Spring

Weather Chart
Spring in Nebraska usually offers a variety of weather patterns. Use the weather chart in the packet to chart the weather over the next several weeks to see how it changes. Additional sheets are attached if your child really likes this activity.

Thermometer
Explain that we use a thermometer to measure the temperature of the air. If you have a thermometer outside, look at it several times a day to watch the temperature change. If you do not have an outside thermometer, use the weather app on your phone and make your paper thermometer in the packet look the same. (There is a video for making the thermometer.)

Puddle Jumping
Cut irregular shapes out of blue paper. If you don’t have blue paper, use sticky notes, scrap paper, whatever you have. Write letters or numbers on the shapes and lay them around the room. Call out a letter or number and have your child “splash” in the puddle with that letter or number.

Use the same puddles to make an obstacle course. Set up obstacles inside or outside (ie. footstools to climb over, chairs or tables to climb under, a wiggly chalk line to walk on, etc.). Write numbers on the puddles and place between obstacles for children to “jump in” the number of times written on the puddle.

Rain Pain
Help your child add drops of food coloring on a paper plate. Set outside on a rainy day and observe the running colors and designs.

Clouds
After listening to the video of It Looked Like Spilt Milk, lay down on a blanket with your child and look for pictures in the clouds. When you are done, use shaving cream to make your own cloud shapes on the table. (You can also have your child write letters and numbers in the shaving cream.)

Bird Watchers
You will need two toilet paper tubes or one paper towel roll (cut in half), tape, a hole punch, and string to make these "bird watcher" binoculars. Tape or staple together the tubes together. Punch 2 holes at the top and tie on a string that can easily fit on and off the head. Take a nature walk and see how many birds you see. Take pictures and see if you can identify online.
Tree Growth
Use your phone to record the changes of a tree over time. Take pictures every two-three days as a tree buds and the leaves start to grow. Bonus if the tree is the flowering type!

Plant Seeds
Plant seeds (I sent home grass seed) in a small container. Place in a sunny spot and water as needed. Take it a step further and measure the growth by sticking a ruler or paint stick in the dirt. Draw a line with a pencil to record new growth and mark the date. Repeat every two to three days.
OR
Divide seeds between two containers. Place one in a sunny window and the other in a shady spot. Water as needed. Compare the plants in the two containers. Which one came up the fastest? Which container had the most seeds sprout?

Nature Walk
Go on a nature walk with your child and look for signs of spring (ie. trees budding, spring flowers blooming, robins, etc.). Use your phone to record the items you found.

Give your child a piece of string or yarn. Challenge them to find objects that are "longer" than their string and "shorter" than their string.

Go on a color or shape hunt. Find something for each basic color or shape.

Plan a scavenger hunt. Make a list of items to look for before leaving. Examples:
Can you find a sign of spring?
Can you find something older/younger than you?
Can you find something rough/smooth/soft?
Can you find something living/dead?
Can you find something smaller than your fingernail?
Can you find something bigger than you?
Can you find something that smells good?

Feather in the Wind
Have your child drop the feather (in your packet) and watch it float to the ground. Gravity makes the feather fall to the ground. Next, encourage your child to toss the feather in the air and keep it afloat by blowing the feather.

Wind Sock
Make a windsock with the piece of paper, plastic sleeve, yarn, and the plastic streamers sent home in your packet. There is a video to go with this project.
The Wind Blew Games

Listen to the video of *The Wind Blew* and do the activity with the picture cards included in the packet.

Another game: Lay 5-6 cards on table or floor. Cover with a paper and pretend a gust of wind blows by (secretly remove one card). Have your child guess which card was removed. Add picture cards to increase difficulty.