

Fun Ideas for Family Engagement March

March is full of opportunities to have creative early learning experiences together!

This month, early care and education providers across the nation will be celebrating reading, music, and nutrition in their classrooms and programs. Engage parents and families in these national observances with the following ideas:

Mini Book and Film Critic: In honor of National Reading Month, visit your local library and select a book [that has been made into a movie](#). Read the book and then watch the movie together. Give the children little notepads to critique the book and movie. Ask them about the characters-- are they the same or different?

Since March is also National Nutrition Month, offer [healthy snacks](#) as movie-time treats. Children can help prepare hummus and carrot sticks, DIY trail mix, or fruit smoothies.

Spring Cleaning: Ask each family member to select five old books. Plan a day during the weekend to donate the books to a local hospital, homeless shelter, or thrift shop.

St. Patrick's Day Brunch: In celebration of National Music in Our Schools Month, St. Patrick's Day, and National Nutrition Month, plan a day during the weekend to cook a healthy family brunch. Incorporate green food coloring into dishes. While eating, play [Irish folk songs](#).

Gardening Fun: March is the ideal time to [plant vegetable and flower seeds](#) in indoor pots. Introduce your family to seeds with the book *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. Vegetables such as cauliflower, tomatoes, and broccoli can be planted in small, biodegradable pots indoors. When the weather warms up, help the children transfer the pots outdoors.

Family Seed Collage: Introduce spring to the children by using seed packets. Compare the different types of seeds using small magnifying glasses. Then create a large family seed collage or craft smaller individual ones. Here are some examples:

