

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: May Day flower festival

May Day is based on the ancient tradition of welcoming the change from spring to summer, including celebrations of flowers. This activity encourages children to create flower crowns or baskets to join the festival.

Here is a fun activity for May Day:

Learning aims

- Recognising traditions and festivals
- Fine motor skills
- Creativity.

Resources

- Online videos or DVDs related to May Day celebrations
- Strips of green paper or card (to create head bands)
- Double-sided tape, Sellotape
- Access to abundant fallen flowers, e.g. dandelions, daisies, buttercups (please do not pick flowers from plants, ensure they are fallen flowers)
- Paper plates
- Tissue paper circles of different sizes
- Pipe cleaners.



Activity outline

1. Watch the videos or DVDs with the children to stimulate discussions about the traditions and celebrations typical for May Day, e.g. maypole dancing, Morris dancing, flower baskets and crowns, May queens etc.
2. Provide pre-made examples of flower crowns and flower baskets and encourage the children to choose which they would like to make

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3. To make a flower crown, first collect a number of flowers from the ground, not from plants, (ensuring children wash their hands). Then add a strip of double sided tape to the green strip. Finally, decorate by adding flowers along the strip. Children may want to do this in a repeating pattern
4. Create tissue paper flowers by placing different sized tissue circles on top of each other, pinching them together in the centre, twisting gently and taping to a pipe cleaner
5. To make a flower basket, make a cut from the edge of the plate to the centre and fold the plate into a cone shape. Fix the two sides with the double-sided tape. Fill with the tissue paper flowers. Children may wish to decorate the plates prior to making the cone
6. Encourage the children to use the resources as they wish, such as adding tissue flowers to their crown or real flowers to their baskets.

Extension ideas:

- Decorate the setting with the flower crowns and baskets or use them as part of your May Day celebrations
- Create a maypole (see link to activity below) and invite parents to join in a May Day dancing celebration.

NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- Activity – [Dancing round the maypole](#)