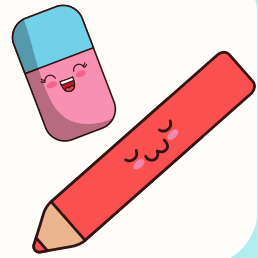


# Pre-K Press

## April 2022



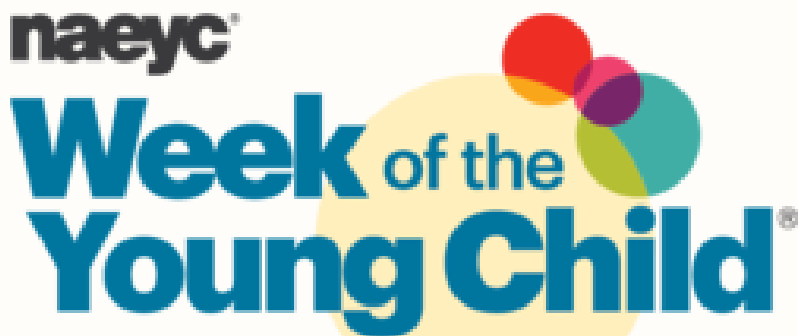
## April Celebrations & Observances

There are so many important and fun days to celebrate in April! As we head into Spring, April is the perfect opportunity to study plants and gardening, water (including the water cycle), insects, and more! Here are a few dates you may want to mark on your calendar:

- April 2nd – World Autism Awareness Day (see ECSE section for more!)
- April 3rd – National Find a Rainbow Day
- April 13th – International Plant Appreciation Day
- April 15th – World Art Day
- April 22nd – Earth Day
- April 27th – National Tell a Story Day



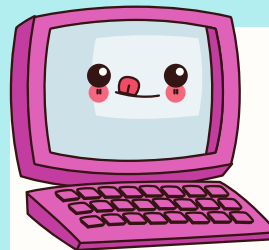
Of course, something you won't find on the calendar is RODEO, and we all know that is a **BIG DEAL** in West Texas during the month of April! YEEE-HAW!



## April 2nd - 8th

The National Association for the Education of Young Children invites you to celebrate and shine a spotlight on your classroom, advocacy, and family engagement activities this week. Click on the NAEYC logo to learn more and check out the daily themes! **#woyc22**

## April is Autism Acceptance Month!



## EOY Assessments

CIRCLE Progress Monitoring Users, it is time for the last assessment of the year!

While there is no set "assessment window," you want to give yourself plenty of time to complete everything. Remember to not go through the entire assessment with a child in one sitting.

"Chunk it" so that children are only being assessed for a couple of minutes! The window for my THL teachers is **April 11th - May 13th**.



# DAP CENTRAL

DEVELOPMENTALLY  
APPROPRIATE PRACTICES

## Science

### Recycling Sort

Celebrate Earth Day with this sorting activity using recycled materials. Ask students to bring clean recyclable items to school, and then complete the activity in either whole group or small group. You can even add it to a center! Click the recycle icon below to find the activity and printable labels in the CIRCLE Activity Collection.



## Math

### Seed Sorting

Practice fine motor, sorting, comparing, and counting (even graphing) skills by sorting seeds into trays with kid tweezers. Include meaningful print by adding seed labels. Keep the materials and use them for a different purpose each time.

Day 1 – compare and discuss, Day 2 – sort, Day 3 – count, Day 4 – graph.

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:

**CLICK HERE!**



## Sensory Table

### Gardening Sensory Table

In your sensory table or any plastic container, add potting soil (ask local nurseries for donations), small gardening utensils, gloves, plastic insects, seeds, plastic flowers/plants, etc.



## Letter Knowledge

### Raindrop Names

Click the picture below to get ideas, instructions, and these example pictures for Raindrop Names and Raindrop Matching!



Examples of Raindrop Names:



# PRE-K BOOK NOOK



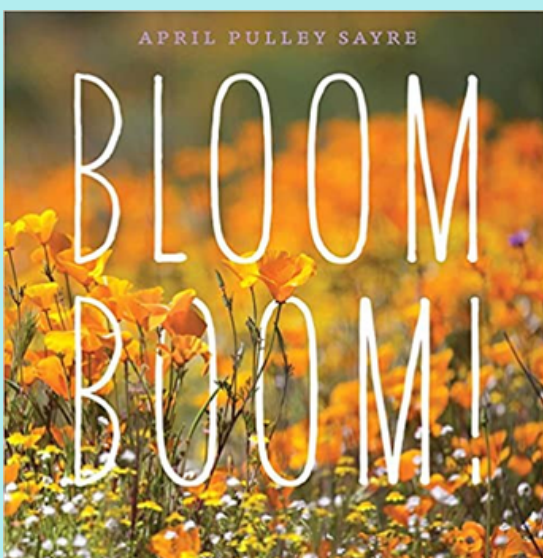
## Worm Weather

Join in the rainy-day fun as kids splash through the puddles, affecting another weather enthusiast – a nearby worm. An imaginative and playful story, readers will love seeing the worm delight in the weather just as much as the kids.



## Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring

Join a boy and his dog as they explore nature and take a stroll through the countryside, greeting all the signs of the coming season. In a series of conversations with everything from the melting brook to chirping birds, they say goodbye to winter and welcome the lushness of spring.



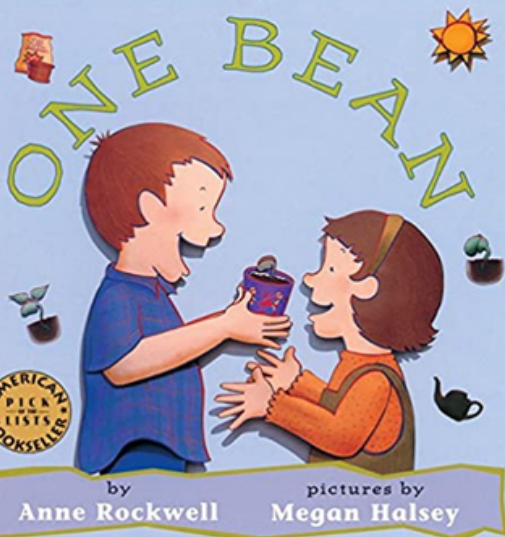
## Bloom Bloom!

When spring arrives, flowers of all kinds sprout and grow buds and bloom. Sometimes, they bloom a few at a time. But other times, many will bloom at once in a colorful flower boom! This photographic exploration of flowers goes from the desert to the woodlands and beyond, celebrating their beautiful variety and the science behind these colorful displays. \*BEAUTIFUL nonfiction book your students will LOVE!\*

# PRE-K BOOK NOOK

## One Bean

A perfect balance of simple narration and cheerful, thoughtful three-dimensional paper sculptures just right for the very young, *One Bean* carefully and joyfully takes the young observer step-by-step through a plant's growth cycle, from planting the bean in a paper cup to the tasty results. Created with respect to the developmental needs of the youngest learner, here's a concept book that tips its hat to children's never-ending curiosity about the world around them.



## Singing in the Rain

Spring calls in this classic Broadway number brought to life in a beautiful picture book—perfect for sharing! Jump in puddles, raise umbrellas, and dance with joy through the pages of this visual story. With colorful, springy scenes and familiar lyrics, this is a beautiful, feel-good read-aloud. It is also a wonderful way to introduce students to the classic song this book is based on!

## SINGING IN THE RAIN

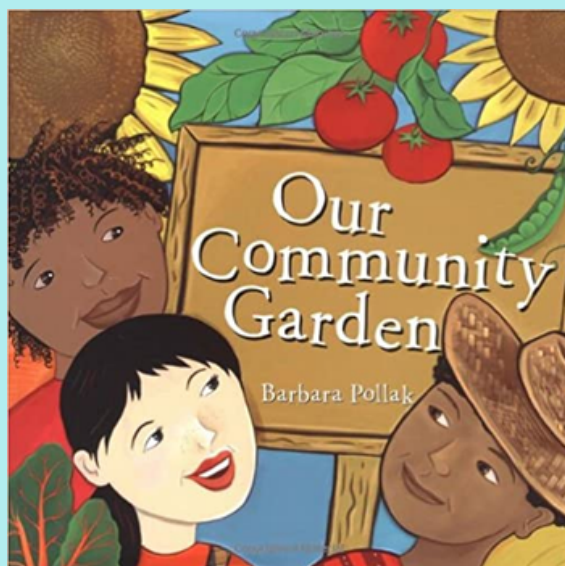


## Our Community Garden

If you could plant a garden that would represent your personality, what would it include? Audrey Aubergine and her friends do just that in their neighborhood's community garden, where they play hide-and-seek, tend giant sunflowers, and discover nature's possibilities. A celebration of different cultures and a gentle reminder of the value of people working together, *Our Community Garden* will appeal to all ages.

## Our Community Garden

Barbara Pollak



# ECSE



- In 2021, the CDC reported approximately 1 in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an ASD.
- Autism affects all ethnic & socioeconomic groups.
- Minority groups tend to be diagnosed later & less often.
- Most children were being diagnosed after age 4, but ASD can be diagnosed reliably as early as age 2.
- Early intervention provides support for healthy development & benefits throughout life.
  - Autism Speaks website

**CHECK THIS OUT!**



## Autism AWARENESS VS ACCEPTANCE

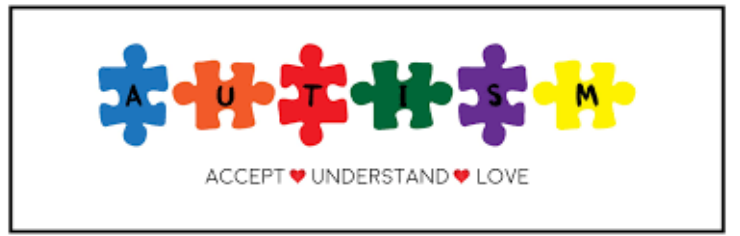
Neurodiversity is not just a conversation topic! Help build a community that welcomes Autistics into your world, into your and your children's friendships, into your neighborhood gatherings, into your workplace, places of worship, schools and playgrounds!

- 1**  
Awareness means you know it exists  
Acceptance means you connect personally and learn more
- 2**  
Awareness means you can identify it  
Acceptance means you talk to people and gain understanding, compassion, and sensitivity
- 3**  
Awareness means you know something is happening  
Acceptance means you offer help and support without judgement
- 4**  
Awareness means you cope with it deal with it tolerate it  
Acceptance means you embrace it, grow from it, and build relationships with people who have it not only those who love someone with it!
- 5**  
**Awareness is Not Enough**  
acceptance is the next step towards a truly inclusive and community driven society!

Amanda J Friedman  
AtlasForAutism.org

### Links for information, support, & education:

- Autism Society of Texas:  
<https://www.texasautismsociety.org/>
- Autism Speaks:  
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>
- TSLAT (Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism Training):  
<https://www.txautism.net/>



# Professional Development Opportunities



## EARLY CHILDHOOD SESSIONS (PRE-K - 2)



### Write Where? Across Content PK - 2

**6/8/2022 Session #226647**

Come experience different writing opportunities to help your students grow as independent writers. Not only will we learn the stages of writing our scholars go through, but we will also explore how writing can be developed through the content areas of math, science, and social studies.

### Counting - It's Not That Simple

**6/10/2022 Session #225370**

This session will deepen your understanding of what all counting encompasses, from the stages of counting to how it impacts other concepts. Join us as we count our way through the Texas Pre-K Guidelines and K- 2 TEKS. Counting is sophisticated and fundamental to learning mathematics!

### Studies: Meaningful Experiences for Authentic Learning

**6/13/2022 Session #225169**

Children come to us with diverse interests, experiences, prior knowledge, and have a natural curiosity about the world around them. Join us as we explore ways to foster authentic learning through inventing and solving problems, sharing solutions, and exploring content through hands-on activities.

### Academy for Teachers of Young Children

**7/13 - 7/15/2022**

Join ATYC *one more time* before it heads to Lubbock! It will be the BEST part of your summer! Check the ATYC website ([bit.ly/ATYctx](http://bit.ly/ATYctx)) for keynotes, price, and registration information. *It's gonna be RAD!!*

### Move It or Lose It

**6/9/2022 Session #224900**

Movement is essential to development. Classroom movement is more than 'getting the wiggles out' or changing positions in the classroom. Learn to be purposeful in the movements you have your students make to increase learning. Come experience appropriate movements in this fully engaged workshop.

### Rock the Blocks

**6/16/2022 Session #223946**

The block station can be more than just play. Students can learn ELAR, Math, Science, Social Studies, and STEM through three dimensional creativity and problem-solving. Participants will experience and learn how to stock the block station to support planned intentional learning experiences. *\*This is a repeat of the summer 2021 session.*

### CIRCLE Pre-K Foundations Training

***Date & location coming soon!***

This training provides a comprehensive look at Pre-K instruction to support Kindergarten readiness. Teachers will participate in playful, purposeful, playful activities as they experience 7 modules that target key areas of Pre-K learning and instruction. *\*Teachers will receive a CIRCLE Interactive Notebook, including information & activities ready for immediate implementation.*

# ACADEMY FOR TEACHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

JULY 13-15, 2022

SAN ANGELO, TX

REGISTRATION  
IS  
OPEN!

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[BIT.LY/ATYCTX](https://bit.ly/ATYCTX)



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