



SPRING SEASONS GO 'ROUND POSTVISIT MATERIAL

Thank you for visiting Mill Creek MetroParks. The naturalist staff suggests the following activities to further the study of the seasons, especially spring, with your students.

Spring Book

Additional pages may be added to the Spring Book (see previsit material) by having the students draw pictures of their favorite memory of the nature center program. They may also illustrate their favorite springtime activity. To complete the Spring Book, insert finished pictures and activity sheets inside the cover. Use a three-hole punch on the cover and inside pages, and tie with yarn.

Help a Bird Make a Nest

In the spring, birds gather materials to make their nests. Students can help by putting yarn or string outside for birds to take. They may tie 2-3 pinecones together in a line. Then cut pieces of yarn or string and lay a few pieces around each pinecone. Or, make a bird nest material sack by putting yarn, string, Spanish moss, etc. in an onion sack. Be sure to pull some string ends through the outside of the mesh. Students may hang either of these from a tree in your schoolyard or right outside a window at home. Adapted from *Your Big Backyard*, National Wildlife Federation.

Build a Nest

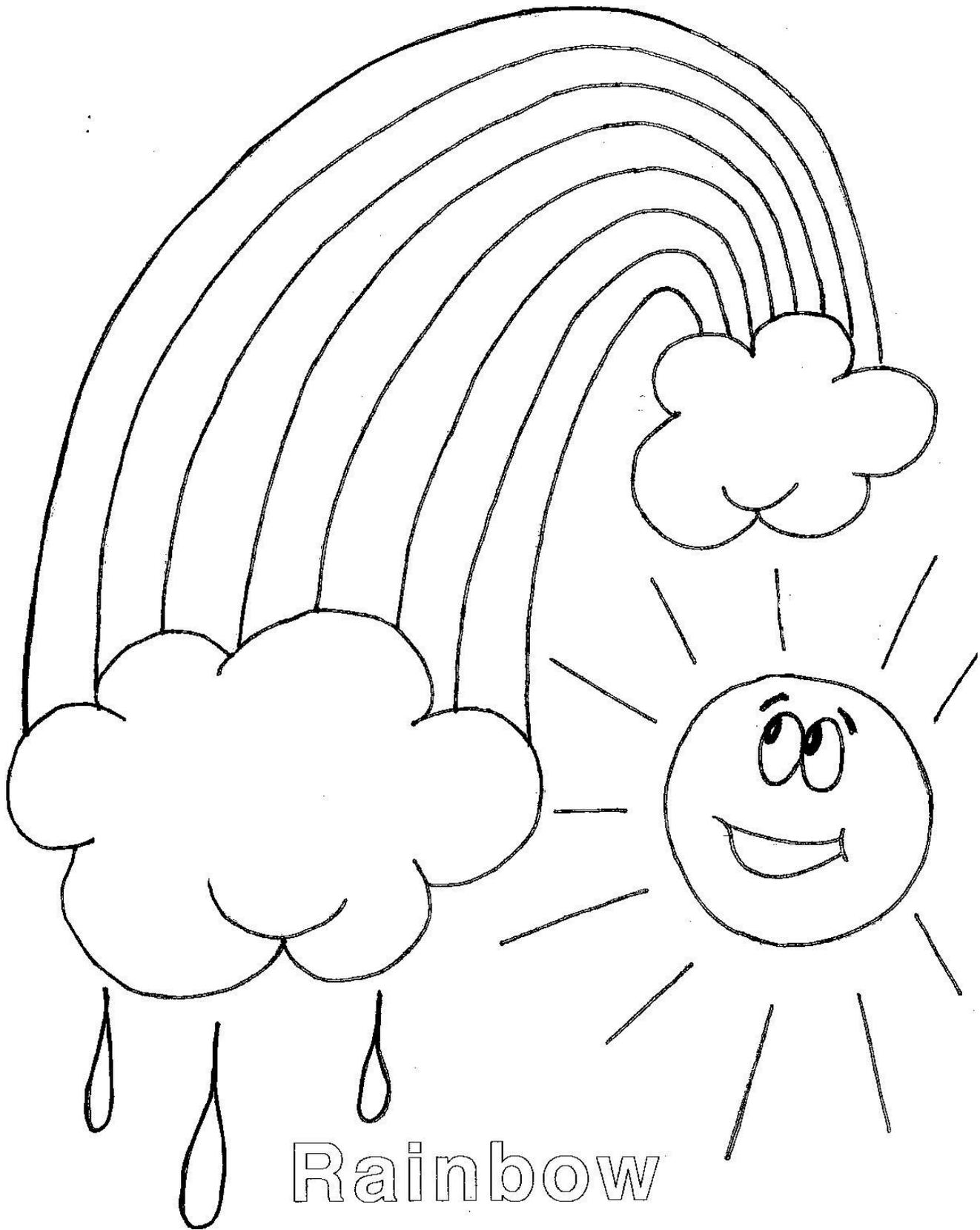
Gather dry grasses, sticks, etc. and let the children "be a bird" and put a nest together. It isn't easy! You may use Playdoh or modeling clay to shape nests. Add dried materials to it and put plastic eggs inside.

Bird Watching

Discuss the birds they saw in the park and in your schoolyard. Make simple binoculars with two empty toilet paper rolls. Rolls may be decorated with construction paper and stamps or stickers. Attach rolls together with a paper clip at each end. Make a hole on each side with a paper punch and attach yarn long enough to wear around their necks. Read *Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert. Put sunflower seeds outside your classroom window for the birds. To make a simple bird bath, place a large flower pot base or trash can lid in a safe spot near the classroom. (Be sure to change the water often!)

Rainbows

Discuss the colors of the rainbow. To help them remember the order of rainbow colors, you might like to use the phrase "Roy G. Biv" (which stands for Red, orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet) Copy the rainbow sheet for each student. Have them color the rainbow in order, if possible. This page may be added to their spring books. You need sunshine and rain at the same time to make a rainbow. The children may like to make their own rainbows by blowing bubbles outside on a sunny day.



Rainbow