

Holiday Fun/Easter/Little Bunny's Very First Easter. Print. Read the story. p.1.

### Little Bunny's Very First Easter

It is spring. Many animals have already laid their eggs or given birth to babies. Daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips are in bloom. The trees are beginning to leaf. It is a time of renewal.

Little bunny was curious about eggs. He didn't know much about them. It soon would be his very first Easter and he wanted to be sure that his basket was filled with Easter eggs. He decided to search for some.

The sun had just come up and the smell of spring was in the air. As he walked, he heard rustling in the grass. He hid behind a tree and watched. Mother snake was busy scooping out a small space under some warm moist soil. Then she deposited 12 eggs into it. When she was finished she covered the hole.

"Hi, mother snake," little bunny called. "Do you have an egg for my Easter Basket?" "No," mother snake replied. "My eggs are incubating in the warm sun. It will take several weeks until they are ready to hatch and they cannot be disturbed." Then, mother snake slithered away through the grass in search of a juicy earthworm.

Little bunny continued on toward the pond. He heard a scratching sound. "Scratch, scratch." "I wonder what that is," he whispered. He hid behind a rock and watched. Mother turtle was digging a hole in a mound of sand with her hind feet. Then she laid her eggs and covered them up with earth and leaves.

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"Hi, mother turtle," little bunny called. "Do you have an egg for my Easter basket?" "No," mother turtle replied. "My eggs are buried in a safe place and need time to hatch. They cannot be disturbed. Then, mother turtle scuttled away in search of beetles for her breakfast.

Little bunny continued on. He stopped to rest under a tall tree. He heard a lot of chattering from above. When he looked up, he saw mother robin and mother crow sitting on their nests talking back and forth to one another.

"Hi, mother robin and mother crow," he called. "Do you have any eggs for my Easter basket?" "No, little bunny," they replied. "We have to sit on our eggs to keep them safe and warm or they will not hatch into babies." And, mother robin and mother crow continued chattering back and forth.

Little bunny continued on. He heard a tapping sound. "Tap, tap, tap." "I wonder what that is," he whispered. He hid behind a bush and looked up. There was mother woodpecker searching for food. She had just laid 4 eggs in a hole in the tree.

"Hi, mother woodpecker," little bunny called. "Do you have an egg for my Easter basket?" "No," mother woodpecker replied. "This is an important time of the year. My eggs cannot be disturbed." And, mother woodpecker continued searching for insects and grubs beneath the tree bark.

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Little bunny continued on through the forest. "I can't find any eggs for my Easter basket," he sighed. "And, you can't have any of mine," murmured a small voice from nearby. There among the flowers was a hummingbird. She had just laid two of the tiniest eggs in a small nest high up in one of the pine trees. "If I let you have one of my eggs there would be one less hummingbird to carry on our family name," said the hummingbird. "Why don't you try the ostriches at the zoo. They might be able to help you." And, mother hummingbird continued sipping nectar from the flowers.

"Thank you," said little bunny and he continued on to the zoo. "Hi, ostriches," little bunny called. "Do you have an egg for my Easter basket?" "No," the ostriches replied. "We are protecting our eggs so they will hatch into ostrich babies. That's how we carry on our family name." "Why don't you ask mother crocodile? You can find her in a few cages down from here." And, the ostriches continued protecting their eggs.

"Thank you," said little bunny and he continued on. He hid under some ferns and watched. Mother crocodile was making a nest for her eggs in the mud under some decayed plants. "Hi, mother crocodile," little bunny called. "Do you have an egg for my Easter basket?" "No," snapped mother crocodile. "My eggs are buried in a safe place where they cannot be disturbed." And mother crocodile continued covering her eggs.

"Oh, dear, oh dear," little bunny cried as a tear rolled down his cheek. "What sort of very first Easter will it be without an Easter basket full

of eggs?" "Why don't you ask mother hen," called mother crocodile.  
"You can find her in the barnyard."

"Thank you," said little bunny and he continued on toward the barnyard. He hid behind some barrels. "Cluck, cluck, cluck," he heard. There was mother hen proudly counting her newly laid eggs. "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8." And the other hens were doing the same thing. But something else was going on. There were baskets all around. And the hens were filling them with their eggs.

"Hi, mother hen," called little bunny. "Do you have an egg for my Easter basket?" "Yes," mother hen replied. "You can take any of the eggs that are here." And she pointed to a basket filled with eggs.

Little bunny was surprised. "I don't understand," he said. "None of the other mothers I met would give me any of their eggs. Why are you giving yours away?"

Mother hen smiled and said, "We lay many eggs here. Our eggs are the most popular of all. Some of them are fertilized and some are not. We sort them into groups. The fertilized eggs will hatch into baby chicks. The others can be cooked, eaten, or decorated.

"I see," said little bunny as he filled up his Easter basket. "Thank you, mother hen." And, he hopped back home with his basket filled with eggs.

The next day it was Easter. Little bunny hard boiled his eggs and decorated them. It was the very best very first Easter. **END.**