

Tiny Scholars Academy

April Curriculum Guide

Theme: Earth, Rain, Life & Poetry

Month:	April
Theme:	Earth, Rain, Life & Poetry
Age Groups:	Infants (6 wks–12 mo) • Toddlers (12–36 mo) • Preschool (3–5 yrs)
Standards:	Rhode Island Early Learning & Development Standards (RIELDS)

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MONTHLY OVERVIEW & LEARNING GOALS — APRIL

Big Idea: April showers bring more than May flowers — they bring scientific wonder, poetry, and a deep appreciation for our planet. Earth Month and National Poetry Month combine to inspire children as scientists, writers, and environmental stewards.

Monthly Theme Weeks

Week 1 **Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle**

Week 2 **Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship**

Week 3 **Poetry Month: Words Come Alive**

Week 4 **Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly**

Guiding Questions

- Where does rain come from? What is the water cycle?
- How do we take care of our Earth? What is pollution?
- What is poetry? How can we use words to paint pictures?
- What is a life cycle? How does a caterpillar become a butterfly?
- How are all living things connected to each other?

■ Infant Room — Monthly Goals

- Experience rain sounds and water through safe sensory exploration
- Explore spring nature: flower petals, grass, soil textures
- Develop language through rain songs and nature narration
- Strengthen motor skills through outdoor spring movement
- Build wonder and awe through nature-based sensory experiences

■ Toddler Room — Monthly Goals

- Learn water cycle vocabulary: rain, cloud, puddle, evaporate, river
- Practice environmental stewardship: recycle, reduce, plant
- Explore poetry through rhymes, songs, and short verses
- Sequence the butterfly life cycle: egg → caterpillar → chrysalis → butterfly
- Develop fine motor through spring art projects

■ Preschool Room — Monthly Goals

- RIELDS-aligned learning through earth science, poetry, and life cycles
- Model and explain the water cycle (D5)
- Write original poems using sensory language (D2,D3,D7)
- Calculate recycling: how much can our class save in a week? (D4)
- Document butterfly life cycle in science journal with labeled diagrams (D5,D3)
- Explore environmental responsibility as community action (D6,D1)

INFANT CLASSROOM (6 wks–12 mo) — APRIL 4-WEEK CURRICULUM

Curriculum Approach: All infant learning is embedded in responsive caregiving routines. Ratios, safe sleep, and RIDOH licensing standards are maintained at all times. Outdoor time occurs daily in the buggy or on a supervised blanket.

Week	Theme	Objectives	Activities	Materials	Assessment
Wk 1 Rain	Rain Sounds	Auditory exploration; sensory; language	Rain stick auditory play; gentle water mist on hands; rain sound recording; 'Rain Rain Go Away' song	Rain stick, water mister, rain sound recording	Document auditory orienting; note sensory responses
Wk 2 Earth	Nature Textures	Nature sensory; motor; language bath	Earth Day sensory basket (soil, leaves, grass, flower petals); outdoor time on grass blanket; 'Our Earth' picture book	Earth sensory basket, outdoor blanket, Earth book	Note nature engagement; document outdoor comfort
Wk 3 Poetry	Rhythmic Language	Language rhythm; auditory discrimination; social joy	Nursery rhymes with actions; rhythm instruments; call-and-response chants; 'Humpty Dumpty'	Rhythm instruments, rhyme books, chant recordings	Document rhythm response; note vocalization attempts
Wk 4 Life Cycles	Butterflies & Wonder	Visual tracking; nature wonder; language	Butterfly mobile visual tracking; soft caterpillar puppet; 'Flutter Flutter Butterfly' song; cocoon sensory wrap	Butterfly mobile, caterpillar puppet, butterfly song	Note visual engagement; document nature wonder responses

TODDLER CLASSROOM (12–36 mo) — APRIL 4-WEEK CURRICULUM

Curriculum Approach: Movement, language, and sensory learning drive the toddler experience. Centers rotate weekly with the theme. Predictable routines support autonomy and emotional regulation.

Week	Theme	Objectives	Activities	Materials	Assessment
Wk 1 Rain & Puddles	Water Cycle	Water vocabulary; science; gross motor	Puddle jumping in boots; water cycle felt board; rain cloud in a jar experiment; rain painting	Boots, felt board, jar experiment supplies, rain painting	Document water vocabulary; note science language
Wk 2 Earth Day	Eco Heroes	Environmental vocabulary; community; fine motor	Classroom recycling sort; tree planting ceremony; 'The Lorax' read-aloud; upcycled art project	Recycling bins, seedlings, Lorax book, recyclable art supplies	Note environmental vocabulary; observe community behavior
Wk 3 Poetry Month	Rhyme & Rhythm	Phonological awareness; language; movement	Rhyming word matching; poetry movement ('Head Shoulders'); rhythm drumming; create a class rhyme	Rhyme cards, drums, movement poetry, class poem paper	Document rhyming ability; note rhythm tracking
Wk 4 Life Cycles	Caterpillar to Butterfly	Sequencing; science vocabulary; art	Life cycle sequencing cards; butterfly painting (fold printing); caterpillar snack; chrysalis dramatic play	Sequencing cards, paint, caterpillar snack supplies, fabric cocoons	Note sequencing accuracy; document science vocabulary

PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM (3–5 yrs) — APRIL RIELDS-ALIGNED CURRICULUM

Standards Note: All activities are mapped to the 9 Rhode Island ELDS domains. Domain codes (D1–D9) appear in each activity. See the RIELDS Domain Reference in the June Curriculum Guide.

Week 1 — Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle ■■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain' / 'The Water Cycle' Write: 'The water cycle is...' illustrated diagram paragraph (D2,D3,D5)
Math	Measure rainfall in a rain gauge for one week; graph daily totals (D4,D5)
Science	Water cycle in a bag: condensation, evaporation, precipitation (D5,D9)
Art	Rain-inspired art: wet watercolor with salt + alcohol drops (D7)
Outdoor	Puddle science: measure a puddle in the morning; measure again after lunch — what happened? (D5,D4)

Week 2 — Earth Day & Stewardship ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'The Lorax' / 'Earth Day Every Day' Write: 'I will help the Earth by...' — class Earth Day pledge book (D2,D3,D6)
Math	Recycling math: weigh paper, plastic, and cans collected for a week (D4)
Science	Soil investigation: healthy soil vs. eroded soil — which grows better? (D5,D9)
Art	Upcycled art: create sculptures from clean recyclables (D7,D9)
Service	Schoolyard cleanup project; create a litter graph before/after (D6,D4,D8)

Week 3 — Poetry Month: Words Come Alive ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'A Pizza the Size of the Sun' / 'Hailstones and Halibut Bones' Write an original poem: choose from haiku, acrostic, or free verse (D2,D3,D7)
Math	Count syllables in spring words; sort words by syllable count (D4,D3)
Science	Poetry of science: write a poem about the water cycle or a butterfly (D5,D3)
Art	Illustrate your poem: watercolor + collage (D7)
Performance	Poetry open mic: share your poem with another class (D2,D1,D8)

Week 4 — Spring Life Cycles ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' (extended) / 'Waiting for Wings' Write a labeled butterfly life cycle diagram (D2,D3,D5)
Math	Caterpillar math: add food eaten each day; total at end of week (D4)
Science	Butterfly observation: if possible, raise painted lady butterflies (D5,D9)
Art	Symmetry butterfly: fold watercolor print; add antenna and details (D7,D4)
Science 2	Compare life cycles: butterfly vs. frog vs. plant — Venn diagram (D5,D4)

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM — APRIL

Week: Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Poetry Month: Words Come Alive

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Poetry Month: Words Come Alive

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM — APRIL

Week: Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Poetry Month: Words Come Alive

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Poetry Month: Words Come Alive

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Week: Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Reflections / Notes:				

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM — APRIL

Week: Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:

Reflections / Notes:	
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Week: Poetry Month: Words Come Alive

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Poetry Month: Words Come Alive				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
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Week: Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:	Circle Time: Activity: Outdoor: Notes:
Reflections / Notes:				

Welcome to April at Tiny Scholars Academy!

This month our theme is **Earth, Rain, Life & Poetry**. April showers bring more than May flowers — they bring scientific wonder, poetry, and a deep appreciation for our planet. Earth Month and National Poetry Month combine to inspire children as scientists, writers, and environmental stewards. Read on to see what's happening in each classroom and how to keep the learning going at home!

Infant Room: Our youngest learners explore the month's theme through all their senses! Ask your teacher about your baby's weekly sensory experiences.

Toddler Room: Toddlers dive into hands-on science, dramatic play, and language-rich activities. Send your child in clothes ready for messy, magical learning!

Preschool Room: Preschoolers engage with all 9 RIELDS domains through projects, investigation, writing, and creative expression. Portfolio updates go home at month's end.

Important Dates

- Apr 1 — April Fools / Silly Science Day
- Apr 7 — Poetry Week Begins
- Apr 14 — Patriots Day — Academy Closed
- Apr 18 — Earth Day Week Launch
- Apr 22 — Earth Day — Schoolyard Cleanup
- Apr 30 — Poetry Open Mic & Spring Celebration

Learning at Home

- Catch rainwater in a cup and measure it.
- Read an Earth Day book and make one family pledge to help the planet.
- Write a poem together — it can be silly or serious!
- Look for caterpillars or butterflies on a nature walk.
- Plant something in your yard or a pot on your windowsill.

E: Earth Day April 22: We're doing a schoolyard cleanup. Please send old clothes and boots that

This Month's Theme Weeks:

Week 1:	Rain, Puddles & Water Cycle
Week 2:	Earth Day & Environmental Stewardship
Week 3:	Poetry Month: Words Come Alive
Week 4:	Spring Life Cycles: From Egg to Butterfly

With warmth and gratitude,

The Tiny Scholars Academy Team ■