



Signs of New Life

Sensory Bin

A spring garden offers the ultimate sensory bin experience and can help children in preschool through second grade learn about the Easter season in a multisensory way. This bin focuses on the many signs of new life seen during the Easter season.

Suggested materials

- * Tub or planter
- * Soil
- * Seeds, sprouts, and potted spring plants like Easter lilies
- * Water
- * Watering cans or spray bottles
- * Plastic eggs (can be filled with rice)
- * Plush baby animals
- * Faux nest
- * Spring-scented (unlit) candles
- * Cotton balls
- * Twigs and small sticks
- * Small signs with Easter themed Scripture or prayers



Suggested activities

Create an outdoor or an indoor "Easter garden" for your sensory bin. Use fresh soil and have the children help to dig and plant seeds, bulbs, sprouts, and potted spring flowers that are already blooming. While they likely won't be able to see the seeds and bulbs actually grow, children will get to feel the smoothness and size of the seeds and bulbs and know that they grow into plants in time. (Note: if it is not possible to use real flowers, substitute faux flowers and grass available at craft stores.) Colorful blooms will be visually stimulating. Teach the children how to gently touch sprouts, stems, leaves and petals without breaking them. Let them smell the soil and the flowers. Provide spray bottles or small watering cans for children to nurture the sprouts with life-giving water. In and around the garden, nestle items such as plastic eggs, soft plush stuffed animals like lambs, and a faux nest with eggs. Sprinkle in loose cotton balls, twigs, and sticks for children to touch and to build nests. An unlit candle with the scent of a lily or spring rain will add to the sensory experience.

Use the liturgical colors of the Easter season in the bin where possible. In the garden, place small signs printed with Bible verses or Easter prayers.



Suggested Bible verses to include

- * "They waited for me as for the rain; they drank in my words like the spring rains." JOB 29:23
- * "Alleluia! Alleluia!"
- * "Grow in grace." 2 PETER 3:18
- * "You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails." ISAIAH 58:11



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