

[introductory music]

Lisa: Hey, Cowy, what you doing?

Cowy: I'm working on a project for school that's about my favorite parts of spring but I can't think of any.

Elliot: Well, there's lots of things to love about spring, Cowy.

Cowy: Like what?

Lisa: Like the warm weather right now. The sun is shining and it's a beautiful day outside.

Cowy: I guess it being warmer is one thing that I love about spring but that's just one thing.

Elliot: Oh, how about new beginnings? Could that be one of your favorite parts of spring?

Cowy: New beginnings? I like the sound of that but what does it mean?

Narrator: Welcome to Stories for Kids by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. Spring is on its way in the Northern Hemisphere. That's why today we will be helping Cowy with her school project about spring and learning about new beginnings in the process.

Lisa: So, Elliot, what are new beginnings?

Elliot: Well, I'm not really sure. I just heard my teacher say that spring is a time for new beginnings.

Narrator: That's true. Spring can be a time for new beginnings, Elliot.

[Billy chirps]

Narrator: That's a great suggestion, Billy. Billy thinks we should go for a walk in the park to discover all the fun things about spring and maybe even find out what new beginnings are.

Everyone: Yay.

Cowy: It really is the perfect day for a walk in the park, Billy.

Elliot: Great idea.

Lisa: Oh, look, a squirrel.

Narrator: Good eye there, Lisa. It looks like that adult squirrel is stuffing her cheeks

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full of birdseed.

Lisa: She must be really hungry.

Narrator: My guess is they aren't just for her. Take a look at where she's headed.

Cow: She's riding up that lamppost super fast. Looks like she's about to jump over to that tree branch. Here she goes.

Everyone: Hooray, you made it, Miss Squirrel. Nice jump.

Cow: She just jumped inside a hole in the trunk. I wonder why.

Lisa: Oh, look. You can see tiny baby squirrels sticking their head out of the hole and squeaking for their mama.

Narrator: That's exactly right, Lisa. Squirrels are often born right around this time in early spring. Most squirrels like to build their dens in a tree and make a warm and cozy nest out of it, sort of like birds.

Elliot: That's so cool. How long do squirrels stay a little for?

Narrator: They're only little for a short while. Squirrels start to feed themselves when they are three or four months old.

Cow: How fun. I'm going to add baby squirrels being born to my list of favorite things about spring. Listen, baby squirrels.

[Billy chirps]

Narrator: What's up, Billy? Billy says he found another family of animals in the park.

Lisa: Where, Billy, where? I don't hear anything.

Narrator: Let's try to stay quiet, Lisa. We don't want to scare them away.

Lisa: That's right, sorry.

Cow: Look, there's a rabbit and a baby bunny. They are so cute. How come this baby is out and about with his daddy and not in the den like the squirrels?

Narrator: Baby rabbits, also called kits, grow up faster than baby squirrels do. Usually, rabbits are out of their home called a warren and feeding on greens with their mom or dad around one month after being born like this little fella right here.

[Billy chirps]

Narrator: That's right, Billy. Lots of birds also start to lay their eggs in late winter and early springtime, too. Baby birds can be heard chirping for food from their nests in

the spring.

Cowy: Wow. There are all kinds of baby animals in the park during springtime. Added all of this to my project.

Lisa: Huh, I didn't know so many animals were born all around the same time like this.

Narrator: Good observation, Lisa. Why do you think that is?

[ticking clock]

Lisa: Maybe because it's warmer?

Narrator: Sure, that's one reason. What else starts to happen when the temperature gets warmer?

Cowy: Lots of plants start to grow again, too.

Narrator: Exactly, Cowy. All the fresh grass and other leaves, also called vegetation, make for lots of food animals can use to feed their babies. So the warmer weather and the easy access to lots of food make springtime a natural time of birth.

Cowy: If spring is such a great time for everyone to be born, how come my birthday is in winter?

Narrator: Cowy, that's a good question. Some animals, including cows, can be born any time of the year.

Cowy: Really?

Narrator: Yes, especially since most cows live on farms, they have access to food and a warm barn to sleep in year-round so many cows can have babies whenever they want to.

Elliot: I wasn't born in the spring either, Cowy. Pandas like me are often born in the summer or fall. My birthday is in August.

Narrator: True. Different species of animals are born during different seasons all over the world. There's nothing wrong with being born in one season or another. You just may see a lot more baby animals out in the park during the spring than in other months.

Cowy: I think I understand now what new beginnings are. Can I try to explain?

Narrator: Sure, go for it, Cowy.

Cowy: So many new things are happening. Lots of baby animals are born. The weather's changing. The grass and plants are all starting to grow again too. New like
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fresh.

Lisa: I agree, Cowy. There's a lot of new things that happen in spring.

Narrator: Spring is a time of new beginnings for people as well.

Elliot: Really? How do you mean?

Narrator: That could mean the start of a new friendship or picking up a new hobby. You can take a page out of nature's book and decide to make a positive change in your life this spring too if you want to.

Lisa: Like wanting to go on more walks in the park?

Elliot: Or spending more time with your friends?

Narrator: Exactly. You don't need an excuse to try something new but sometimes seeing spring bring nature back to life can get people in the spirit for new beginnings.

Cowy: This is going to be the best project ever. I love spring.

Narrator: Lingokids listeners, today we learned about what spring brings. It's a time when warm weather and lots of fresh vegetation means new baby animals and birds may start to appear in your local park. Did you notice any new life in your neighborhood? Share with us if you did or tell us what you would add to your own favorite parts of the spring project. Grownups, you can share it with us via email at podcast at lingokids.com.

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