

the early learners box

APRIL 2021



a note for grownups

We are so excited for your child(ren) to experience the Early Learners Box.

While these activities do have certain objectives, remember there is no right or wrong way to engage with them. Let your child(ren) play freely with the materials available in each box. This will promote problem solving, imaginative play, exploration, and may just result in some brilliant ideas!


We hope your child(ren) enjoy the box! If you have any questions, please email us at hello@otter.ly

connect with us

hello@otter.ly

www.otter.ly

 [@otter.ly](https://www.instagram.com/otter.ly)

 [@otterlykids](https://www.facebook.com/otterlykids)

Scan the QR code above or visit [otter.ly/elsub421](https://www.otter.ly/elsub421) to watch the video guides for this month's box including:

- Welcome + Unboxing
- A Video Guide for Grown-Ups
- Virtual Play Dates with Miss Anna

how does this box help?

Each Otterly Early Learners Box targets an array of essential developmental skills to meet your child where they are on their journey of becoming.

This month's box is much more open-ended with Spring-themed materials that can be informed and guided by the activity mats. Through these materials and mats, we're focusing on:

- sensory input
- life cycles
- observance of nature
- transfer skills
- hand-eye coordination
- fine motor skills
- grip strength
- higher order thinking
- changes + transitions
- pattern recognition

setup guide

• **All About Birds Mat:** You can use this mat to explore the anatomy and life cycle of a bird. Place the mat inside the tray and put out twigs, feathers, and wooden eggs.

Side 1: Observe the parts of a bird and even use the feathers provided to talk about different feather colors and patterns (just like people!). You can also practice letter recognition by sounding out "B" and even practice signing the letter B.

Side 2: Children can discover the life cycle of a bird - from an egg to a fully-grown adult.



"The child has a different relation to their environment from ours... the child absorbs it."

The things a child sees are not just remembered; they form part of their soul."

-maria montessori



Wooden eggs and twigs provided can be part of a sensory exploration of the life cycle and habitat of a bird.

• **All About Flowers Mat:** This mat helps inform the exploration of flowers! Discover the anatomy of a flower as well as the elements needed to encourage the full life cycle of a flower. Set the mat inside the tray and place the flower, grass patch, potting soil, beans, and flower pot next to the mat.

Side 1: Observe the parts of a flower on the mat while finding the same parts on the flower provided. You can also practice sounding out the letter "F" and even practice signing it as well.

Side 2: Children can discover the elements needed for a flower to grow to encourage it's life cycle. They can practice "planting" their flower in the pot with potting soil and even watering it. They can also practice "planting seeds" with the beans provided.

• **Transfer Setup:** In addition to the activity mats, your box also comes with lots of transfer practice. Place the two glass bowls next to each other in the tray along with the wooden spoon and sponge.

Let your child practice their transfer skills by placing beans in one bowl and allowing them to scoop them with a spoon from one bowl to another.

You can also fill one bowl with water and allow them to transfer the water using the sponge from one bowl to another. This also provides an opportunity to talk about rain!