Spring has come. The sun is shining and the birds are chirping. When Sammy and his stuffed horse Hobbs, realize that spring has arrived, they are ready to go outside to enjoy the warm weather. Off they go on Sammy's bike to see flowers, a family of hedgehogs, cute lambs and to work in the garden. At the end of the day, the tired pair head home to wash up and have a healthy snack. There is a lot to do and discuss about the spring.

You can help children develop essential early literacy skills by reading, talking, writing, singing and playing with them every day. Use the following suggestions as you share *Sammy in the Spring*.

**Ask Open-Ended Questions Before and After Story**

**Before the Story**
- *Introduce the story*: Sammy and his friend Hobbs are going on an adventure outside to look for spring. Show the book’s cover and ask, “Where do you think Sammy is going on his bike?”
- How do you get ready to play outside?
- Have you seen signs of spring outside?
- What kinds of animals/insects do you think Sammy might see in spring?
- What kind of activities can you do outside when the weather is warmer?

**After the Story**
- Where did Sammy go when he was playing outside?
- How did he get there?
- What animals/insects did Sammy see when he was playing outside?
- What kind of seeds would you plant in a garden?
- Do you get hungry when you play outside? What kind of snack do you like to eat when you come inside?

**Introduce New Vocabulary and Concepts**

Explaining unfamiliar words and concepts will help expand children’s vocabulary, develop their background knowledge and enhance future read alouds.

- *Suddenly*: fast
- *Hedgehog*: small animal
- *Whisper*: talk quietly
- *Bleat*: sound a lamb makes
- *Chirp*: sound a bird makes
- *Seedlings*: baby plants

This book provides a way to introduce changing seasons.
Engage Toddlers in Early Literacy Book Extension Activities
Using Sammy in the Spring

- Take a nature walk. Use this [check list](#) to explore outside.
- Write letters outside using sidewalk chalk. Call out a letter and invite children to walk to find it. Invite the children to perform an action that starts with that letter, like *Wiggle on W, Jump on J* or *Hop on H*.
- Make a [rainbow salt tray](#). Gather some letter cards. Invite children to choose a letter card and use their fingers to draw the letter in the salt to reveal the rainbow.
- Play a spring flower memory game using this [template](#).
- Play a color matching game. Make a variety of flowers using colored construction paper and craft sticks. Place flower pots of different colors around the room. Invite children to match the colored flower with the correct colored flower pot.

Sing Songs and Chant Rhymes About Spring

**Spring Is Here**
*(Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)*
I see robins.
I see bird’s nests,
Butterflies too,
Flowers too.
Everything is growing,
The wind is gently blowing.
Spring is here, spring is here.

**Planting Seeds**
First you take the seed and you plant it in the ground.
*(pretend to plant seeds in hand)*
Next a rain cloud comes and waters all around.
*(use one hand to simulate rain)*
Next the sun shines brightly, without a sound.
*(use fingers like sun)*
And in just a few days, a flower is found.
*(open hand like flower)*

**Flowers Tall and Small**
Flowers tall, *(let tall fingers stand up)*
Flowers small, *(let little finger and thumb stand up)*
Count them one by one,
Blowing with the breezes.
In the springtime sun!
1, 2, 3, 4, 5. *(touch each finger as you count)*

**Planting Flowers**
*(Tune: “Frère Jacques”)*
Planting flowers, planting flowers,
In the ground, in the ground,
Water them and they grow,
Water them and they grow,
All around, all around.

**The Gardening Song**
First you take a shovel, a rake and a hoe.
Plant a little garden, plant seeds in a row.
Water them and weed them through all the summer heat.
And then you'll have some flowers or vegetables to eat.

**I Plant a Seed**
*(Tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)*
I plant a little seed in the cold, cold ground.
Out comes the yellow sun, big and round.
Down come the raindrops soft and slowly.
Up comes the flower grow, grow, grow!

**Pitter-Patter, Pitter-Pat**
Pitter-patter, pitter-pat,
The rain goes on for hours.
And though it keeps me in the house.
It’s very good for flowers.