



5 Mim-tastic Tips from Kate & Mim-Mim for Getting Your Preschooler's Imagination 'Blooming' this Spring

1. **Create a fairytale – from nature!** – Crafting is a fun and creative way to incorporate nature into your everyday life. Work with your child to make their own “spring fairytale” featuring items found in nature, such as crowns made of flowers or swords made of sticks. For a cute keepsake, help your child write down and illustrate their story. It'll be a bedtime hit for months to come!
2. **Make a spring-themed sensory bin!** – Sensory bins are fun, enriching and colorful – perfect for spring! Fill a container with uncooked rice or beans and then add some small-scale spring-themed surprises for your children to “discover.” Then, watch as they use their senses to explore the bin and engage in creative play to find the “hidden” objects. Challenge them to identify the items by feel alone. Once they've found them all, help your children make up a different imaginative tale for each item or a story that incorporates them all!
3. **Start a new seasonal tradition!** – “Bunny's Spring Fling” is a seasonal twist on “Elf on the Shelf.” Craft or purchase a small plush rabbit – your very own Mim-Mim! – and place it in a new, whimsical location each night. Your child will love finding their “funny bunny” friend in all sorts of silly, unexpected places! Engage your child further by asking them to imagine what the bunny did all night, or what it'll do the next day.
4. **Head outside with a “friend”!** – As the weather warms up, head outdoors to a local park with your child's favorite stuffed animal friend or “lovey” in tow. Pack extra supplies, like an additional snack or juice box, for a day to “include” the lovey. Take your child and their lovey on a mini tour to explore the area and imagine the various places, things and people you encounter from their plush pal's point-of-view. It will help give you a new window into your child's special relationship with their friend while providing a great bonding opportunity for the two (or three!) of you.
5. **Go camping – indoors! (no tent required!)** – Rain is often in the forecast for spring, but it can be a great opportunity for your preschooler to use their imagination to dream up some indoor fun! Help them build their own indoor campsite from items around the home (such as pillows, blankets and chairs) and join them for a sing-a-long or other engaging activity in the “great outdoors.” Top off your “camping trip” with a snack around the “campfire” and more imagination-powered stories.