

Getting Ready for Easter Week

Books

1. Things I See at Easter (board book) by Julie Stiegemeyer
2. The Very First Easter by Paul L. Meyer
3. The Story of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross by Mary Joslin
4. Sheep out to Eat by Nancy Shaw
5. Sheep, sheep, sheep, Help me fall asleep by Arlene Alda
6. Lost Sheep by Nick Butterworth

Songs

1. Baa-Baa Black Sheep
2. Little Bo Peep
3. Mary had a Little Lamb
4. Jesus is Alive Today

(Jesus is alive today, alive today, alive today, Jesus is alive today, on this Easter morning! To the tune of Mary had a little lamb).

Materials:

1. Cotton balls, paper plate, black construction paper, glue, eyes, scissors.
2. Small eye droppers, like from empty infant Tylenol bottles. Food coloring, water, coffee filters.
3. Inexpensive farm set, from dollar store, with toy sheep included. (optional).
4. Seed collage: sturdy paper or cardboard for back. Various dried seeds: popcorn, sunflower, lentils, and some mustard seed. (Bird seed works, too). Glue.
5. Natural Egg dye: raw eggs, pots, vinegar, orange peel, cumin, turmeric, carrot tops, raw spinach leaves. Blueberries, grape juice or red cabbage for blue. Yellow onions, cooked carrots, paprika for yellow. Beet juice or cranberry juice for pink. Boiled red onion skins or pomegranate juice for red.
6. Brown, black, and white paint. Pale blue construction paper. Black marker.
7. Side walk chalk.
8. Tempera paint and large piece of paper. Brushes, water. Choose pretty spring colors – pink, red, yellow, orange. Green and blue construction paper.
9. Sugar cookie dough, decorations, sheep shaped cookie cutter (or alternate Easter

cookie cutter shapes). Frosting, colored sprinkles.

Centers:

Dramatic Play:

Set out new party dress ups, with beads, shoes, purses, etc. for getting “dressed up fancy”. Put out a mirror, if possible. New doll clothes. Wrap a ribbon around a man’s cane to play “Little Bo Peep”. Set out stuffed sheep.

Blocks:

Set out a farm toy with sheep.

Outside Play:

If there’s an Easter parade in your community, your child may want to decorate their wagon or tricycle with ribbon, crepe paper, etc.

Music:

Songs of Easter, vol 2: Resurrection Songs by Heaven’s Sake Kids.

Eastertide: Music for Lent, Passiontide and Easter

Table Activities:

1. Discovery Tray: Put cotton balls, wool yarn, some unprocessed sheep wool in a tray. Touch them, smell them, explore. Talk about sheep growing wool, and how it is cut then spun into yarn to make clothes for us. Stress that it does NOT hurt the sheep, but that cutting their warm wool off in the spring is actually good for them.
2. Gather sheep puzzles, or farm puzzles with picture of sheep.
3. Duplo blocks farm set, with sheep and cow
4. Flash cards of farm animals
5. Stickers of sheep and other animals to make a home-made lotto game.

Lotto: A simple preschool game can be made from posterboard and a set of stickers. Make several playing boards – divided into six squares, and put one sticker of each animal in a square. Vary the order of the animals in each board. Now make a set of playing cards, so there is a picture animal card for every board square. For example, if you have a sheep square and a cow square on two boards, you will need four cards with two sheep and two cows. The game is played by drawing a card, trying to match it to your board and placing it or returning to the pile. Winner covers board first. Teaches matching, one-to-one correspondence, taking turns, and vocabulary words.

Easter Week, Monday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up. Go potty. Get dressed. Brush hair.
7:30	Do calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words on picture chart. Words for this week: Lamb, ewe, ram, sheep, Easter, Alleluia. Teach Baa-Baa Black Sheep song.
7:45	Breakfast. Wash up.
8:00	Table activities: Sheep puzzles. Playdough.
8:15	Free Play. Set out all dressups and materials for dramatic play, blocks, music and book centers.
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty. Wash up for snack.
10:00	Snack. Juice or milk and one other food group. Sit with child, talk about sheep. A lamb is a baby sheep. A ewe is the mommy, and a ram is the daddy. Show pictures of sheep.
10:15	Outside Play. Take out a ball and practice throwing, catching, kicking.
11:15	Calm down inside time. Project: make a sheep. Cover paper plate with cotton balls. Cut out a face from black construction paper. Add eyes and ears. Add some little black hooves to the paper plate. Allow to dry. (Scottish black face are white sheep with black faces)
12:00	Lunch, Go Potty. Read a story in rocking chair. Sing a song, cuddle.
1:00	NAP.
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed. Go Potty, wash.
3:15	Snack. No seconds.
3:30	Outside Play. Sandbox time. If you have a cheap farm set, like from a dollar store, let child bring the animals out to the sand box. Dig in the sand like a farmer, feed the animals, make troughs for their drinking water.
4:30	Inside, potty break, drink of water.
4:45	Project. "Easter Eggs". Drop small droplets of colored water onto paper coffee filters cut in the shape of an egg.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story. Free play time, while adult gets dinner ready.
6:00	Dinner.
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, have child help.
7:00	Bath time. Get in pajamas. Read some stories. Play a board game.
8:00	BED.

Easter Week, Tuesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up. Go potty. Get dressed. Brush hair.
7:30	Do calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words, sing Baa-Baa Black Sheep, and teach "Jesus is Alive Today" (it is to the tune Mary had a little lamb).
7:45	Breakfast. Wash up.
8:00	Table activities: Discovery Tray. Talk about the different textures, smells, and colors of the sheep wool, wool yarn, cotton balls, etc.
8:15	Free Play. Farm animals in the blocks center.
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty. Wash up for snack.
10:00	Snack. Juice or milk and one other food group. Discuss Easter, and what it means in your family, whether it is a religious holiday or a secular family get-together.
10:15	Outside Play.
11:15	Calm down inside time. Project: yellow and green eggs. Put about three (raw) eggs in one pot, and three eggs in another. Add enough water to cover the eggs and a teaspoon of vinegar. In one pot, place some or all of the following: orange peel, cumin, carrot tops, turmeric. Put raw spinach leaves in the other pot, and bring both pots to a boil. Set the timer for 12 minutes. Watch the eggs change color. The longer they boil, or the more ingredients you use, the darker the color. If you want darker eggs after they are done, remove from heat. Rinse eggs with COLD water to stop them from cooking, allow the dye water to cool. Return cold eggs to cold water and store in refrigerator overnight. (We will make two colors a day, less mess!)
12:00	Lunch, Go Potty. Read a story in rocking chair. Sing a song, cuddle.
1:00	NAP.
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed. Go Potty, wash.
3:15	Snack. No seconds.
3:30	Outside Play. Ride tricycle or pedal-less toy car.
4:30	Inside, potty break, drink of water.
4:45	Project. Flock of sheep. Make black, brown, and ivory thumb prints on blue paper for sheep. Add ears & legs with marker. Add grass with either green paper or a green crayon. Cut out a person from a magazine and glue into picture for the shepherd. Talk about how a shepherd protects the sheep.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story. Free play time, while adult gets dinner ready.
6:00	Dinner.
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, have child help.
7:00	Bath time. Get in pajamas. Read some stories. Play a board game.
8:00	BED.

Easter week, Wednesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up. Go potty. Get dressed. Brush hair.
7:30	Do calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words. Sing "Baa-Baa black sheep" and "Jesus is Alive Today". Teach Little Bo Peep.
7:45	Breakfast. Wash up.
8:00	Table activities Duplo blocks with sheep and cow
8:15	Free Play. Pretend to be Bo Peep. Can you find her sheep? Take turns hiding her sheep and looking for them. Use the cane like a shepherd's crook to pick up sheep you can't reach.
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty. Wash up for snack.
10:00	Snack. Juice or milk and one other food group. Talk about shepherds. Talk about how Jesus is our shepherd. He takes care of us.
10:15	Outside Play. Go to park to swing.
11:15	Calm down inside time. Project: Dye two more colors of eggs. Follow same pattern as before, but use blueberries, purple grape juice or boiled red cabbage leaves for blue, and boiled yellow onion skins, cooked carrots, paprika for orange. If you choose, the child may color on eggs first with a white or yellow crayon before dying.
12:00	Lunch, Go Potty. Read a story in rocking chair. Sing a song, cuddle.
1:00	NAP.
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed. Go Potty, wash.
3:15	Snack. No seconds.
3:30	Outside Play.
4:30	Inside, potty break, drink of water.
4:45	Project. Seed collage. Child drizzles a white line of glue, then presses some dried seeds in it. Allow to dry Thoroughly before picking up. You can talk to your child about the parable of the mustard seed while working.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story. Free play time, while adult gets dinner ready.
6:00	Dinner.
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, have child help.
7:00	Bath time. Get in pajamas. Read some stories or play a board game.
8:00	BED.

Sound Week, Thursday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up. Go potty. Get dressed. Brush hair.
7:30	Do calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words on picture chart. Sing songs. Talk about Easter, how Jesus is alive. How we celebrate at church. Perhaps you will want to talk about how eggs are a symbol of new life, which is why we decorate eggs.
7:45	Breakfast. Wash up.
8:00	Table activities: flash cards, then color pictures
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty. Wash up for snack.
10:00	Snack. Juice or milk and one other food group. Sit with child, and discuss things with him. Talk about what you did yesterday, or will do today. Keep meals and snacks pleasant. Do not start food battles.
10:15	Outside Play. Sidewalk chalk. If it's warm enough, you can add a can of water and some large brushes to paint with water, or mix water and chalk.
11:15	Calm down inside time. Project. Two more egg colors: beet juice or cranberry juice make pink. Lots of boiled red onion skins will make red, or try pomegranate juice. Taste the juice at snack!
12:00	Lunch, Go Potty. Read a story in rocking chair. Sing a song, cuddle.
1:00	NAP.
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed. Go Potty, wash.
3:15	Snack. No seconds.
3:30	Outside Play.
4:30	Inside, potty break, drink of water.
4:45	Project. Spring colors. Paint with pink, yellow, orange and red on large sheets of paper. Allow to dry. Cut out large flowers from the paintings and paste to a paper background. And green construction paper stems and leaves.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story. Free play time, while adult gets dinner ready.
6:00	Dinner.
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, have child help.
7:00	Bath time. Get in pajamas. Read some stories. Play a board game.
8:00	BED.

Sound Week, Friday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up. Go potty. Get dressed. Brush hair.
7:30	Do calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words on picture chart. Sing songs. Play Ring-around-Rosie.
7:45	Breakfast. Wash up.
8:00	Table activities: play lotto. Then color with markers.
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Pick up toys. Go potty. Wash up for snack.
10:00	Snack. Juice or milk and one other food group. Sit with child, and discuss things with him. Talk about what you did yesterday, or will do today.
10:15	Field trip: Visit a sheep farm if at all possible. There should be little lambs this time of year! Google "sheep farm (your state)" to bring up some addresses and phone numbers. Ask if they have regular tours or if they would mind you and your children coming out at feeding time one day to visit. Or call your local extension agent to find out about 4H families raising sheep.
11:15	
12:00	Lunch, Go Potty. Read a story in rocking chair. Sing a song, cuddle.
1:00	NAP.
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed. Go Potty, wash.
3:15	Snack. No seconds.
3:30	Outside Play. (decorate tricycle for Easter parade, if appropriate.)
4:30	Inside, potty break, drink of water.
4:45	Project. Roll out sugar cookie dough, cut with sheep cookie cutters. Decorate with sugar sprinkles, bake. Or frost after baking. Can decorate dyed Easter eggs with spring stickers.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story. Free play time, while adult gets dinner ready.
6:00	Dinner.
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, have child help.
7:00	Bath time. Get in pajamas. Read some stories. Play a board game.
8:00	BED.