



# EARTH DAY!

*Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22*

Appreciation for the natural world starts at an early age, and children are already filled with curiosity and wonder about the wonderful world around them. Earth Day provides a nice opportunity to consciously harness that curiosity and wonder and celebrate an appreciation for nature together!

## **Celebrate with your family: keep it simple!**

Just being outside together with the intention of acknowledging the awesomeness of nature is a great way to celebrate with kids of all ages. Keep your ideas and lessons simple-- if you help children fall in love with nature now, they'll keep loving it and wanting to know more about it as they age.



Go outside and dig around for worms. Explain how worms help to break down leaves, other dead bugs and even food to create new soil.



Take some paper and unwrapped crayons on a walk to make some rubbings of the bark from different trees. Have a conversation about why the rubbings might look different.



Go for a walk or hike and gather a bag of wonderful things you find. After completing the walk, take some time to sort the objects with your child. Encourage them to think about similarities and differences in the things they've found.



Go for a walk and see if you can find something to match every color of the rainbow. Start a conversation about which of those things you spotted are "human made" or "nature made."



Get into your recycling at home, find a few clean things that can be re-used and ask your child to imagine what you might build from those things. With a little glue and tape they may be able to create some pretty neat things. You can also do this with items you find outside on a walk!

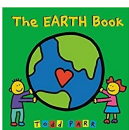
## *Book Suggestions for Celebrating Earth Day*

*Don't have these at home? Use the links below to find an online read-aloud of these great stories.*



**Earth Dance** by Joanne Ryder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jO-HJKj0ekw&t=125s>



**The Earth Book** by Todd Parr

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXnWUS\\_K0XQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXnWUS_K0XQ)



**Just a Dream** by Chris Van Allsburg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLeHjr84c8A>

# An Artful World

Can you think of something you love about nature?

Can you think of something you love about planet Earth?

This Earth Day activity is all about using art to share what you love with your neighbors. Because we all have to celebrate separately right now, we'd like you to **use the sidewalk chalk in your bag to draw a picture of something, or many things that you love about planet Earth or nature.** When your neighbors walk by your art piece, they'll get to share in your love for this beautiful place we call home! *Remember-* you can use sidewalk chalk on wood, boards, concrete, asphalt or big rocks/boulders- get creative!



## **Make your own sidewalk chalk!** (recipe makes 1-2 sticks)

*You'll need:*

5-6 eggshells- washed, dried and powdered (use a blender or food processor)

1 teaspoon flour

1 teaspoon very hot tap water

1-2 food coloring colors of your choice (optional)

Pour flour, hot water and 1 tablespoon of eggshell powder into a small bowl, mixing until paste forms. Add food coloring now, if desired.

Shape and press the paste into the shape of chalk sticks or roll up tightly in a strip of paper towel and allow to dry for about three days.