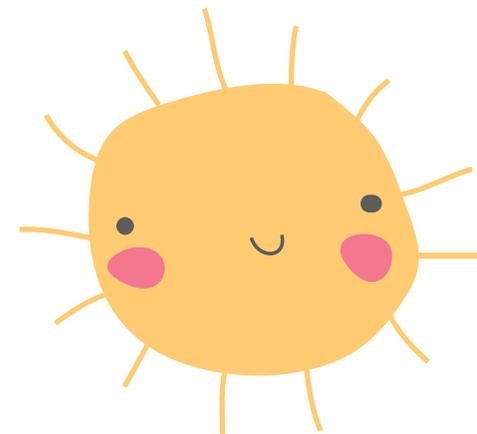
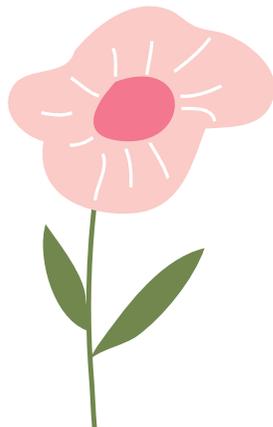


#dlrArts

The King who loved his flowers



Written by Joanna Parkes.

Ideas for encouraging pretend
play for 3 to 5 year olds at home,
crèche or pre-school.

Linked to the video
'Let's go into the garden'

www.youtube.com/user/dlrofficial





Let's go into the garden!

Connecting to real life and nature:

Talk to your child/children about flowers and how they grow from tiny seeds. Look at flowers and plants in nature. Plant some real seeds in little pots on the window-sill and encourage the children to water them and look after them until they can be planted outside.



Using the pretend props and home-made flowers, you could:

-  Give the children fruit stones (such as a plum stone) that they can pick up with their fingers and 'plant' them as a pretend flower seed in little gardening pots or yogurt pots which are filled with tissue paper, torn up paper or cotton wool.
-  The children can pretend to water the seed with a toy watering can or a plastic milk container with a handle. Talk about how the seed grows down into the earth and up into the sky.
-  Put some plasticine, (mala, playdough, modelling clay) in the bottom of one of the little pots. The children can then 'plant' the felt flowers in the pot by pushing the gardening stick into the plasticine so it stands up.
-  The children can continue to look after the flowers, giving them water and making sure they are getting sunlight to help them grow.

Using the flowers in their play – Ideas for joining in play with the child/children:

-  Together you could set up a garden centre with the flowers, other little plants, pretend money etc. You could be the customer looking to buy some flowers for your garden.
-  If they are having a pretend tea-party with their toys they could put the flowers in a vase on the table.
-  They could pretend one of their toys isn't feeling well and could make a little bed for the toy and put some flowers in a vase beside the bed.
-  If you have read the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* you could talk about what Goldilocks could do to say sorry to the bears for making such a mess in their house (as I always feel she should do in the original story!) This can provide a good opportunity to practise saying sorry when we do something to upset someone else. If they suggest giving the bears a present one child could pretend to be Goldilocks giving the bears the flowers to say sorry. An adult and/or a child could be the bears receiving the gift and hopefully forgiving Goldilocks for her misdemeanours in their house.