

# April

April is the start of spring in many areas. We think of baby animals, bunny rabbits, chicks, and colored eggs.

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing, and talk about books with your child in your own language.



## Activities

### Farm Animals

Go visit a petting zoo, if there is one in your community.

- Talk about the animals' names. Talk about what the baby animal is called.
- Talk about how they feel. Are they soft, fuzzy, rough, hairy, or slippery?
- Talk about what you think each animal eats. Maybe you can feed the animals.
- Talk about the parts of each animal. (Does it have paws or hooves? Does it have long or short ears? What kind of tail does it have? What about its nose?)

### Zoo Animals

We are lucky to have a free Zoo in Peterborough but if you can't make it there, go to your local library and sign out some books about zoo animals. Pretend you are at the zoo as you read together.

- Talk about the animals' names.
- Talk about what they look like. Do they have long or short legs? Do they have fur or skin?
- Talk about what parts of the world the animals come from.
- Talk about what the animals are doing.
- Take turns pretending to be a certain animal. Move around like the animal and make sounds.



## Songs and rhymes

Want to learn more songs and rhymes? Look for a parent-child music class in your area.

### Bears are Sleeping

(sung to the tune of Frere Jacques)  
Bears are sleeping,  
Bears are sleeping,

In their caves, in their caves.  
Waiting for the springtime,  
Waiting for the springtime.  
Shh! Shh! Shh!  
Shh! Shh! Shh!

### Sleeping Bunnies

(child lays on the floor pretending to sleep and parent sings or says rhyme)  
See the little bunnies sleeping,  
Sleeping until noon,  
Come let us gently wake them,  
(parent rubs child's back)  
With a happy tune.  
Are they ill?  
Oh so still . . . (pause for surprise)  
Wake up bunnies, hopping, hopping,  
(child jumps up and hops like a bunny)  
Wake up bunnies, hopping, hopping,  
Wake up bunnies, hopping, hopping,  
Wake up bunnies hop and stop.



## Books

Go to your local public library to find these and many more great books.

Too many bunnies by Matt Novak  
Happy Easter eggs by Joan Holub  
Farm 123 by Rod Campbell  
I went walking by S. Williams  
Hattie and the fox by Mem Fox  
Dear zoo by Rod Campbell  
Pigs by Robert Munsch  
If you give a mouse a cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff  
Have you seen my cat? By Eric Carle  
The rainbow fish by Marcus Pfister  
Bear wants more by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman



## Crafts

For free printable colouring pages visit  
[www.coloring.com](http://www.coloring.com)

To learn more about reducing children's recreational and sedentary screen time visit  
[www.healthykidsptbo.ca](http://www.healthykidsptbo.ca)