



**March 30, 2018**

Spring has finally sprung and we're looking forward to watching the Better Beginnings community grow. To all our friends and family celebrating Easter, we hope you have a wonderful day! Check out this [free pin from our Pinterest page](#) for age-appropriate books for children to learn about the traditional and light-hearted sides of Easter.

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## Rain, Rain, Go Away

With all the rain we received this month, it's no surprise March is National Umbrella Month. Hopefully, the rain will hold off long enough today to take the little ones outside for Take a Walk in the Park Day.



Our [Family Resource Library](#) has [tips and ideas for outdoor activities](#) to inspire discovery, exploration and creativity.

Here are a few ways the great outdoors teach children:

- Develop vocabulary as they learn different plants and objects, like dandelions, branches and leaves
- Develop awareness of themselves in relation to the rest of the world, like noticing the difference in size compared to a rock or a tree
- Gain understanding of gravity as they watch dandelion puffs drift in the wind or leaves fall on a windy day

But if weather is preventing you from venturing outdoors, we have some ideas for showing children what happens when water meets dirt. If you're a teacher, limiting the amount of mud your students find is a daily goal, but our resource for [getting muddy with your buddy](#) has tips for controlling the mess.

- **Mud Sculpture:** Using mud to create art like buildings and people lets a child's imagination and creativity take center stage.
- **Mud Painting:** Just like mud sculptures, mud painting allows a child's imagination to run free, while teaching children different ways to create art.
- **Mud Treasure Hunt:** Whether you're using a small plot of dirt inside or outside, letting children hunt for plastic toys, shells or rocks teaches

exploration and science as they learn textures from digging through the dirt and mud.

To keep inspiring discovery, visit our [Family Resource Library](#). [En Español](#).

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## March to the Beat of Your Own Drum



March might be ending, but that doesn't mean we stop celebrating Music in our Schools Month; April is National Jazz Appreciation Month. So download our [Books and Movement: A Magical Mix](#) curriculum to teach children about dancing and making their own music, today throughout April.

Did you know dancing with a child who hasn't learned to walk can improve their balance for when they start trying? Playing music and singing to children, infant to preschool-age, teaches them patterns and series, which develops their ability to make predictions. To learn more about using music to boost a child's development, check out these [free resources from our Family Resource Library](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), and show us how you implement music in the classroom or at home to boost early learning.

For more information about the complete and supplemental curriculums provided, [click here](#).

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## Yes Ma'am, No Sir, Please and Thank You



Raising a cooperative child has more value than just instilling manners. By teaching children to behave, you are able to instill confidence when making decisions and establish a positive relationship, which provides a healthy learning environment. To get started, check out these [tips for raising a cooperative child](#).

Children don't always like doing chores. An open dialogue about how these tasks

help others can boost a child's self-esteem. They are able to see a positive reaction to their actions. Communicating with your child also develops their language skills and understanding of how a conversation works.

Make suggestions and offer choices. Instead of telling children to do something like pick up toys or to brush their teeth, help them learn cause and effect. For example, telling a child they can't go outside until their toys are picked up might encourage them to do as they are asked instead of saying no. They also learn the negative effect of not picking up their toys. Instead of telling a child to brush their teeth, ask them if they want to brush their teeth before or after another daily routine like bath time or getting dressed. Allowing children to make a choice makes them feel more confident about making decisions and feel like they are part of a team.

For more ways to raise a cooperative child, [check out these seven tips](#). To learn how following the rules and being courteous can boost development, check out this pin for [10 social skills everyone should know](#).

To learn more about boosting a child's behavioral development, [click here](#).

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**To learn more about Better Beginnings and the resources available, [visit our website](#).**

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