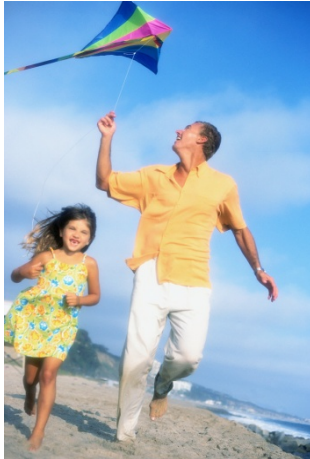


Go FLY A KITE! TAKE A HIKE! Go JUMP in a LAKE!



and other fun Language Activities for Spring Time

With longer days and sunnier weather, get outdoors and talk about it!

Enjoy flying a kite during the windy days. Simple nature walks around your neighborhood and park are mini adventures for your toddlers. Bring a small bag with handles so your child can collect some cool rocks, leaves and bugs along the way. You can do a catch and release at the end! Toddler water sports can include a trip to the malls and parks to enjoy splash zones, large fountains and koi ponds. Find a park with ducks and enjoy a feeding time. Create some water fun in your backyard by filling large bins or inflate a kiddie pool to use as a pond to play with boats and tub toys outside. A kiddie pool is also handy for an outdoor sandbox. Sand is pretty cheap and available at larger hardware stores. Plant a small garden. Little hands enjoy getting dirty and growing something is a fantastic activity that offers many language opportunities. You and your child can talk about planting, talk about the plant getting bigger, talk about watering it and maybe even eating it! Outdoor activities are wonderful sensory experiences that encourage children to learn with all their senses; sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. It gives your child more opportunity to learn about the world and how to talk about what happens in it. Model language for your child by commenting on your actions and naming vocabulary words associated with the activity. Make sure models are close to the sentence length your child is producing. Remember that understanding of words is often needed before they are used expressively. So even if your child doesn't repeat your language prompts to imitate words, phrases or sentences right away, you are exposing them to new information and reinforcing concepts that will help grow their knowledge base. Enjoy the sunshine, bring the sunscreen, and get speech and language blooming!