



# Bloom

Activity Book



## Bringing the Buzz to You!

The Buzzword Pittsburgh partners designed this kit to inspire your family to keep learning together. We chose activities that build on your child's natural curiosity, encouraging a growing vocabulary and a deeper engagement with books.

So, are you ready to get buzzing? First, read through **Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt** written by Kate Messner with your child. Then, go through the different activities, experiments, and ideas together, taking time to explain the meaning of the words and connecting them to your child's real-life experiences.

## Personalized Recommendations Just for You!

Lots of things can make us BLOOM. Family, friends, nature, love. Check out these recommendations from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh about things that bring us joy and help us grow

[www.carnegielibrary.org/staff-picks/bloom/](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/staff-picks/bloom/)

- **The Hike** by Alison Farrell
- **Isabel and Her Colores Go to School** by Alexandra Alessandri
- **Layla's Happiness** by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie
- **Me, Toma and the Concrete Garden** by Andrew Larsen
- **My Hair is a Garden** by Cozbi A. Cabrera
- **My Rainbow** by Trinity Neal and DeShanna Neal
- **Ojichan's Gift** by Chieri Uegaki
- **The Old Truck** by Jarrett Jumphery
- **Southwest Sunrise** by Nikki Grimes
- **Who Will You Be?** By Andrea Pippins

For more information, visit [www.BuzzwordPGH.org/bloom](http://www.BuzzwordPGH.org/bloom)



## BLOOMing Garden

**Materials:** Three sheets of tissue paper, stapler/string/tape, and scissors

Create your own BLOOMing garden with tissue paper!

- Step 1:** Lay out three sheets of tissue paper, stacked on top of each other.
- Step 2:** Accordion fold the stack of sheets.
- Step 3:** Place a staple in the center of the tissue paper to hold the folds in place (you can also use a fishing line or a piece of tape).
- Step 4:** Use scissors to cut each end into a rounded shape.
- Step 5:** Separate each layer of tissue paper and watch the flower BLOOM!
- Step 6:** You can use your flower for decoration on its own or make more flowers to fill up your garden!



PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

# What's BLOOMing?

**Materials:** Play-Doh

**Optional Materials:** Cookie cutters, rolling pins, and forks to cut, mold, shape, and imprint your Play-Doh

There is plenty of growing and BLOOMing in the Spring. Let's create flowers with playdough!

- Step 1:** Take a walk around your neighborhood to observe flowers or other plants blooming in your area. A trip to the floral area of the grocery store or a plant nursery can also give you great ideas! You may want to take a picture or make a quick drawing for reference.
- Step 2:** Use your Play-Doh to create flowers. Use household items to help add shape or texture to your flowers. You may make little balls to create a hyacinth flower. Flatten bigger balls to make rose petals. Roll Play-Doh into a snake shape for flower stems. Be creative!



# BLOOMing Flowers

**Materials:** Crayons, flower page, and bowl with water

- Step 1:** Color your flowers from the flower page
- Step 2:** After your flowers are colored, carefully cut them out.
- Step 3:** Fold each petal of your flower toward the middle, so that the tips touch the middle of the flower.
- Step 4:** Get a bowl and fill it with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water.
- Step 5:** Gently place your folded flower in the water and watch the magic happen!
- Step 6:** Your flower will begin to BLOOM right before your eyes!



# Planting Seeds

**Materials :** Bag of soil, peat pot, and one to two Nasturtium seeds

It's Spring and flowers are BLOOMing! Let's plant a flower of our own and watch it BLOOM!

- Step 1:** Take the bag of soil out of the peat pot.
- Step 2:** Take the small bag of seeds out of the bag with the soil.
- Step 3:** Decorate your peat pot with crayons and markers if you would like!
- Step 4:** Put the soil from the bag in the peat pot.
- Step 5:** Stick your finger into the soil, making a hole for the seeds about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way down.
- Step 6:** Place seeds in the holes then pat soil over the holes.
- Step 7:** Water until the soil is moist.
- Step 8:** Put your freshly planted seeds near a window for sunlight.

**Taking care of your Nasturtium plant:** Water your seed occasionally; Nasturtium plants do best in dry, well-drained soil. Your plant will bloom throughout the summer so transfer your plant to an area with at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of soil in a sunny area!

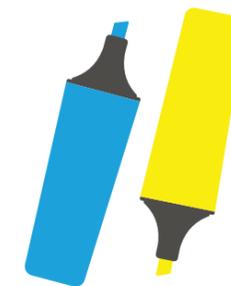


# Coffee Filter Flowers

**Materials:** Pipe cleaner, coffee filter, pipette, marker, tape (optional)

Let's create a flower that will last forever!

- Step 1:** Find an area to work that can get wet.
- Step 2:** Color your coffee filter using markers.
- Step 3:** Use a pipette to drop some water onto the coffee filter.
- Step 4:** Dry your coffee filter for at least 30 minutes, to allow colors time to mix.
- Step 5:** Carefully poke a pipe cleaner through the center of the coffee filter (tape it into place if needed).
- Step 6:** Fold and crinkle coffee filter into a flower shape.
- Step 7:** (Optional) Layer more than one coffee filter on your flower as needed.



# Growth in the Garden

**Materials:** Clothespin, pipe cleaner, coffee filter, and markers

Follow along with a video that will inspire you to think about how plants grow in the garden. Learn a BLOOM dance.

[www.BuzzwordPGH.org/bloom](http://www.BuzzwordPGH.org/bloom)

- Step 1:** Use markers to create a colorful pattern on the coffee filter. Allow time for it to dry.
- Step 2:** Insert the coffee filter into the clothespin to create butterfly wings.
- Step 3:** Wrap the pipe cleaner around the top of the clothespin to create antennas. Curl the ends.
- Step 4:** Have fun, flying your butterfly around your room or in the yard.



# Sunflowers

**Materials:** Scissors, glue, yellow, brown, and green construction paper

Sunflowers are one of our favorites because they grow tall as if they are reaching for the sun. Let's make a sunflower of our own. Follow along with the video and we'll make it together. [www.vimeo.com/487500477](http://www.vimeo.com/487500477)

Let's sing a song together before we start. Don't worry. We'll teach you the song in the video too!

## Song Lyrics:

I come out of the dirt  
up, up, up.  
I grow so tall and  
BLOOM, BLOOM, BLOOM  
face to the sun  
I reach, reach, reach  
blow in the wind  
I'm free, free, free  
What am I?  
A sunflower!



# Research Says

From birth to age five years, young children's brains are rapidly developing. During this time, little ones are more open to learning and becoming inspired. Talking with a child helps increase vocabulary development and communication skills needed throughout life.

A child's early vocabulary skills grow in real-life settings through positive interactions and conversations about the world.



# Who Are We?

Buzzword Pittsburgh excites children and families as they experience the words that are all around them. Through talk and play about math, science, and art, young children will expand their vocabularies and conversation skills. The program engages families and community organizations in Pittsburgh's Homewood neighborhood and the greater community.

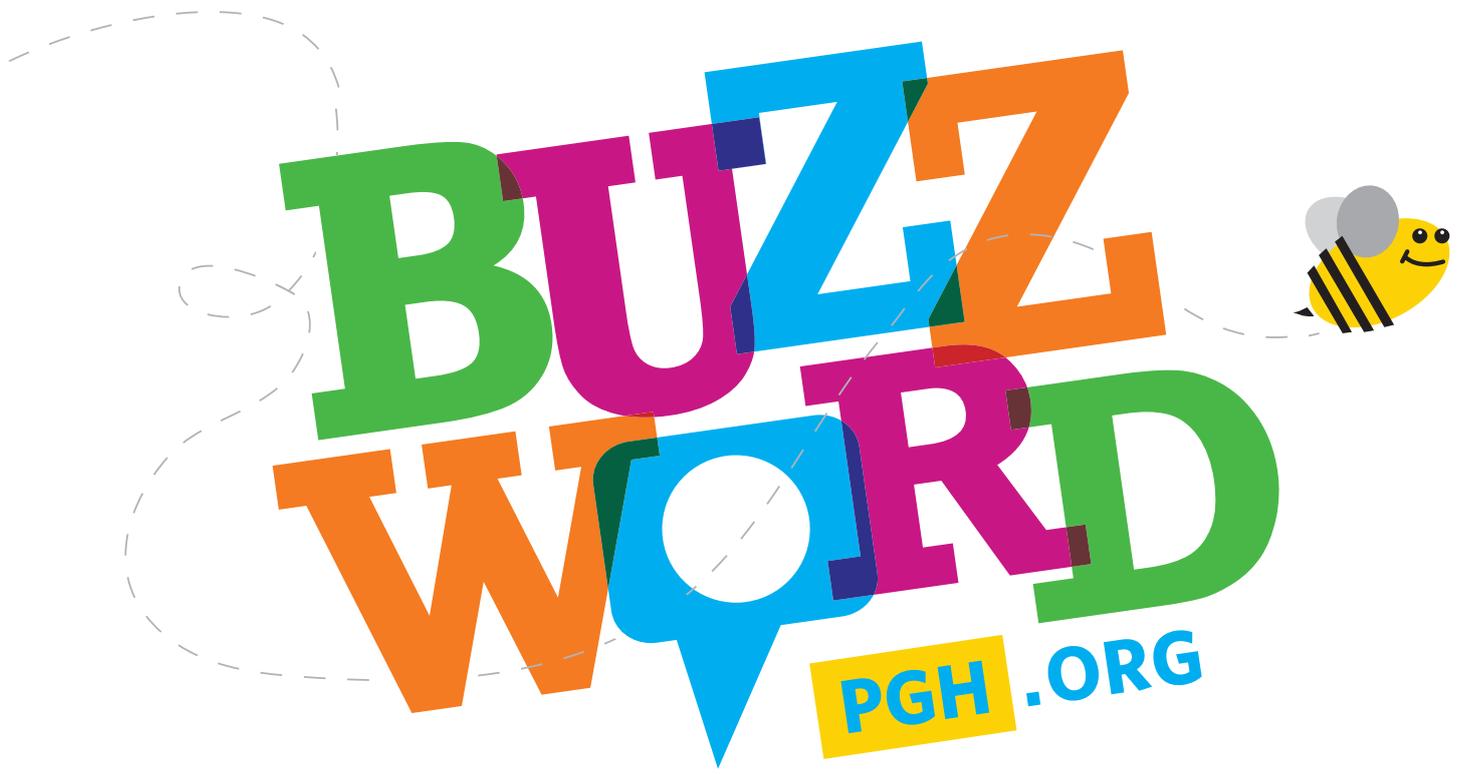
The Buzzword Pittsburgh collaborative consists of partner organizations with expertise in the arts and sciences and local family centers. These partners provide interactive learning opportunities that encourage imagination, investigation, creation, and reflection. Buzzword Pittsburgh is supported by PNC Grow Up Great®.

## Community Partners:



## Partner Organizations:





**Supported By:**

