

Tiny Scholars Academy

May Curriculum Guide

Theme: Flowers, Families & Year-End Celebration

Month:	May
Theme:	Flowers, Families & Year-End Celebration
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 — MAY

Big Idea: May is a beautiful bloom of everything we've learned! We celebrate flowers, honor mothers and family caregivers, prepare for kindergarten transitions, and joyfully reflect on a year of tremendous growth and discovery.

Monthly Theme Weeks

Week 1 Flowers: Nature's Artists

Week 2 Mother's Day & Family Appreciation

Week 3 Memorial Day & Community Heroes

Week 4 Year-End: We've Grown So Much!

Guiding Questions

- How do flowers grow? What is pollination?
- How do we honor the people who take care of us?
- Who are the heroes in our community? How do we remember them?
- How much have I grown and learned this year?
- What am I most excited about in kindergarten?

■ Infant Room — Monthly Goals

- Celebrate growth through developmental milestone review with families
- Explore spring flower sensory experiences: smell, texture, color
- Strengthen motor achievements: sitting, crawling, standing, first steps
- Build language through celebration songs and responsive dialogues
- Develop secure transitions as program year concludes

■ Toddler Room — Monthly Goals

- Celebrate growth with family through portfolio sharing
- Learn pollination vocabulary: bee, flower, pollen, nectar, garden
- Express love and appreciation through homemade Mother's Day gifts
- Practice kindergarten-readiness skills: name writing, number recognition
- Develop transition comfort: 'Next year I will...'

■ Preschool Room — Monthly Goals

• RIELDS-aligned culminating experiences across all 9 domains
• Understand flower anatomy, pollination, and plant reproduction (D5)
• Write and present 'This Year I Learned...' reflection portfolios (D2,D3)
• Demonstrate year-end math skills: count to 20, shapes, patterns (D4)
• Create Mother's Day art and written tribute (D7,D2,D1)
• Develop kindergarten readiness through transition planning activities (D9,D1)

INFANT CLASSROOM (6 wks–12 mo) — MAY 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 Flowers	Petal Softness	Sensory: texture, smell, color; visual tracking; motor	Flower petal sensory bin; floral scent pouches; bright flower color tracking mobile; flower lullaby	Flower petals, scent pouches, flower mobile, lullaby	Document flower sensory engagement; note motor development
Wk 2 Family Love	Caregiver Celebration	Attachment; social recognition; imitation	Photo book of caregivers; 'Mama, Papa, Baby' social songs; handprint gift preparation; family video sharing	Family photos, handprint supplies, love songs	Document recognition of family faces; note attachment depth
Wk 3 Heroes	Community Warmth	Language; routine comfort; social play	Community helper puppet show; hero lullabies; familiar loving routine; flag-themed sensory bin	Community puppets, flag sensory bin, hero books	Note social engagement; document routine security
Wk 4 Year End Celebration	We've Grown!	Developmental milestone celebration; family connection; joy	Before/after photo comparison; growth-chart update; celebration songs; family sharing portfolio	Growth charts, celebration music, portfolio pages	Complete developmental milestone summary for families

TODDLER CLASSROOM (12–36 mo) — MAY 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 Flowers	Garden Artists	Flower vocabulary; fine motor; science	Flower dissection (safe varieties); petal painting; bee-and-flower dramatic play; 'In the Garden' song	Flowers for dissection, paint, bee props, garden song	Document flower vocabulary; note fine motor quality
Wk 2 Mother's Day	Love & Appreciation	Gratitude expression; fine motor; art	Mother's Day card making; 'Why I love you' dictation frame; flower pressing; handprint poem	Card supplies, flower press, poem template	Note gratitude language; document art pride
Wk 3 Heroes	Community Celebration	Community vocabulary; social studies; dramatic play	Veteran/hero dramatic play; flag-themed art; 'Thank You Heroes' song; community map revisit	Dramatic play props, flag art supplies, community map	Document community vocabulary; observe dramatic play
Wk 4 We've Grown!	Portfolio Pride	Self-reflection; confidence; transition readiness	Before/after drawing comparison; 'Things I can do now!' list; celebration party; next-year wishes	Portfolio supplies, party materials, transition books	Complete portfolio; document growth with families

PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM (3–5 yrs) — MAY 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 — Flowers: Nature's Artists ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'The Reason for a Flower' / 'Miss Rumphius' Write: flower anatomy book — label 6 parts (D2,D3,D5)
Math	Flower petal counting; symmetry in flowers — how many lines of symmetry? (D4)
Science	Pollination investigation: use a cotton ball bee to pollinate paper flowers; discuss bee role (D5,D6)
Art	Georgia O'Keeffe-inspired large-scale flower painting (D7)
Science 2	Flower chromatography: what colors hide inside a flower petal? (D5,D9)

Week 2 — Mother's Day & Family Appreciation ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'The Kissing Hand' / 'Love You Forever' Write and illustrate: 'My Family: A Story About Love' — handmade book (D2,D3)
Math	Flower bouquet math: how many flowers to make a bouquet for each family member? Add them up! (D4)
Science	Grow a flower for Mom: plant seeds and create a grow kit to take home (D5)
Art	Mother's Day portrait and poem: 'My (caregiver) is like a ___ because...' (D7,D2)
SEL	Circle: what does your family do that makes you feel loved? Share and honor all families (D1,D6)

Week 3 — Memorial Day & Community Heroes ■■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'The Wall' / 'Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood' Write: 'A hero is someone who...' (D2,D3,D6)
Math	Counting stars and stripes on the flag; tally the colors (D4)
Science	How do flags not tear in the wind? Test fabric strength experiment (D5,D9)
Art	Mosaic American flag using torn tissue paper (D7)
Social Studies	Community heroes wall: add family members and community workers who serve (D6,D1)

Week 4 — Year-End: We've Grown! ■

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Literacy	Read: 'Oh, the Places You'll Go!' Write: 'This year I learned... Next year I hope...' portfolio reflection letter (D2,D3)

Focus Area	Activities & Standards
Math	Year-end math show-off: demonstrate counting to 20, shapes, patterns, addition (D4)
Science	Science showcase: each child presents their favorite experiment (D5,D9,D2)
Art	Self-portrait: compare to September self-portrait — observe growth (D7,D1)
Celebration	Kindergarten readiness ceremony: each child receives a diploma + portfolio (D1,D2,D6,D7,D8,D9)

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM — MAY

Week: Flowers: Nature's Artists

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Flowers: Nature's Artists

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: Mother's Day & Family Appreciation

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Mother's Day & Family Appreciation

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: Memorial Day & Community Heroes

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM | Memorial Day & Community Heroes

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Reflections / Notes:				

Week: Year-End: We've Grown So Much!

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — INFANT ROOM Year-End: We've Grown So Much!				
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 — MAY

Week: Flowers: Nature's Artists

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM Flowers: Nature's Artists				
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: Mother's Day & Family Appreciation

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Mother's Day & Family Appreciation

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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:
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Week: Memorial Day & Community Heroes

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Memorial Day & Community Heroes

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Week: Year-End: We've Grown So Much!

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — TODDLER ROOM | Year-End: We've Grown So Much!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Reflections / Notes:				

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM — MAY

Week: Flowers: Nature's Artists

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Flowers: Nature's Artists				
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: Mother's Day & Family Appreciation

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Mother's Day & Family Appreciation				
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: Memorial Day & Community Heroes

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Memorial Day & Community Heroes				
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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:
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Week: Year-End: We've Grown So Much!

TEACHER WEEKLY PLANNING — PRESCHOOL ROOM Year-End: We've Grown So Much!				
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Welcome to May at Tiny Scholars Academy!

This month our theme is **Flowers, Families & Year-End Celebration**. May is a beautiful bloom of everything we've learned! We celebrate flowers, honor mothers and family caregivers, prepare for kindergarten transitions, and joyfully reflect on a year of tremendous growth and discovery. 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

- May 5 — Spring Flower Science Day
- May 9 — Mother's Day Gifts Ready to Take Home
- May 11 — Mother's Day
- May 19 — Memorial Day Week Activities
- May 26 — Memorial Day — Academy Closed
- May 30 — Year-End Celebration & Portfolio Pickup

Learning at Home

- Visit a flower garden or botanical garden together.
- Look through your child's portfolio and celebrate every page!
- Ask: 'What was your favorite thing you learned this year?'
- Plant a flower or herb garden to celebrate the growing season.
- Write a letter to your child about how much they've grown — they'll treasure it.

Year-End Celebration: May 30, 5:30–7 PM. Please join us for portfolio pickup and graduation rec...

This Month's Theme Weeks:

Week 1:	Flowers: Nature's Artists
Week 2:	Mother's Day & Family Appreciation
Week 3:	Memorial Day & Community Heroes
Week 4:	Year-End: We've Grown So Much!

With warmth and gratitude,

The Tiny Scholars Academy Team ■