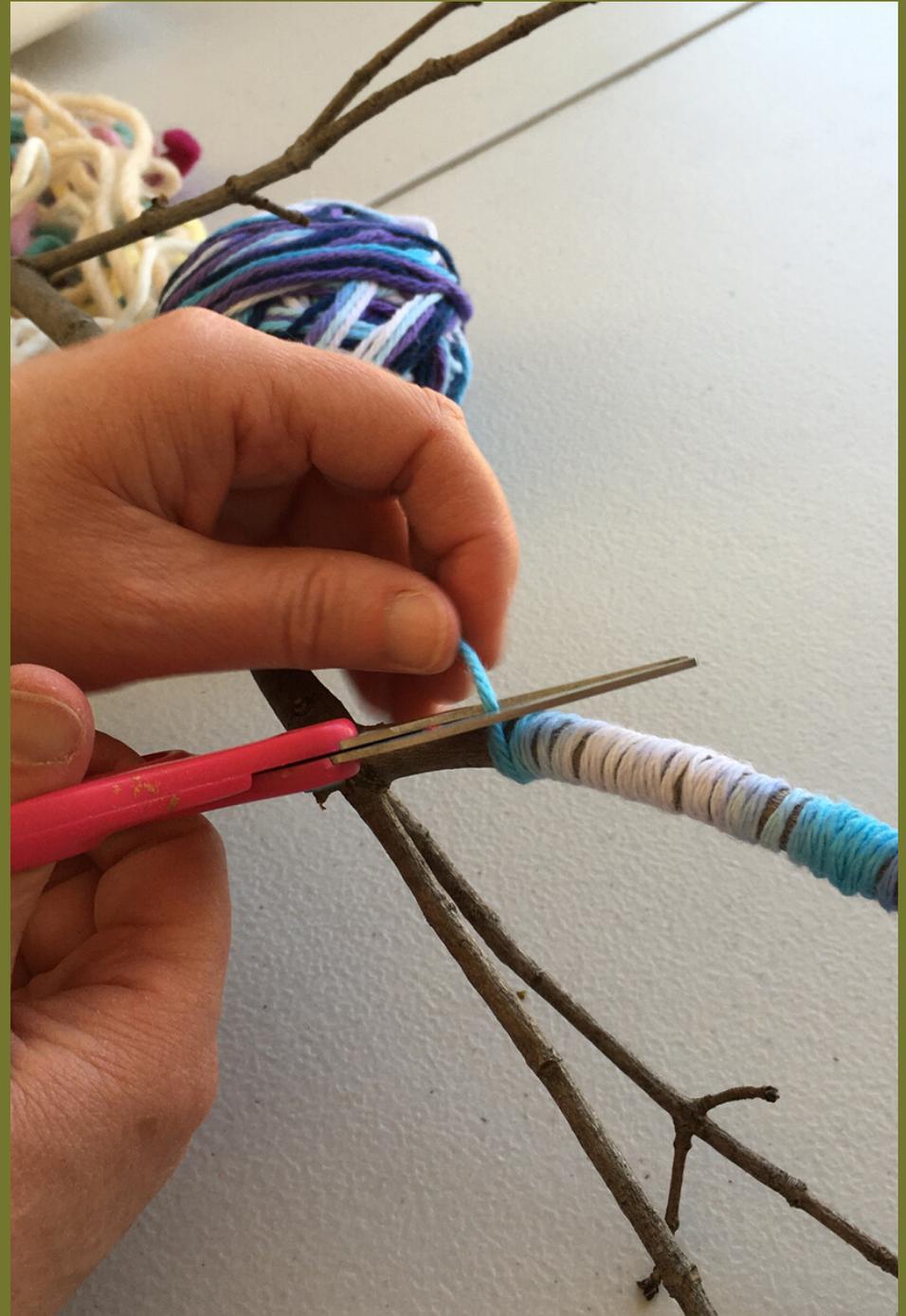
Round up yarn, ribbon, or colorful string.

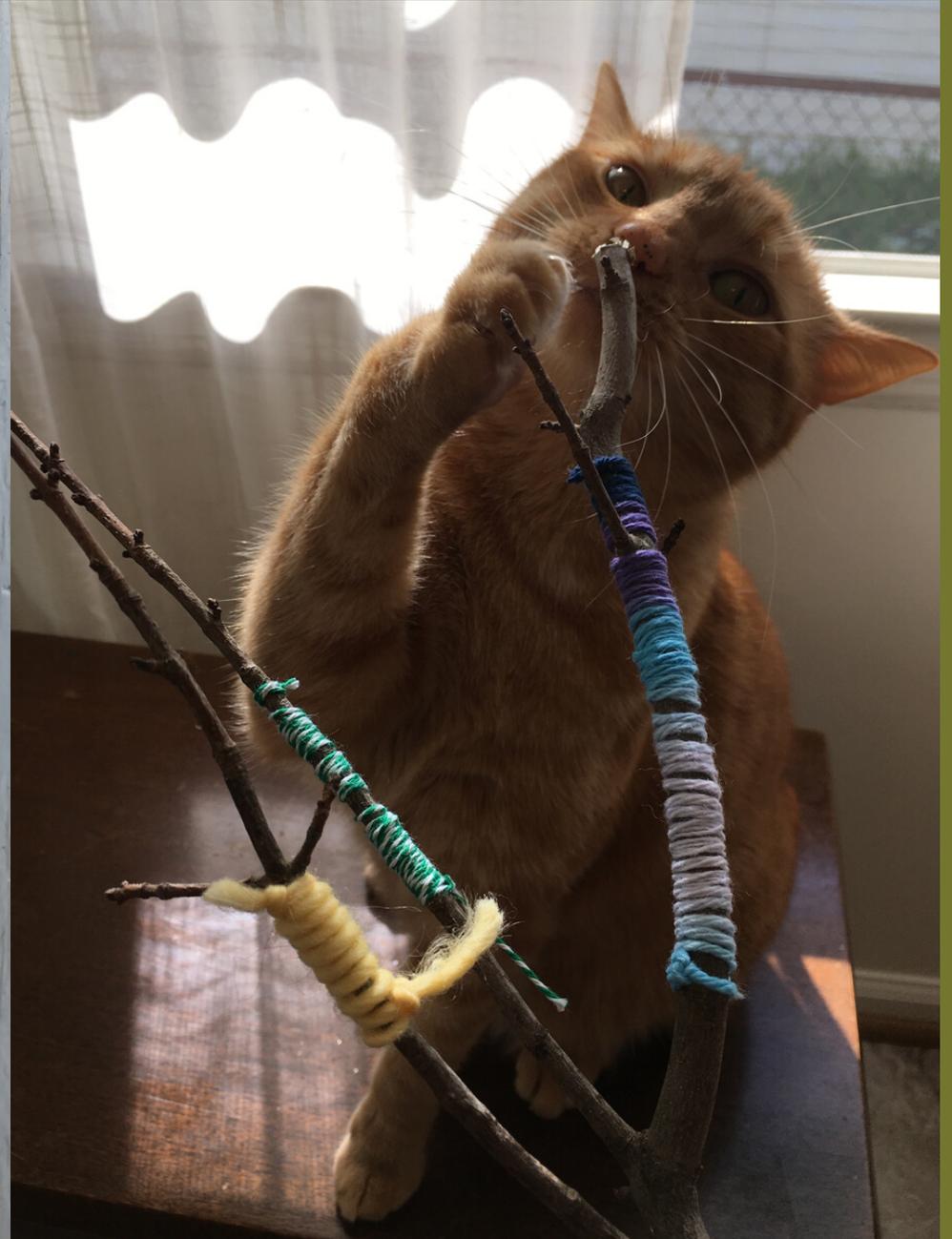
Tie off end of yarn to stick  
& let your child wrap and  
wrap and  
wrap!

Using scissors cut loose ends.

Place sticks in a jar or vase.

Enjoy!





# *A Hide & Find Game*

How to play: pick an object (a small stuffed animal would do). One player leaves the room and hides eyes (can go with adult into the bathroom). The other players hide the chosen object!

The hunter(s) return and look for the hidden item! The only clue given is if the hunter gets close the others say "HOTTER" and if they move away they say "COLDER." If the hunter(s) get very close the others shout BURNING! Or if really far FREEZING can be called out!

Variation:  
Instead of  
yelling  
everyone can  
clap for the  
hunter when  
they are  
getting closer.



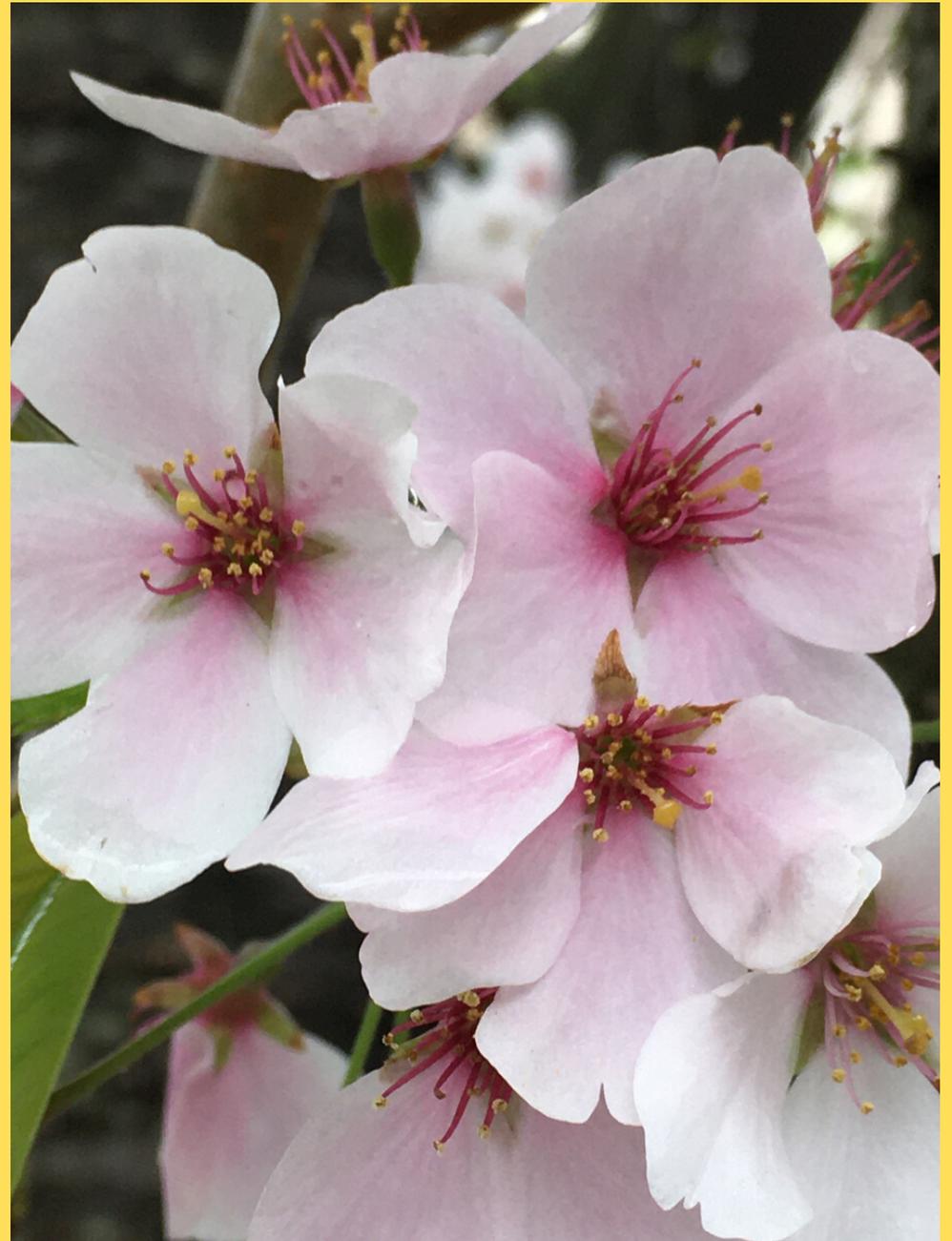
# *A Springtime Picnic!*



Our classes eat outside often & the children love it. Why not have a special springtime picnic (either outside or inside)? We promise your children will be delighted!

SUPPLIES: (just ideas..feel free to improvise) special blanket, some container like a basket to hold items, spoon or fork, cups or water bottle, and snacks (see suggestions)

WHAT TO DO: pick a lovely (dry!) spot in your yard or set up on the floor someplace special in your home. Have the child help you.





idea from Super Baby Food

Picnic snacks:  
prep simple  
foods & have  
your child  
help! First,  
wash hands.  
Then let  
them wash  
veggies &  
fruits. With  
your help,  
allow your  
child to chop.  
Place in a  
cupcake pan  
for easy  
snacking.

Bring  
your flower bouquet to the picnic!

# TIPS

Allow your child to help set up...carrying things & spreading blanket. Many of them set the snack table at school. Let them pour the drinks for everyone.

Game changer: Invite your child's favorite doll to join the picnic! Prepare them a place setting too!

Make it a tea party picnic!



After the picnic, fill a bin & let your child wash the dishes.

# Springtime Recipe

## Strawberr-wee lemonade

1 C. hulled & chopped fresh or frozen  
strawberries  
1/4 C. honey  
1/2 C. fresh squeezed lemon juice  
ice for serving

1. Purée strawberries & honey until smooth &  
put in pitcher
2. Add 2 cups water & lemon juice
3. Stir to combine
4. Chill & serve over ice



## *A Caterpillar Crawled*

A caterpillar crawled,  
(creep fingers up one arm)  
To the top of the tree.  
"I think I'll take a nap," says  
she.

(Place one hand over  
opposite fist)  
So under a leaf she began  
to creep  
To spin her cocoon,  
and she fell asleep.

All winter long she slept in her  
bed

Til spring came along and one  
day said, "Wake up, wake up,  
little sleepyhead,  
(Shake fist with other hand)  
Wake up, it's time to get out of  
bed.

So she opened her eyes that  
sunshiny day.  
(Spread fingers, hook thumbs)  
Lo, she was a butterfly & flew  
away!  
(Flap hands as wings fly  
away).

# *Springtime Fingerplay*

*...for the younger crowd...*

## **Caterpillar**

Who's that ticklin' my back? said the wall,  
(crawl fingers up arm)

"Me," said a small caterpillar, "I'm learning to crawl."

TIPS: Parents should try  
& memorize fingerplays  
if you can before sharing  
with your child.

These are nice sleepy  
time plays & could be  
done at nap time. In  
class we do the plays  
two times in a row.

from *The Complete Book of Rhymes, Songs, Poems, Fingerplays and Chants*

# ... takeaways...

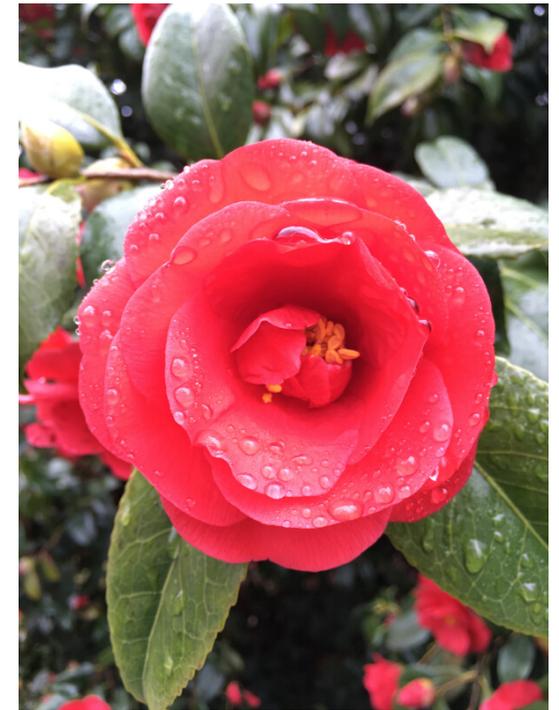
Take walks or go in the yard.  
Hunt for sticks!  
Look at all the colorful flowers  
blooming.  
Listen to the birds & bees.



Serve tea to a babydoll.  
Pour tea or water for  
each other.  
Wash dishes together.



Play with beeswax.  
Rip or cut paper.  
Play with glue!



Play together.  
Wash & chop food together.  
Eat outside on a blanket!



Rest together.

Smell the flowers!