

Talking Tips FOR PARENTS

This newsletter topic is “Summer Flowers.” There are a lot of things we can’t do right now, but we can certainly go out in the garden, on the deck, or brighten the kitchen window and plant some flowers. I hope you find some ideas to try with your children.

All precautions should always be in place to provide safety from infection by the Covid-19 virus—social distancing 6’ apart, wearing masks, **(I’m told, no masks for children 2 and under)**, and frequent hand washing.



- Out of respect for Covid-19 safety precautions, I won’t suggest a trip to the plant nursery or home improvement store to buy flowers. What I think might work is to **request plant catalogues from local nurseries or shop online for seeds or seedlings. Involve children, if age is appropriate, in looking through the catalogues and pointing to flowers they like.**
- Once you have your flowers or bedding plants, I’m sure we can find many ways to include your children in this very fun activity. **Let’s think about things you can talk about.**
- **Flowers** – pretty flowers, flowers smell good, yellow (and other colors) flowers, tall flowers, little flowers (always use the noun “flower” with the adjective (pretty, yellow, tall, little, etc. Otherwise your young child may think the flower is “a pretty” or a “tall.”
 - **Dig—dig a hole**, dig in the dirt, dig a bigger hole
 - **Put dirt around the flower.**
 - Put the yellow flower in the hole.
 - All the flowers are in the ground.
 - **We need to water the flowers.**
 - Water will make them grow bigger.
- **Now let’s talk about caring for your flowers.**
 - **“Your flowers are thirsty and need water.**
 - Will you help me?
 - Let’s go outside.
 - **Where will we get the water?**
 - Yes, we will get water from the hose.
 - **The hose is long. Pull the hose over to the flowers. Pull. Joey, you are pulling the hose!** You’re so strong!”
- **Find some flower or garden books and poems to read aloud.**

