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PRESCHOOLERS USE ALL FIVE SENSES LEARNING ABOUT SPRING  
IN A SENSORY-RICH ENVIRONMENT AT MAIZE QUEST

New Park, PA – (April 2009) As the blossoms come out this spring, preschoolers explore a sensory-rich environment at the Maize Quest Fun Barn on Maple Lawn Farms. Using water misters, videos, sound effects, and special lighting, the Maize Quest Team takes students on a journey of discovery.

“The farm comes alive in springtime,” says Hugh McPherson, known as Farmer Hugh during the tours. “Preschoolers typically practice using their five senses in the standard curriculum. There’s no better place to use your senses than our fruit farm in spring!”

Maize Quest’s 5 Senses Tour starts in an introduction room with pictures and videos of the Signs of Spring students can “see”. The next room takes students “Underground” to see the signs of spring in the soil. Students learn the functions of soil, roots and earthworms before travelling back “above-ground” to the next room. A simulated thunderstorm, complete with misting rain, brings water to the plants. A simulated “sunrise” demonstrates plants’ need for sunlight’s energy.

The final room brings to volunteers to the buzzing pollinators necessary for the farm’s fruit production. In each room students hear, see, smell and feel the different elements connecting their five senses to springtime on the farm.

“Our Buzzby the Bee puppet brings a real laugh,” says Michelle Posey, Maize Quest Group Tour Director. “The students can even “See like Bees” by looking through our special Bug-Eye lens.”

After using their sense of taste sampling a sweet treat, students climb aboard the giant Blossom Wagon for a tour through orchards in full bloom. Maple Lawn Farms grows Cherries, Blueberries, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, and Apples allowing over a month of opportunities to see the orchards in bloom. Preschools are the focus of the spring educational programs at Maize Quest during blossom time.

“Kids learn best with hands-on activities,” says McPherson. “This tour is a great way they can practice using their senses, learn about pollination on a real fruit farm, and celebrate spring.”

Maize Quest’s 5 Senses Tour is available to Preschool through Grade 2 through June 6 with best Blossom viewing starting now. The pre-scheduled tours cost \$7.50 per child. Adults are free. Pictures, directions, and hours are at [www.MazeFunPark.com](http://www.MazeFunPark.com) or 1-866-WE-LOSE-U (935-6738).

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