

Let's focus on listening, responding, repeating, and having fun with some language expansion topics on the theme of spring.

First, let's refresh our best listening techniques:

1. Think about what the speaker is saying.
2. Try to understand what you're hearing and if you don't, then ask a question when the time is right. If you can't find the right words, you can just say, "I don't get it."
3. Look toward the speaker and give signals to show that you're really listening. You can watch, lean forward, and nod.
4. Listen quietly without interrupting or talking to others.
5. Focus on listening, try to ignore distractions, and let go of looking all around and thinking about other things.
6. If you get distracted, turn your attention back to the speaker. It's never too late to get back on the track.

Verb Tenses

Spring, Sprang, Sprung

Multiple Meanings with Parts of Speech

VERBS

To jump up rapidly (spring from your chair)

To originate, to arise from, to grow from (seedlings spring up)

To release (spring someone from lock-up)

To close suddenly (spring a mouse trap)

NOUNS

A season of year

A coil (like a Slinky, as in ball point pens, springs in a mattress)

A place where underground water wells up (a spring with spring water)

ADJECTIVE

Springy (bouncy, easy to snap back, like elastic)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is a springboard? Why is it called that?

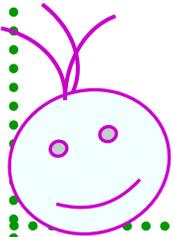
What are the months of spring?

What season comes before spring? After spring?

EXPLAIN WHAT MAKES THESE JOKES FUNNY

What season is best for going on a trampoline? *Spring time*

What letter is like a spring flower? *The letter A because a bee comes after it.*



TONGUE TWISTERS

Swing into spring with strings of springs.

Sling rings and strings on the springy swing .

IDIOMS

Spring chicken (*young person*)

Spring something on someone (*present something unexpected*)

Spring for ice cream (*pay for ice cream*)

MAKE A LIST OF WORDS YOU ASSOCIATE WITH SPRINGTIME.

Explain how are these words associated with springtime.

MAKE A LIST OF ITEMS THAT HAVE A SPIRAL SHAPE

POEMS

Here is a counting poem for young children that speaks about the sights, sounds, and activities of springtime. The author is unknown, but I would love to give credit if anyone can help identify the author.

Spring is Here

Spring is here! Spring is here!
Winter is gone and two flowers appear.
Three little robins begin to sing.
Four bicycle bells begin to ring.
Five children come out and jump the rope.
Spring is here now! I hope, I hope!

Author Unknown

Below is a poem by Amy Vanderwater to enjoy with your students and work on listening skills. Visit her website, The Poetry Farm for poems on a vast variety of topics, as well as other poetry resources. <http://www.poemfarm.amylv.com/>

SPRING MORN *By Amy Ludwig Vanderwater*

Listen carefully, child,
and today you may hear
soft kitten songs
curling up in your ear.

Small mewling voices
sing through the morn
for today is the day
pussy willows are born.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LANGUAGE EXPANSION WITH VANDERWATER'S POEM

- Read the poem for students and then recite it again, asking them to fill in the rhyming words: ear/hear and morn/born.
- Discuss: what are pussy willows? Are they really kittens? What does "mew" mean? Can pussy willows really make a sound? Why does the poet say they mew? What does the poet mean when she writes, "...for today is the day pussy willows are born?"
- Can students memorize the first two lines? Four lines? Six lines, Eight lines?