

March is Irish American Heritage Month

Americans have celebrated Irish American Heritage Month in March, since 1995, to recognize the many contributions of those who came to America from Ireland and to learn more about Irish traditions and culture.



The shamrock is the symbol of Saint Patrick and Ireland and has three leaves, looking like clover. Saint Patrick is said to have used the shamrock to explain the idea of the Holy Trinity to the Irish people. Use this shamrock pattern in your Irish American Heritage celebrations.

Facts About Famous Irish Americans

- James Holland invented the world's first submarine.
- Nancy Corrigan was one of America's first women pilots and military instructors.
- John Dunlap printed the Declaration of Independence and is credited with many printing innovations.
- In 1924 Wyoming elected Nellie Taylor Ross governor. She was the first woman governor in America.
- John Hannon opened America's first chocolate shop in 1765.
- Walt Disney, co-founder of the Walt Disney Productions, created one of the world's most famous fictional characters, Mickey Mouse.

Let's Make Spring Showers!

Materials and Preparations:

- Assorted containers with holes (sieves, strainers, squirt bottles, squirt toys, spray bottles, etc.)
- Water



Learning Experiences:

- Fill the containers with water.
- Provide children with the filled containers to explore and experiment.
- Encourage the children to squirt and spray water and see how the shower feels. Is the shower a drizzle? a downpour? a mist?

Emerald Isle

Materials and Preparations

- Books about Irish heritage
- Recording of Irish music
- Musical instruments
- Clipboards
- Markers/crayons

Learning Experiences:

- Invite families or someone you know of Irish heritage to join your group of children to share their history and heritage.
- Encourage sharing of various activities unique to Irish celebrations, such as music, food, and any special attire.
- Help children wonder about and collect information regarding special Irish celebrations. Why is green the color of this occasion? What do they celebrate? Help them interview people and record the answers.
- Encourage children to plan a parade. Help them decide what music to play. What instruments do they need? Is there special dancing? Special attire?

Home Extension: Encourage families of Irish heritage to share their culture and heritage by sharing music, food, traditional attire, dance, and holding discussions with children.

Poison Prevention Week – March 15–21

Safety Tips

- Remember to store any medicines, cleaning supplies, or other safety hazards far out of reach of children.
- Do a safety check around the room. Make sure that plants in class are nontoxic, as many houseplants can be harmful.
- Talk with the children about taking medicines and vitamins from a trusted adult only. They should never take medicine on their own.
- To contact your local poison control center for emergency assistance, call 800-222-1222 and your call will be routed to the nearest center.

Books to Share:

- Watch Out! At Home by Claire Llewellyn
- Safety First! by Angela Royston
- Always Be Safe by Kathy Schulz