

THE APPELBAUM

DAILY CURRICULUM

Age 2



April

Dear Subscriber,

Happy April. We wish you a month filled with fun and laughter with your 2 year olds.

We have great activities and themes. We also mentioned 2 other important days that occur in April, Earth Day and Passover.

There are a few things that you may want to ask parents to bring from home. Below is a sample letter you can use. Feel free to edit based on your needs.

Have a great month.

Appelbaum Training Institute



Dear Parents,

We have a great month planned for your children.

Our April Themes are:

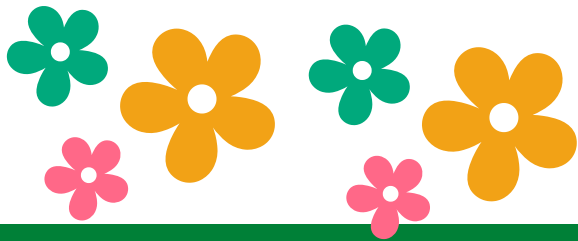
- My Five Senses
- Spring Time Fun
- We Can Get Along Together
- Butterflies(Includes Earth Day and Passover)
- Weather

Here are several things to have your child bring from home:




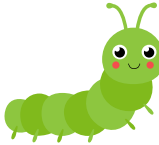
- Red or green fruit on April 2nd
- A picture of your child by April 5th

Thanks so much. Looking forward to a great month. Thank you for sharing your child with us.

Sincerely,



APRIL 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 My Five Senses	"Seeing" 	"Hearing" 	"Tasting" 	"Touching" 	"Smelling" 
Week 2 Springtime Fun	"Gardens" 	"Parts of a Plant" 	"Flowers" 	"Longer Days" 	"Birds" 
Week 3 We Can Get Along Together	"How We Are Alike" 	"How We Are Different" 	"Diversity Music" 	"Showing Appreciation" 	"Ways to Get Along Best" 
Week 4 Butterfly	"Earth Day and Life Cycle" 	"Passover and Eggs" 	"Caterpillar" 	"Chrysalis" 	"Butterfly" 
Week 5 Weather	"Sunshine" 	"Rain" 	"Icy Freeze" 	"Clouds" 	"Wind" 

Remember to plan ahead and use alternative activities for those with food sensitivities/food allergies as needed.

Note: For Math counting activities, you can use the recommended number or make adjustments and count less or count more. Adjust to the needs of your class.

Theme for the Week



My Five Senses

Activities for "Seeing"

Materials Needed: Sunglasses, tactile lowercase letter o, picture of Things that Begin with o (provided), colored construction paper, finger paints, clear plastic plates, paste, lots of Legos for math, paper towel tubes, small piece of paper, tape, basket



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Pass around a pair of sunglasses. Children share what they can see through the sunglasses. Then they take the sunglasses off. Children point to their eyes.

Explain to them that their eyes give them the gift of sight. They can see colors, friends, smiles, toys and more with their eyes. Chant: Here are my eyes. I can see surprise after surprise.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The letter "o"

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter o. Say, "This is 'o-o-o.'" Have children say, "o-o-o." Trace the letter as children say it. Talk about how it looks like a small circle. Then show them the picture of things that begin with o (provided), and have them repeat after you the names, stretching out the o-o-o sounds: octopus, ocean, orange, owl, and onions. Explain what each one is as you show them the pictures. Put it on a tray on the literacy shelf for children to look at and identify the pictures sounding out the letter o-o-o.



FUN ART

What Do You See?

Trace a clear plastic plate on different colors of construction paper to make colored paper circles. They finger paint a picture/design on the circle paper of their choice. Then paste a clear plastic plate on top of each child's drawing to create a window over their art work. They ask friends, "What colors do you see in the window?" Children reply, "I see the colors _____."



MATH

Sorting Colors I See

Have the children gathered around a table or a small rug on the floor. Have lots of differently colored Legos in a pile. Tell the children that they see with their eyes. Have them look at the Legos. Ask them what colors they see. Then have them sort them into piles according to colors and count how many there are.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing We Sweet Children Have a Face (tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") We sweet children have a face. E-I-E-I-O. On our face we have two eyes. E-I-E-I-O. We use them every day. They help us learn and play. With a look, look here, (Look through binoculars made in Art today.) And a look, look there. Here a look, there a look, Everywhere a look, look. On our face we have two eyes. E-I-E-I-O.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Come See With Me (Working Together and Taking Turns)

Cut paper towel tubes in half. Tape small piece of paper over half of the end of one of the tubes so vision is limited on that tube. Children take turns looking through the plain tube to see how well they can see. They say, "Yay, I could see everything." Then they take turns looking through the tube with paper that partially blocks their vision. They say, "I could not see everything." Afterwards, have them altogether chant, "We take turns with our friends."



"Teachers spy with little eyes children growing, learning and sharing."

Things that Begin with “o”



octopus



ocean



orange



owl



onions

Theme for the Week



My Five Senses

Activities for "Hearing"

Materials Needed: Plastic eggs, cotton balls, coins, construction paper, finger paint or crayons, foil, picture of an ear (provided), music and player



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Pass around a plastic egg with two coins inside. Ask the children if they hear a noise when they shake it. Then pass around a plastic egg with a cotton ball inside. Do they hear a noise when they shake it? Shake them both for the class, one at a time. Which one is louder? Which one is quieter? Explain that they used their ears for hearing the sounds. Children point to their ears and chant: We can hear with our ears.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Children sit in a circle and close their eyes while you make various noises. They guess what they heard and name it in a sentence. Example: You bounce a ball. They say, "I heard you bounce a ball." Other ideas: jingle car keys, tap on table, open a drawer, zip a coat, clean up toys, etc.



FUN ART

This is What I hear

Give each child a large sheet of manilla construction paper and finger paint. Play music and children listen to the music, and then color how it makes them feel using either finger paint, or crayons.



MATH

These are the Sounds We Make

Have the children count to 5. Stamp your feet 5 times while they listen and count. Then have them stamp their feet five times counting to 5. Clap your hands 10 times while they listen and count. Then have them clap their hands and count to 10. Do it again counting to higher numbers each time.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing We Sweet Children Have a Face (tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") We sweet children have a face. E-I-E-I-O. Beside our face we have two ears. E-I-E-I-O. We talk with friends and hear some songs. We can listen all day long. (Cup hands over ears.) With a listen here, (Shake shakers from Art today.) And a listen there; Everywhere a listen, listen. Beside our face we have two ears. E-I-E-I-O.



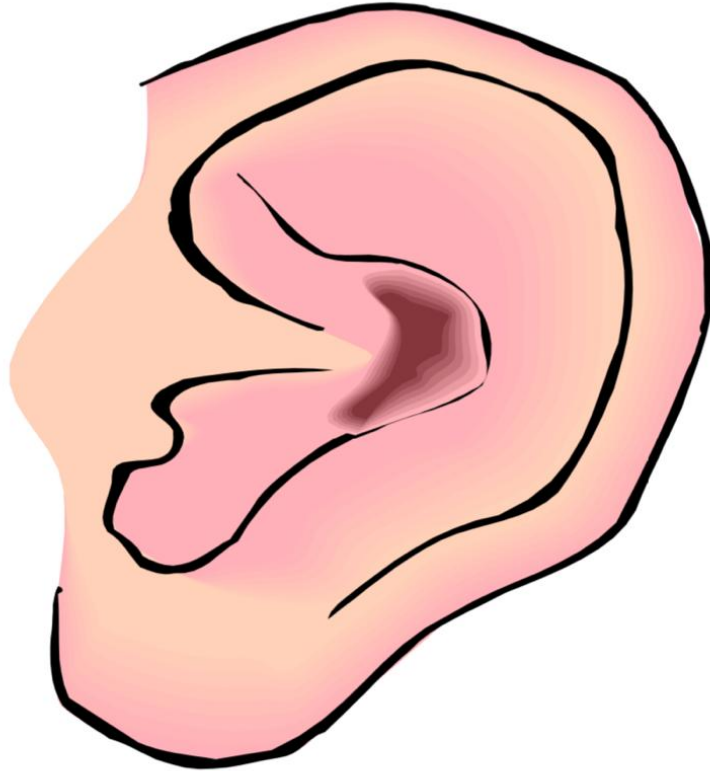
SOCIAL SKILLS

Talk to the Lovey Ear

Teach children how to share their feelings talking into a lovey ear. They can talk into a paper ear (provided) or a pretend ear as shown in the video link. Watch the video of Maryln Appelbaum doing this at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QckN2iuexbs>

"Do you hear what I hear? The laughter of children is music to the ears."

The Ear



EAR FOR SOCIAL SKILLS

Theme for the Week



My Five Senses

Activities for "Tasting"

Materials Needed: Pictures of "Which tastes better?" (provided), (Optional: You can have real lemon, real onion, and real cookies for them to taste, Each child brings a red or green fruit to share, large white paper plates, vanilla pudding prepared ahead, napkins, (food coloring to add to pudding is optional), raisins, Goldfish, Cheerios, and small cups for Social Skills



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Ask the children to tell you their favorite food. Tell them they like it better because it tastes better. Show them the picture of the lemon, onion, and Oreos, and ask them which tastes better. (Optional, you can have a real lemon, onion, and Oreos for children to smell and or taste). Ask them, "Which tastes better?" Explain that they taste the food they eat with their tongues. Children point to their tongues. They chant, "We can taste with our tongues."



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Tasting Red and Green

Ahead of time, write the words, "I like..." and "I don't like..." on chart paper. Have each child bring a red or green fruit to class such as strawberries, red and green grapes, red and green apples, watermelon, kiwi, etc. Wash them all and slice them into small bite size pieces. Children wash their hands and prepare to taste each one. They take turns pointing to the words on the chart and talk about an item. Examples: "I like the red strawberry." "I do not like the green grape." (Caution: Always double check for food allergies before serving food.)



FUN ART

Painting with Pudding

Note: Have the children thoroughly wash their hands first. Ahead of time, make vanilla pudding. (You can add a few drops of food coloring if you want). Give each child a large plain paper plate. Put in the center of the paper plate pudding. Have the children paint any design they want, fingerprinting on their plates. (Note: Be cautious of food allergies.)



MATH

Let's Count

Children sing and hold up their fingers: Here is one finger, and now there are two. I can pick up a cracker for you. This is three fingers and now there are four. Would you like one cracker more? Now look at my whole hand it has five. Let's do a dancing jive. Here come six, seven and eight. What is the favorite snack you ate? Now, look at nine and then comes ten. We can count all over again!



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing We Sweet Children Have a Face (tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") We sweet children have a face. E-I-E-I-O. On our face we have a mouth. E-I-E-I-O. In our mouths we have tongues. So we can taste and say, "Yu, yum." Tasting with our tongues. Sour. Eeek! Salty. Mmmm! Sweet. Yum! With a yum, yum here, and a yum, yum there. Everywhere a yum, yum. In our mouths we have tongues. E-I-E-I-O.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Tasting Party (Taking Turns and Encouraging Others)

Ahead of time, place several foods such as raisins, Goldfish, Cheerios, in different small cups. Give each child a napkin. Have them close their eyes, and you put one of the foods on their paper plate. Tell them to keep their eyes closed and taste it, and guess what it is. Do it again with another food and keep doing it until all the different types of food are eaten. They chant, "Yum, yum, yum, many foods on our tongues." (Caution: Always double check for food allergies before serving food.)

"The sweetness of a child's smile is contagious."

Which tastes better?



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Theme for the Week



My Five Senses

Activities for "Touching"

Materials Needed: Tactile lowercase letter "o," construction paper, crayons, non-menthol (non-toxic) shaving cream, peppermint extract, variety of soft and hard items for math



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Walk to each child and say, "Touch my hand." They use a finger to touch your hand. Explain to the children that they use their fingers to touch. Have them notice that their entire bodies are covered with skin. Explain that their whole body has the sense of touch. Anything that touches your skin can be felt. Chant: We use our hands and feet to touch and feel.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Learning More about the sound "o"

Show the children the lowercase tactile letter "o." Trace it and have the children say the sound as you trace it. Have the children make a pretend letter o in the air, saying the sound as they do it. Tell them it's like making a small circle. Then give them each a piece of white construction paper, and a crayon, and have them "make" the letter o over and over again on the paper, saying the sound each time.



FUN ART

Fun Sensory Imaginative Play

Squirt non-menthol, non-toxic shaving cream on a table. Add a few drops of food coloring and a few drops of peppermint extract. Children enjoy the tactile/visual/smelling "paint" as they watch the shaving cream change color and smell the peppermint.



MATH

Soft and Hard Sort

Place a variety of items like cotton balls, stuffed animals, toy cars, books, etc. on the floor. Children sort them into soft and hard piles. How many are in each pile? Which has more? Less? Practice counting to 33 with the class.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing We Sweet Children Have Hands (tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") We sweet children have two hands. E-I-E-I-O.

On our hands we have fingers. E-I-E-I-O. With our fingers we can touch.

Is it hot or cold or nothing such? With a touch, touch here, And a touch, touch there.

Here a touch, there a touch, Everywhere a touch, touch.

On our hands we have fingers. E-I-E-I-O.

SOCIAL SKILLS

The Gentle Touch

Explain the importance of touching people gently so not to hurt them. Say,

"Gentle means to be soft and careful." Walk by each child and gently stroke their hands with your finger.

Say, "This is a gentle touch." Children take turns

gently touching the person sitting beside them. Chant: We can touch gently with our hands.



"Teachers truly touch the future."

Theme for the Week



My Five Senses

Activities for "Smelling"

Materials Needed: Lemon slices, sugar, powdered gelatin, Q-tips, construction paper, vanilla, peppermint extract, cinnamon, cotton balls, lowercase tactile "o," Picture called, "Does it smell, "o-o-good," (provided)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Pass around a lemon slice and have children smell it. Ask if it smells sweet or sour. Then pass around sugar. Does it smell sour or sweet? Explain to the children that their noses are used for smelling things all around them. They point to their noses and chant: Here is my nose. It can smell sweet and sour too.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

"o, o, Good"

Show them the lowercase tactile "o." Tell them that it sometimes is pronounced, o (like in the word OH). Ask them if they have ever smelled food that smelled so good that they wanted to eat it. Show them the pictures of different foods (provided). Point to each one and ask if it smells good. If it does, they say, "It smells "o-o-good."



FUN ART

Sweet Smelling Textured Art

Mix powdered gelatin with water. Children use Q-tips as paint brushes and paint with the gelatin. Let it dry. Smell it. Feel it.



MATH

Pairs of Senses

Children take turns walking around and counting how many eyes each friend has and then counting ears on each child. Next, they count how many hands. Talk about how the senses of sight, hearing and touch come in twos with two eyes, two ears and two hands. Lastly, count how many noses are in the room.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing We Sweet Children Have a Face (tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm") We sweet children have a face. E-I-E-I-O. On our face we have a nose. E-I-E-I-O. We smell with it all the time.

When we sniff we can smell. Stinky or sweet we can tell. With a sniff, sniff here, And a sniff, sniff there. Here a sniff, there a sniff, Everywhere a sniff, sniff. On our face we have a nose. E-I-E-I-O.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Which is Your Favorite Sweet Smell? (Taking Turns and Sharing Favorites) Children take turns smelling the following scents on individual cotton balls: vanilla, peppermint extract, and cinnamon. All children smell vanilla and raise their hands if they like the smell. Repeat with each scent. They take turns sharing which one was their favorite scent. Chant: Sniff. Sniff. Sniff. We smell sweet with our sweet friends.



"Explore the world through the senses of children."

Does it smell “o-o-good?”



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Theme for the Week



Springtime Fun

Activities for "Gardens"

Materials Needed: Lowercase tactile letters, o, m, p, c, t, h, and "Reading "o" words with pictures book" (provided) Fresh or artificial flowers and vegetables, soil, clear cup, seeds to plant a flower or vegetable, Large grocery sack or brown paper for painting, paintbrushes, brown and green non-toxic tempera paint. Vase for live flowers, pictures of Gardens (provided); (Be sensitive of allergies.)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Have each child bring fresh or artificial flowers or vegetables. Discuss how these are grown in gardens. (Save in vase with water for use tomorrow if real.) Gardens need soil, water (rain or garden hose or watering can), seeds, air, sun and space to grow. Talk about how gardeners and farmers plant the seeds in the ground. Demonstrate how to plant a seed using the clear cup, dirt, and seeds. Water and watch for growth.' Pictures of Flower and Vegetable Gardens included. Use as needed.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

"We can read our "o" book with pictures.

Prepare ahead by taking the picture of Reading Our o Words (provided), laminating it, and cutting each word apart. Staple them together to form a little book. Start by showing the children the tactile lowercase o, m, p, c, t, h. Sound out the letters with the children. Then tell them they are going to get to read their first book today. Show them each word, and have them read the words sounding them out as they see the pictures. When the children are done, put the little book on a tray or in a basket on the literacy shelf so they can practice some more reading their book.



FUN ART

Garden Veggie Seed Planting

Using a paintbrush and dark brown non-toxic paint, children paint three straight lines on the brown paper bag or brown paper representing 3 rows of soil. When it is dry, they dip their pinky into tempera into brown or the green non-toxic tempera paint and stamp "seeds" on the paper.



MATH

Garden Sort and Count

Children sort and count flowers and/or vegetables with the teacher. Then let them sort flowers/veggies with a partner.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

It's Time to Garden (to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It) Children form a large circle and sing: It's time to garden and you know it, water the seeds. (Children do motion like watering from watering can.) It's time to garden and you know it, water the seeds. It's time to garden and you know it, and the plants will surely show it, it's time to garden and you know it, water the seeds. It's time to garden, watch them grow! (Children jump up high with hands pointing in air to show growth.) It's time to garden. watch them grow! It's time to garden and you know it, and the plants will surely show it, it's time to garden and you know it, Watch them grow!

SOCIAL SKILLS

Rotating Flower Share

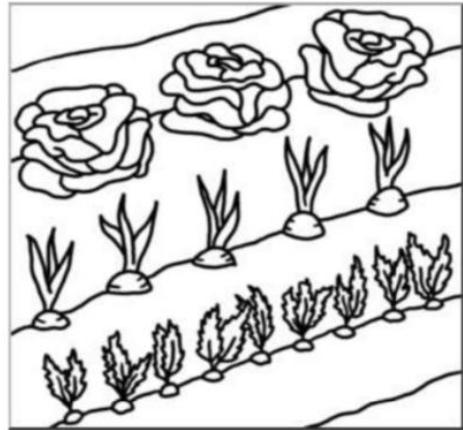
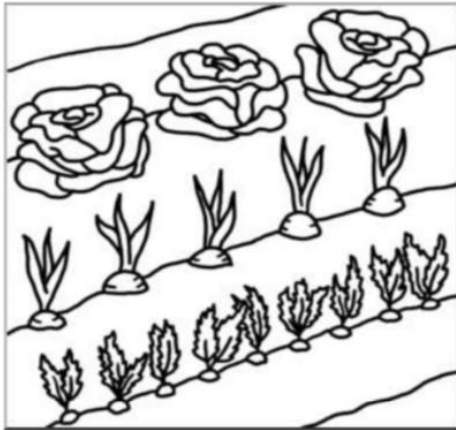
Children sit in two rows facing each

other. (Teacher participates if someone is without a partner.) Only one child has a flower.

They take turns sharing the flower with the child sitting across from them. Next, rotate. One row moves down one spot so they are now in front of the next classmate. They take turns holding the flower and sharing it with the other classmate. (Each time, the child on the end of the moving row, gets up and goes to the other end of that row.) Repeat until there are no new partners. Variation: Sit in a circle and share with the classmate sitting next to them. Say, "I want to share with you."



Vegetable
Garden



Flower
Garden



Watering
Can



Pictures of Flower Gardens



Vegetable Garden Pictures



Reading “o” words with pictures for 2 year olds

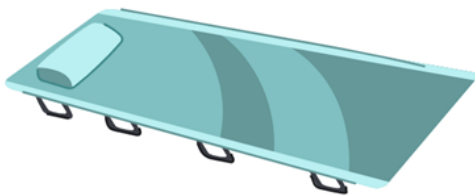
mop



top



cot



pot



hot



Theme for the Week



Springtime Fun

Activities for "Parts of a Plant"

Materials Needed: Pictures of a flower (provided), poster board, brown yarn, drinking straw, real leaves, crayons, craft sticks, green paper, plain paper, paste, pompoms, buttons, vertical lined paper for Math (provided)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children a picture of a flower (provided). Point to the stem, leaves and flower and name the parts. Tell the children that what they do not see is what grows under the ground in the dirt. There are roots in the ground. They wiggle their fingers to be pretend roots. Chant: Roots grow in the ground and up comes a stem with leaves and a flower.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Plant on the Poster-Teacher Demonstration

Hang a poster for all the children to see. Paste several pieces of brown yarn on the bottom. Say, "These are roots." Then paste a straw vertically from the roots. Say, "This is a stem." Paste real leaves from outside on the sides of the straw. Say, "These are leaves." Lastly, draw a flower design on top. Say, "This is a flower. These are parts of a plant." Then point to the roots and ask children what it is. Write "roots" beside the yarn. Repeat with leaves, stem and flower to label all four parts of the poster plant.



FUN ART

Stick Stemmed Flower

Children paint craft sticks green to be stems. They tape brown yarn to the bottom of the craft sticks to be roots. They paste green paper to the middle of the craft sticks to be leaves. Lastly, they paint a small circle (or any shape) to be a flower. They paste pom poms, buttons, etc. on the flower. Then paste the flower design to the top of a craft stick.



MATH

Size of Stems

Pre-cut green straws or stems in different lengths. Children sort them from shortest to tallest. They paste them onto paper in order. Use lined paper (provided) as a guide.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing The Parts of a Plant (tune of "The Wheels on a Bus")

The roots of a plant grow in the ground, in the ground, in the ground. The roots of a plant grow in the ground, all through the ground. The stem of a plant grows from the roots, from the roots, from the roots. The stem of a plant grows from the roots, all from the ground. The leaves of a plant grow from the stem, from the stem, from the stem. The leaves of a plant grow from the stem, all with water. Flowers from a plant grow so pretty, so pretty, so pretty. Flowers from a plant grow so pretty, in the garden.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Parts of Me (Appreciating Each Other)

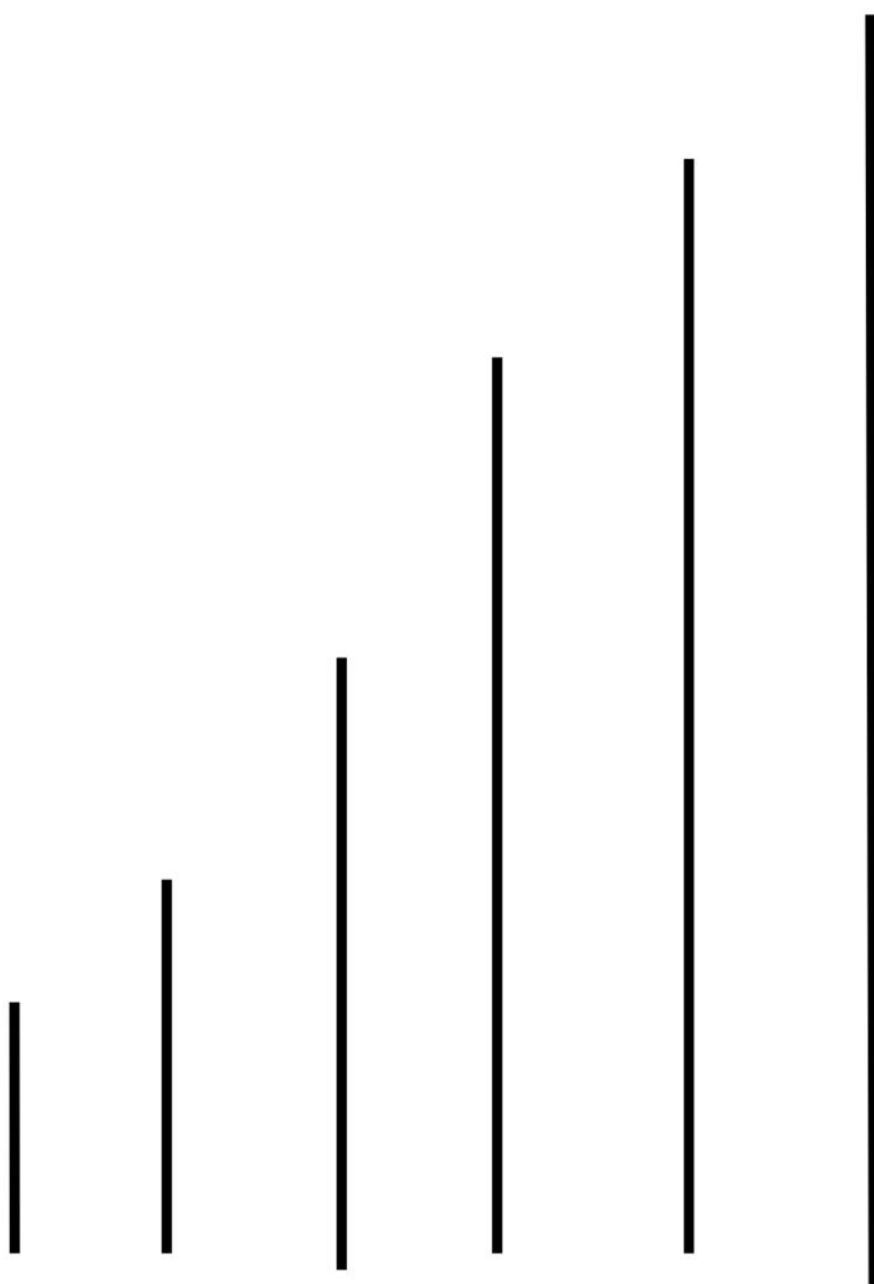
Explain to the children that just like plants have different parts to grow pretty flowers, they too have different parts that make them grow pretty too. Have them point to their smiles and say, "My smile is a sweet part of me." They put their hands over their hearts and say, "My heart is a kind part of me." They give high fives and hugs and say, "My hands help me hug and give a high five." Chant: Smiles, hearts and hands. Parts of us that make us grand!



"The parts of a happy child (smile, cheerful heart and confidence) are grown in child care."



FLOWER FOR CIRCLE ACTIVITY



LINES FOR MATH ACTIVITY

Theme for the Week



Springtime Fun

Activities for "Flowers"

Materials Needed: Butcher paper, crayons, several pre-cut circles (Welcome Kit), out of colored paper for Circle Time and Literacy, paste, craft sticks, real leaves from outside, finger paints, white construction paper, permanent marker, 10 paper plates, bean bag, green pipe cleaners, green paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Sit and draw so children can see you. Start with drawing a few green vertical lines on butcher paper. Tell them you drew stems. Ask what grows off of the stem - leaves. Color green leaves onto the stems. Give each child a colored piece of circular paper. They take turns handing the paper to you to paste on top of the stems. They name the color of their flowers. Point to each part and have them chant: Stem, leaves and flower. We made a neat bundle of flowers.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Letter Flower Garden

In advance, pre-cut circles (Shape Kit) on different colors of construction paper. Children paste a green pipe cleaner onto construction paper to be a stem. They color leaves on the sides of the stem. Then they paste a pre-cut colored circle on top of the stem. Write the first letter of their names on the circle. It is now a letter flower! Hang all of the papers together to make a class letter garden. Point to each letter flower and have them name the letter.

FUN ART

Handy Flowers

Children paint craft sticks green to become stems. Once dry, they paste real leaves collected from outside onto the craft sticks. Next, they make a colored handprint onto white construction paper. Cut it out. Tape the colored handprint to the top of their green craft stick to become a flower. Paste all of the flowers together on butcher paper to create a class garden. Save for Social Skills today.

MATH

Numbered Flower Toss

In advance, number 10 paper plates from 1 - 10 with a permanent marker. Then have the children color each plate a solid color and staple a piece of green paper to the plate to become a stem. Scatter the plates on the floor. Children toss a beanbag onto a plate.

They say the number and move that number of times. (Movements can be jumps, claps, spins, etc.)

Note: Adjust the number, if needed, to meet the needs of your class.

MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant I'm a Little Flower Seed

I'm a little flower seed in the ground. (Touch the floor.) With sunshine and rain I might grow round. (Point to the sun. Rain fingers down.) Just wait a while to watch me grow. (Stand on tip toes with hands high in the air.) I'll have many colors and shapes, don't you know? (Children make a shape with their hands like a circle.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Flower Garden Walk (Working and Being Together)

Place the large flower garden from Art outside. Children hold hands with a partner and walk together around the flower garden. After walking they say to each other, "Walking in the garden is fun with you! We are a wonderful class family."

"Teachers water the life of children to help them bloom into beautiful flowers."

Theme for the Week



Springtime Fun

Activities for "Longer Days"

Materials Needed: Yellow and white circle papers (Welcome Kit), Tactile lowercase letter g, Things that begin with g (provided), paper plates, yellow and orange finger paints, paste, photo sample for Art (provided), 10 pre-cut white triangles for each child for Math. Colored ribbon



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children a yellow circle paper and a white circle paper. Tell them it is a pretend sun and moon. Which one is in the sky during the day time? Which one at night time? Tell them that in spring time the sun stays in the sky longer to make longer days. Chant: Sun, sun in the sky. We get to play longer outside, oh my!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The Letter "g"

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter g. Say, "This is "g-g-g." Have children say, "g-g-g." Trace the letter as children say it. Talk about how it looks. Then show them the picture of things that begin with o (provided), and have them repeat after you the names, stretching out the g-g-g sounds: grapes, goldfish, giraffe, gift, giggles, glasses. Explain what each one is as you show them the pictures. Put it on a tray on the literacy shelf for children to look at and identify the pictures sounding out the letter g-g-g.



FUN ART

Let Your Sun Shine

Pre-cut the center circle out of paper plates. Children paint the rim of the plate yellow and/or orange to become a sun. Next, they use their colored triangles from Math today to paste around the rim of their paper plates. See photo sample (provided) as a guide. Save for Music today.



MATH

Pattern Sun Power

Pre-cut several triangles out of white construction paper. (Make them big enough to be pasted onto the rim of paper plates in Art today.) Give each child 10 triangles. They finger paint five triangles orange and five yellow. Have them count each group of five and then all ten together. Show them five and five makes ten. Then they place them in a pattern yellow, orange, yellow, orange, etc. Save for Art today.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant Watch Me Shine

Children hold their sunshine plates from Art in front of their faces while chanting:

I'm a ray of sunshine. Watch me shine. See this sun of mine. I'm gonna shine, shine, shine.
I can smile, a smile so fine. Smiling in the sunshine is so fine.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Playing Outside (Taking Turns and Enjoying Outside Together)

Children take turns running to a partner with a colored ribbon. When they reach their partner they say, "Did you see my ribbon flying in the sunshine? Now it is your turn." Then they crawl, jump, take giant steps, take baby steps, to their friend. Chant: Longer days makes for more fun!

"Take time to do something special for you during these longer days of sunshine."



PHOTO SAMPLE FOR ART

Things that Begin with “g”



grapes



goldfish



giraffe



gift



giggle



glasses

Theme for the Week



Springtime Fun

Activities for "Birds"

Materials Needed: Picture of a bird (provided), paper birds for Art (provided), brown lunch sacks, brown non-toxic paint, green tissue paper, paste, 12 x 18 construction paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Flap your arms like a bird. Say, "I am pretending my arms are wings. What animal am I?" A bird. Show them a picture of a bird (provided). Ask children where they can find birds flying. In the sky. Explain that they do not see many birds in the winter time because they fly away to warmer places. Now that it is spring time there will be birds flying back to enjoy the longer days. Children flap their arms like a bird and chant: Birdies, birdies in the air. Look up high and see them there.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Following Directions

Explain that birds must be good at directions because they fly all over the world. Remind children that it is important for them to listen and follow directions, too. Children follow directions spoken slowly by the teacher. Say: Sit criss-cross applesauce on the floor. Put your hands on your knees. Give yourself a pretzel hug. Place one hand on your head and the other hand on your foot. Place both hands in your lap. Smile. Give a friend a hug. Sit criss-cross applesauce. Touch your nose. Hold hands with the person beside you. Chant: We follow directions. We are good listeners!



FUN ART

Birds in the Tree

Give each child a piece of torn paper from a lunch sack. They crumble it and paint it brown. Once dry, they paste it vertically onto 12X18 construction paper to be a tree trunk. Then they crumble green tissue paper and paste it atop the brown tree trunk to be leaves. Lastly, they choose a few paper birds (provided) and paste them in their trees.

MATH

Listen for the Number

Children have fun listening to fill in which number comes next. Count 1,2,3,4, and pause. When you pause, they say "5." Everyone claps their hands 5 times. Do it again pausing at different numbers.

MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing and Act Out I am a Little Bird

I am a little bird going hop, hop, hop. (Children crouch and hop.)

I see my friend and stop, stop, stop. (They hop to a partner and stop.)

We go to our nest way up high. (Partners point up high.)

Then together away we fly. (Partners stand and pretend to fly.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Chirping Body Parts (Working Together)

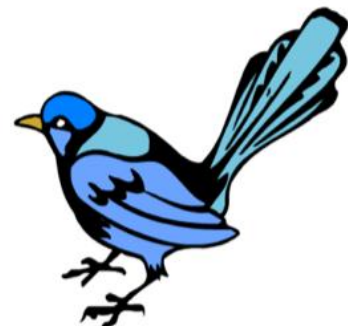
Say chipoviole The eaters to babir. hey sip heing an, They hands with another person. Then they continue pretend flying around the room. The teacher says, "Knees." They stop flying and softly tap their knees. Continue with more body parts.



"Tweet, tweet, tweet. Teachers are terrific and so very neat."



PICTURES FOR CIRCLE ACTIVITY



BIRDS FOR MATH ACTIVITY

Theme for the Week



We Can Get Along Together

Activities for "How We Are Alike"

Materials Needed: Chart paper, play dough, 12 shapes for Math (provided)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Have children point to their heads. Ask them what is growing on top of their heads. Hair. Explain that their heads are alike because they all have hair on top of their heads. Have them wiggle their fingers in the air. Count how many fingers. Does everyone have 10? That is another likeness they have. Tell children everyone is special. There are different things about each person to make them unique, but there are also many things they have alike. Chant: Let's celebrate how we are alike!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Partner Poem

Say slowly to the children:

I look at my friend and what do I see? I see two eyes looking at me.

Children stand in front of a friend and repeat the poem. Then they look at the color of each other's eyes. Are they alike or different? They hold hands and chant: We are alike with our two eyes.



FUN ART

Play Dough Sculptures

Children use one color of play dough to create a sculpture of their choice. Then they repeat to make a second sculpture just like it. They are alike by color, size and shape.



MATH

Big Alike and Little Alike

Give each child 10 pre-cut shapes (provided). Have them count each shape 1 - 10.

Sort the shapes into a big shapes group and a little shapes group. They are alike by size. Then they match shapes that are alike in shape. Now, add 2 more (a pair) and count together from 1-12.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing and Act out We're Alike and Friends Too

I wave hello, hello, hello to you. (Wave to a friend.)

We are alike and friends too. My hands can clap with you. (Give a high five to a friend.) We can color pictures too. So many things we like to do.

Having fun, me and you.



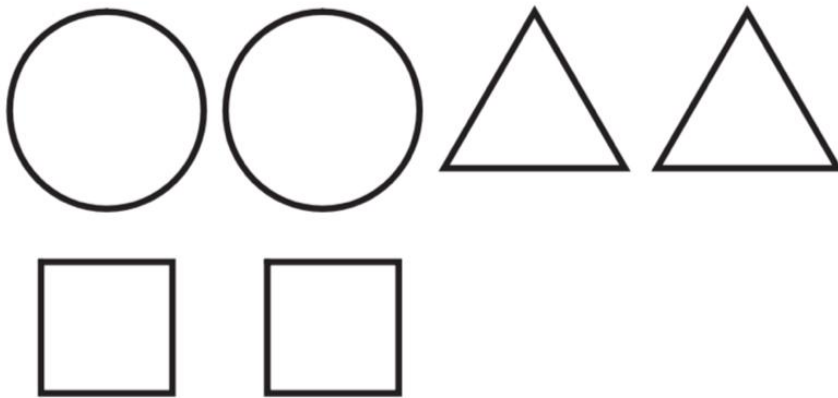
SOCIAL SKILLS

How are We Alike? (Learning About Each Other)

Children sit in a circle and take turns answering questions. If the answer is yes, they do thumbs up, and see who is like them. If the answer is no, they do a thumbs down and see who is like them.

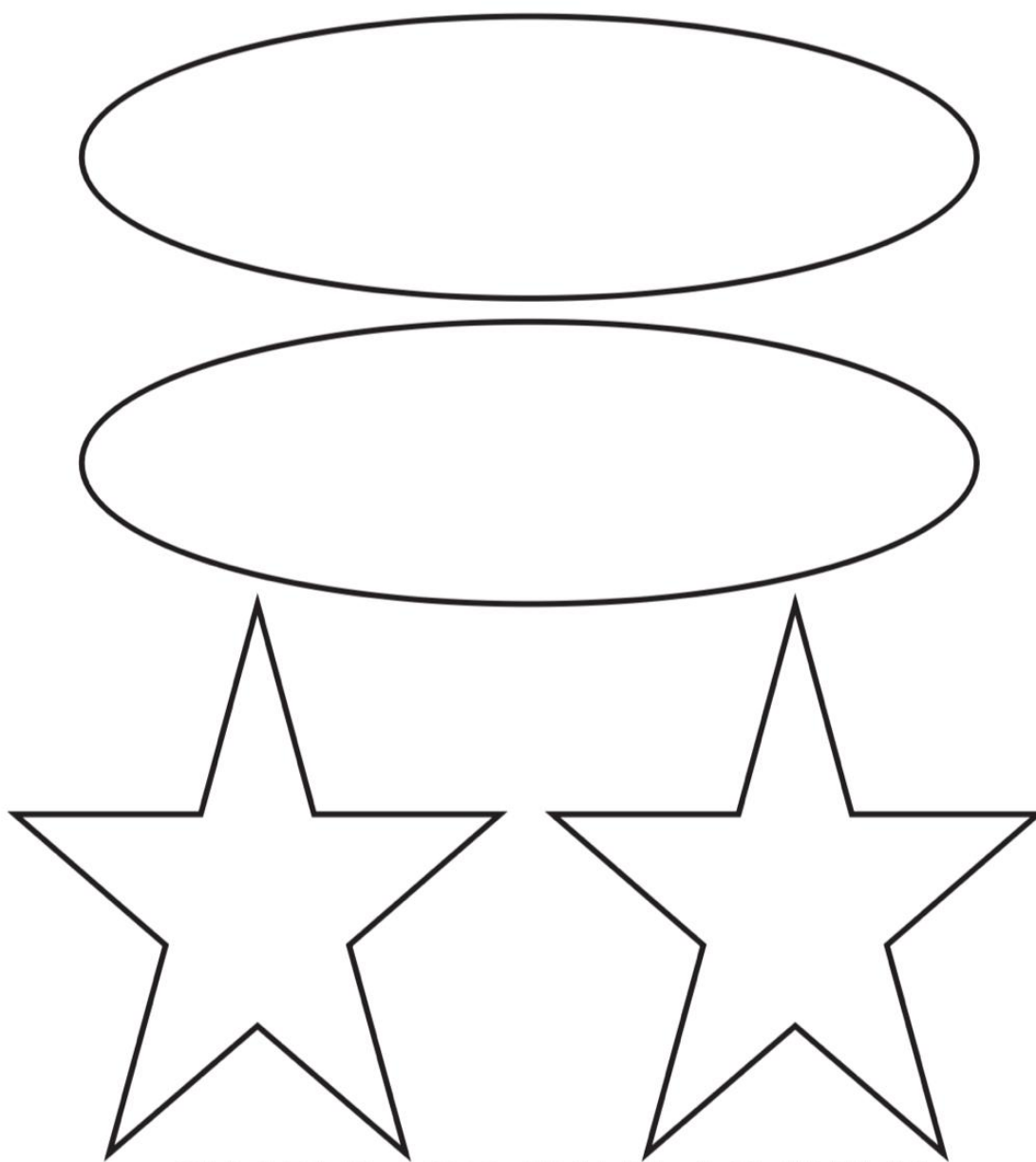
Sample questions: Do you feel happy when you are playing in the park, clapping, and laughing, playing hide and seek, sliding? Do you feel sad when those activities are over? Do you like the taste of ice cream, pizza, broccoli, apples, etc.? Do you like singing, building blocks, etc.?

"Children are alike in their need for love, fun, safety and routine."



SHAPES FOR MATH ACTIVITY

Use these shapes or substitute with others if desired.



SHAPES FOR MATH ACTIVITY

Use these shapes or substitute with others if desired.

Theme for the Week



We Can Get Along Together

Activities for "How We Are Different"

Materials Needed: Colored paper, stuffed animals, finger paint, construction paper, numbered paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Hold up two pieces of paper, each a different color. Tell them they are both a piece of paper. Ask them to name the colors. Say, "They are alike by being paper, but they are different in color." Hold up two stuffed animals. Ask them to name the animals. Say, "They are alike by being stuffed animals, but they are different types of animals." Have a boy and girl stand up. Say, "You are alike by being special children. You are different by one being a girl and one a boy." Say, "We are alike and we are different. It is great to have likenesses and differences." Chant: We are alike and different too. We are special me and you.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Poem of Difference

Say: You have two eyes and hair. You each have different colors - let's share. Then they take turns singing to the class: My eyes are the color _____ and my hair is the color _____." After each child's turn everyone waves their hands in the air and says, "We are different and so special too!"



FUN ART

My First Letter

Children finger paint the first letter of their name onto construction paper. Once it is dry, each child shares their name and painted letter with the class. They all hold their painted letters in the air and look for a letter alike and different from their own letters.

MATH

(Use a pattern of numbers 1-5, 1-10, or 1-12, etc.)

Slow and Fast Counting

Hang numbers 1-12 (or numbers of your choosing) up in the room. Children **sit so they can see all of the numbers.** Walk by each number very slowly and point to each number as they count aloud very slowly. Say, "Now you will count at a different speed that is a little faster." Repeat at medium speed. Say, "Now you will count at a different speed that is a little faster." Repeat at fast speed. Then count one through six slowly and seven through twelve fast, etc.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Who are You? (tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

All children sing and each child shares his/her name after each verse. Who, who, who are you? You're a friend of mine! Oh, what is your name? I want to tell you mine. Share name.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Dancing Different Fun

Tell children that they are very special and being different is okay. Explain that a fun way to be different is with dance moves. Make up a tune and sing as each child takes a turn dancing in the circle: There's someone special dancing different right now. Oh, there's someone special dancing different right now. It's, Jane Doe, Jane Doe, Jane Doe. It's Jane Doe dancing different right now! (Substitute children's names for Jane Doe.)



"Teachers can help children appreciate and honor differences."

Theme for the Week



We Can Get Along Together

Activities for "Diversity Music"

Materials Needed: Chart paper, different types of paper like construction paper, tissue paper, news, gift wrap, etc., white construction paper, paste, cotton balls, plastic spoons, small bowls for Math; dance music & music player



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Say, "We are going to learn about an important word today called diversity." Children repeat, "Diversity!" Say, "Diversity means different. Different is important. You are each different and unique and we will celebrate that today with music." Have children point to their hair colors that are all different. Tell them to shake their shoes that are all different. Children chant: Let's show each other respect for being different. Different means we are diverse! That means we are all special. Yay!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Hello in Many Languages

Write this poem on chart paper and sing it to the children: So many friends to meet. Different ways to say hello is neat. Aloha, shalom and hello. Hola, bonjour and jambo. Have they heard hello said in a different way? They all wave and say, "We can say hello in any language with a kind wave and smile."



FUN ART

Mosaic Masterpiece

Children tear a variety of different types of paper such as: tissue paper, construction paper, gift wrap, newspaper, etc. Then they paste several pieces onto white construction paper. They can overlap pieces for an added texture effect. Tell them that when the different papers came together, they made beautiful art. They are all different and diverse and together, they are a beautiful class.

MATH

Counting cotton balls

Children use plastic spoons to pick up cotton balls. They count as they pick up the cotton balls and place them in a big bowl. Then have them do it again singing the numbers, 1, 2, 3, etc., as they count the balls and put them in the bowl.

MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Hug to the Music

Children stand on a line all facing the same way. Turn on music and have them dance away from the line. Stop the music. They turn to a friend and give a hug. They say, "You are special." Play the music again and they dance back to the line. Stop the music. They turn to a different friend and give a hug. They say, "You are special too." Repeat several times.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Diversity Train

Children line up with their arms on the shoulders of the friend in front of them to make a class train. They walk around the room chanting, "Choo choo, we are special and diverse. We celebrate how we are alike and different." After a few minutes, children switch positions and play again.

"Different or alike - love others with all your might."

Theme for the Week



We Can Get Along Together

Activities for "Showing Appreciation"

Materials Needed: Plain paper, crayons, foil, fingerpaints, paste, colored construction paper, 12 pieces of plain paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Give an appreciation statement to each child. (Examples: I appreciate your smile. I appreciate your fun laugh. I appreciate your hugs.) Explain to the children that appreciate is another way to say "Thank you." They take turns saying, "I appreciate (something or someone at child care)." Hold hands and chant: We are thankful. We appreciate our friends!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Word of the Day: thank you

Children draw a picture of something they are thankful for on plain paper. On the bottom of the page write: Thank you for _____. Fill in the blank with the name of their drawing. Staple all of the pages together. Send home the class book to a different family each night to read with their child.



FUN ART

Shiny Hands of Appreciation

Tell children that they can show appreciation with their hands by clapping, giving a high five, giving a hug or a pat on the back. Trace and cut out each child's handprint on foil. They finger paint them. Paste their pair of shiny hands onto colored construction paper. Hang all of their hands on the wall. It is the Wall of Appreciation.



MATH

Sequence With Friends and Give Thanks

Number 10 papers from 1 - 10. Scatter them on the floor and have children work together to put them in order. Children take turns jumping to each paper while singing: Jump, jump, jump the numbers. Jumping all day long. Merrily, merrily, merrily, make life an appreciation song. They freeze and say something they appreciate at child care!



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing and Act Out Thank Your Friends (tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Thank, thank, thank your friends. (Walk around and high five friends.) For the good they do. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, you are neat. Thank you! (Point to a friend.) Thank you! (Give hugs.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

"I Like..." (Teaching Children to Say Words of Appreciation)

Children sit in a circle. One child sits in the middle. Children share nice things they like about the child in the middle. Do this each day with different children in the middle. At the end of each sharing time, have children chant: "We are all special. We are alike and we are different, and together, we are a special wonderful class." Remind children afterwards to continue to say things they like about each other as they play.



"Appreciation for teachers has a residual effect because what you give keeps giving in years to come."

Theme for the Week



We Can Get Along Together

Activities for "Ways to Get Along Best"

Materials Needed: Chart Paper, painted pasta, white construction paper pasta, balls, blocks



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Have them turn to a friend sitting beside them and say, "Good morning friend. I am happy to see you." Explain that it is important to get along well with friends. Remind them that one way to get along well is to use their hands for kind acts. Children sing: Hands are for clapping, hugging, and high five-ing. Hands are for waving in a song. Let's keep our hands to ourselves and we can all get along.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Act Out a Getting Along Story

Write this poem on chart paper. Point to each word and have the children act it out after reading it to the group a couple of times first. Two kind friends walking hand in hand, (Two children hold hands walking.) They are showing appreciation all over the land. (Spread arms wide open.) A hug for Zach and a high five for Sue. (Give hug and high five to a friend.) It is fun to show I like you. (Point to person receiving hug or high five.)



FUN ART

Pasta Friends

In advance, children paint pasta so it can dry. Use different types of pasta so there are different sizes and shapes. They use a variety of painted pasta to create a picture on white construction paper. Paste the pasta in place. Talk about how each pasta piece is a different shape and color, but when you put them all together they can make a neat design. Explain that it is the same when everyone in our class gets along appreciating each other. We are a beautiful classroom filled with sweet friends.



MATH

Rolling and Stacking Together

Children sit with a partner. They roll a ball back and forth to each other 10 times. Have them count aloud. Next, each partner gets 10 blocks. They build a tower 10 blocks blocks high. Now, practice counting & clapping together.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Friends Can Get Along (tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

We as friends can get along, get along, get along.

We as friends can get along, with a big happy smile. We are friends holding hands, holding hands, holding hands. We are friends holding hands, smiling all the while.



SOCIAL SKILLS

"Please" and "Thank You"

Tell children that a great way to get along well with others is to say "please" when asking for something. For example, instead of saying, "Teacher, I want a drink," you say, "May I have a drink please?" Children take turns asking for something using please. (Ex: "May I play a game please? Will you get me a snack please?") When they receive what they asked for, teach them to say, "Thank you."

"Cooperation is a lifelong skill. Thank you for teaching this to our future."

Theme for the Week



Butterfly

Activities for "Earth Day and Life Cycle"

Materials Needed: Picture of earth (provided) How the Butterfly Grows pictures for Circle Time and Social Skills (provided), pictures of Life Cycle of People Aging for Literacy (provided), white construction paper, crayons or markers, finger paints, photo sample for Art (provided), several different leaves from outside, envelopes



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell the children that today is a very special day called Earth Day. It is a day we celebrate and think about how we can make where we live, the earth, safe and better, and help things grow. Here is something that grows. Show them the picture of butterfly eggs on a leaf (provided). Tell them that the eggs will grow into caterpillars. Show them a picture of a caterpillar (provided). Explain that a caterpillar becomes a chrysalis. Show a picture of a chrysalis (provided). Then tell them that the chrysalis will become a butterfly. Show a picture of a butterfly (provided). Chant: This is how butterflies grow on the earth. Save pictures for Social Skills Today.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Tell the children that we all live on the earth. Watch how we grow. Show children pictures of a baby, school age child, working man and grandmother (provided). Show one picture at a time and have them describe the photo with words. Do they know anyone who is like the photos? Tell them that they too started out as babies, and they too, will also grow up like the people in the photos. They stand and say, "I will keep growing up too."



FUN ART

Handprint Butterflies

Children press their hands into finger paint. Then they press both hands onto white construction paper with the sides of their palms touching so a butterfly impression is made. See photo sample (provided) as a guide. Once dry, they draw antennae and body with a crayon or marker.



MATH

Counting Leaves

Explain that caterpillars like to eat leaves and that keeps them healthy so later they can become butterflies. That's their life cycle like children were babies and will keep growing and changing. Children go for a walk and collect leaves. They come inside and spread out their leaves. They sort them by size. Are there holes in any of the leaves? How many holes in each leaf? How many leaves in each group?



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Life Cycle Song

Along flies a butterfly to lay an egg. (Flap arms like wings.)
Soon there is a caterpillar with lots of legs. (Point to legs.) What will the caterpillar do? (Shrug shoulders.) On many leaves he will chew and chew. (Make munching mouth moves.)
When he wraps up like a cocoon; (Hug self.) Then there's a butterfly very soon! (Clap.)

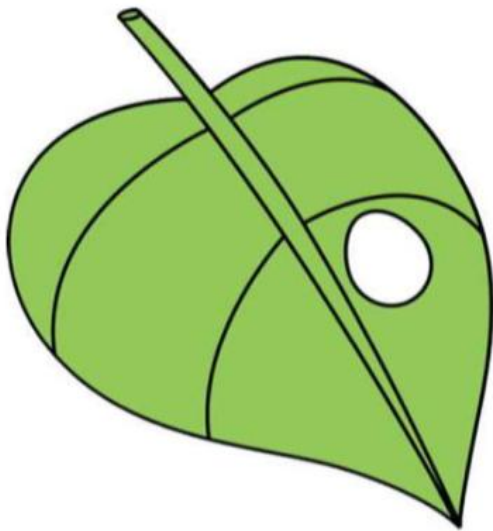


SOCIAL SKILLS

Pass the Envelope (Taking Turns, Working Together)

Play "pass the envelope." Have envelopes that you pass around the circle. Each envelope has a picture of eggs, caterpillar, chrysalis or butterfly. The child who opens the envelope says, "This is a butterfly." They name the picture in the envelope. Hold hands and chat: We are growing into wonderful and beautiful children just like the butterflies! If time allows, have children go on a litter hunt in the yard. Tell them we are helping the Earth by picking up litter."

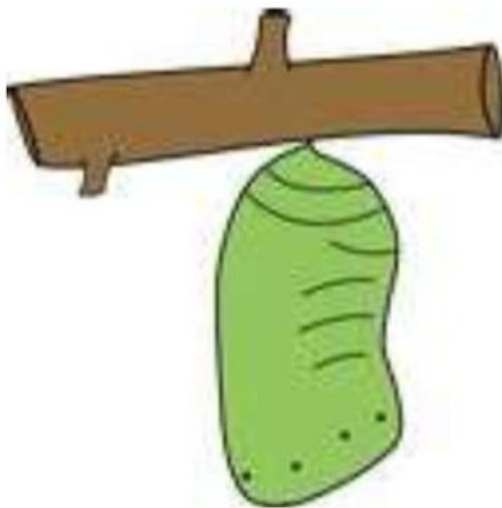
"Keep spreading kindness."



EGG ON A LEAF



CATERPILLAR



CHRYSALIS



BUTTERFLY

PICTURE FOR CIRCLE TIME AND SOCIAL SKILLS ACTIVITY



SAMPLE FOR ART



THE EARTH



Theme for the Week



Butterfly

Activities for "Passover and Eggs"

Materials Needed: Picture of matzah and egg (provided), Lowercase tactile "g," green tissue paper, white 9 x 12 construction paper, paste, scrap paper, black paint, paint brushes, colored tempera paints, plastic eggs, plastic spoons



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell the children that today is the first day of a special holiday called Passover. Tell them that many years ago, people called the Israelites were slaves and made to do hard work. They ran away from Egypt to escape and have freedom. They did, and now every year, they celebrate that freedom on the holiday of Passover. They eat special foods like matzah instead of bread, because they didn't have time to bake bread. One of the other foods they eat is a hardboiled egg. They eat it because it is a symbol of life. Show children pictures (provided).



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

"g-g-g is for g-g-great and g-g-grow"

Start by showing the children the tactile lowercase g. Everyone says g-g-g. Trace it slowly as they say the sound. Then show them the picture of the egg on the leaf from yesterday. Say, "This teeny tiny egg can g-g-grow." Ask them what else g-g-grows big. Ask questions like: Have you ever seen a little baby that g-g-grows bigger and bigger and bigger, a kitten that grows into a big cat, a little puppy that grows into a bigger dog?



FUN ART

Eggs on a Leaf

Children tear green tissue paper to look like a large leaf. They paste it onto white 9 x 12 construction paper. Then they make butterfly eggs by rolling up small balls of scrap paper and painting them black. They are "eggs." Paste the eggs onto the leaf. (Special note save this page along with the next pages to have a Butterfly book at the end of the week.)



MATH

Egg Symmetry

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Help them fold it in half. Open it. Have them count as they drop dabs of tempera paint on one side to be pretend eggs. (Do a different number for each child.) Fold the paper in half. Press. Open the paper. What is inside? Count all the "eggs" now. They doubled!



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Butterfly Eggs

Eggs, eggs, eggs. Little butterfly eggs. (Put fingers close together to show little.) They sit on leaves until a special day. (Sit very still.) Then out come caterpillars ready to play! (Open arms and smile big.) Eat, eat, eat. Caterpillars eat. (Pretend to eat.) Then they become a chrysalis and sleep! (Pretend to sleep.) Sleep, sleep, sleep. Soon a butterfly will peek! (Spread arms like wings.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Egg Race (Encouraging Others and Working Together)

Two or three children at a time line up with a plastic egg and a plastic spoon. They use the spoon to roll the egg across the floor to a finish line. Observing children cheer the children as they race their eggs. Once they all cross the finish line, they give high fives and say, "Good job! You are a fun friend!"



"Teachers plant seeds of goodness in children every day."

Matzah



Eggs



Theme for the Week



Butterfly

Activities for "Caterpillar"

Materials Needed: Picture of caterpillar (provided), chart paper, green paper, 9 x 12 construction paper, colored pompom balls, crayons, paste, Whiteboard, marker, picture of Which Would You Rather Eat, g-g-grapes or g-g-gummy bears (provided)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children a picture of a caterpillar (provided). Have them notice their antennae, legs and body parts. Explain that the egg hatched into a caterpillar, and it will have more changes coming up. Tell them the caterpillar crawls. Children lie on their tummies and pretend to be a caterpillar. Chant: First it was an egg and now it is a caterpillar.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

g-g-grapes or g-g-gummy bears?"

Explain that caterpillars need to eat a lot of healthy food because they will soon hibernate in a cocoon. Explain that hibernating is like sleeping for a long time so your body needs a lot of food. Children take turns naming two or three foods they would like it eat if they were getting ready to go into a chrysalis. Tell them they have been learning the letter sound g-g-g. Write a g-g-g on whiteboard so they see it. Let's pretend you could only pick one food to eat that begins with g-g-g. Would you rather eat g-g-grapes, or would you rather eat g-g-gummy bears? Children make a checkmark on chart (provided) for one of them. Save for Math.



FUN ART

Caterpillar in the Grass

Children paint green grass on the bottom of a white piece of 9X12 construction paper. They paste three colored pompoms together to be the body of a caterpillar. They use a black crayon to draw antennae and feet.



MATH

"Counting g-g-grapes and g-g-gummy bears"

Look at the picture of the g-g-grapes or g-g-gummy bears. Have children count aloud how many children chose grapes, and how many chose gummy bears. Then write on the whiteboard the number that chose grapes and the number that chose gummy bears. Ask them which one has more; which one has less? Then say, "Let's see how many we have altogether." Children count them all and write that number on the whiteboard. Chant together, "I like to count with you. Counting is fun to do."



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant Caterpillar, Caterpillar

Caterpillar, caterpillar eating leafy treats. (Pretend to eat.) You get bigger as you eat. (Put arms out to appear bigger.) You eat and eat to look like this. You've turned into a chrysalis!



SOCIAL SKILLS

What Changed? (Observing Friends)

Children take turns sitting in the center of the circle. Everyone says, "Hello, Name of Friend." The child briefly leaves and changes one thing about himself/herself with the teacher's help. (It may be taking off a shoe, turning shirt backwards, putting on a hat, rolling up a pant leg, holding an object, etc.) The child returns to the circle and the children guess what is different. Play until each child has a turn to be in the center of the circle. Tell them that a caterpillar will soon change too.

"Some children make progress inch by inch while others mile by mile.
That's okay. Be sure they have a happy reason to smile."



CATER PILLAR FOR CIRCLE ACTIVITY

Would you rather have?

g-g-grapes



g-g-gummy bears



Theme for the Week



Butterfly

Activities for "Chrysalis"

Materials Needed: Small objects like a toy car for Literacy, paper towels, playdough, white 9 x 12 construction paper, brown tissue paper, black paint, paint brushes, paste, real twigs, magnetic numbers, towel



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Have children hug their legs in and make their bodies into a ball shape, pretending to be a chrysalis. They wiggle slowly and pop out into criss cross applesauce position. Tell the children that caterpillars go to sleep and change from a caterpillar into a chrysalis. There they sleep a while. So, it is very important that they eat lots of healthy food beforehand. They eat plants. Chant: A caterpillar becomes a chrysalis.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Word of the Day: chrysalis, cocoon

Explain that a chrysalis is like a cocoon. A chrysalis is a way to protect the caterpillar.

Demonstrate a small object like a toy car on the floor. Then, wrap a paper towel around the toy car in a cocoon type appearance. Say, "The car is protected in its chrysalis like cocoon. Caterpillars are protected inside their chrysalis." Butterflies will hatch from a chrysalis.



FUN ART

Chrysalis Art Page for Book

Children paste a twig from outside onto a white piece of 9X12 construction paper.

They roll a small piece of brown tissue paper into the shape of a chrysalis. They paint black lines on the brown paper. Paste the chrysalis onto the paper so that it is hanging off the twig.



MATH

Chrysalis Numbers

Wrap magnetic numbers in paper towels. The paper towels are a pretend chrysalis around the numbers. Children take turns guessing the number in their chrysalis. Then they open their chrysalis to discover which number they are holding. (Help them guess their number by noting the numbers already uncovered.) Once all numbers are shown, they put the numbers in numerical order with teacher assistance as needed. (Special Note: Always be cautious when children are using small objects like magnetic numbers.)



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Finger Play Wiggle Caterpillar Wiggle wiggle caterpillar. (Wiggle pointer finger.)

To a limb you crept. (Wiggle finger into palm of opposite hand.) You spun around into a chrysalis. (Spin around pointer finger.) Then for days you slept. (Pretend to sleep.) Wiggle wiggle caterpillar. (Wiggle pointer finger.) You woke up and wondered, "Why?" (Shrug shoulders.) You could see two beautiful wings. You've changed into a butterfly! (Flutter arms like wings around the room.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

All Wrapped Up - Part One (Taking Turns and Working Together)

Children take turns wrapping up an item in a paper towel or playdough like a caterpillar turning into a chrysalis. Children chant: Caterpillar, caterpillar where are you?

One child says, "I am here in a cocoon. I am a chrysalis, and you will see me soon."

"Teach children a way to wrap themselves in a cocoon of safety and security."

"Teach children a way to wrap themselves in a cocoon of safety and security."

Theme for the Week



Butterfly

Activities for "Butterfly"

Materials Needed: Art papers, crayons, stapler, bowtie pasta, non-toxic paints, white 9 x 12 white construction paper, paste, sheet



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Pass around pictures of a butterfly (provided). Tell children that butterflies are flying insects. Show them the butterfly's antennae, wings and legs. Have children put their two pointer fingers on top of their heads like antennae and say, "Butterflies fly and they have antennae."



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Words of the Day: walk, fly

Tell children that they walk to move about and butterflies fly to move around.

Children stand in a line and take turns walking across a masking tape line on the floor. As they take steps they say, "I am walking with my two feet." Then have children flap their arms as they walk the line again and say, "Butterflies flap wings to fly."



FUN ART

Butterfly Snacks

Give each child a clothespin. They paint it and add eyes to the top part. Paste two small pieces of pipe cleaners to the clothespin so that they become antennae. Next, half fill a snack size plastic baggie with healthy snacks such as raisins, goldfish, etc. (You bring the snacks or have children bring snacks from home.) Cinch the center of the snack baggie and clip the clothespin into the center of the baggie. See photo sample (provided). (Note: Always make sure to be cautious with children and plastic.) Save for Math today.



MATH

Butterfly Snack Sort

Children wash their hands well. They open their "butterfly wings" snack baggie from Art today. They sort the snack by type: raisins, Goldfish, Cheerios, etc. Then they count how many pieces in each group. Eat and enjoy.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Caterpillar, Caterpillar

Children sit in a circle with a small blanket wrapped around each of them. Tell them to pretend they are in a cocoon. You say, "Caterpillars, caterpillars, where are you?" They open up their blankets, stand up and flap their arms around the room while chanting: I'm now a butterfly and can fly in the sky.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Walking Quietly

Children sit in a circle. Say, "All children wearing stripes stand up. Fold your arms in fronton. They the duiet white literal and her eve a nephear your instructions calling for children with brown hair, blue shirts, white socks, etc. Once in a quiet line children practice walking quietly.



"You help children grow into more beautiful beings."

Theme for the Week



Weather

Activities for "Sunshine"

Materials Needed: Cut out circles from yellow construction paper that each have a letter sound children have learned: m,s,t,p,r,a,b. Yellow butcher paper, poster board, yellow streamers, yellow paper pre-cut into circles picture of a sunflower (provided), yellow paper, brown paper, paste, sand, craft sticks, green paint



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Look out the window at the weather today. Is it sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, cold, or hot? Today you will learn about sunny weather. Put a large yellow circle cut out of butcher paper or poster board in the center of the circle. Give each child a long piece of yellow streamer and have them tape it to the sun as rays. Save for Math. Chant: The sun is yellow and bright. It shines during the day, but not at night.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Sun Stepping (Review 1 of Sounds)

Cut out circles on yellow construction paper, Write one letter on each of the yellow circles. Use the letters, m,s,t,p,r,a,b. Place them on the floor. Tell the children that they will walk the sun's path with you. Children follow you as you walk to each sun shape and name each sound saying it out loud together.



FUN ART

Sunflowers

Show children a picture of a sunflower (provided). Pre-cut several pieces of yellow paper to be flower petals. Pre-cut a brown circle for each child. Children paste the yellow petals around the brown paper circle. Paint paste over the brown circle. Children sprinkle sand onto the pasted area to give the textured effect of a real sunflower. Paint craft sticks green. Paste the sunflower onto the green craft stick that is now the stem. Save for Music today.



MATH

Fun in the Sun

Weather permitting, children go outside and run while counting to a #. If outside weather does not cooperate, children can jog in place while counting to a #. Add streamers to the sun from Circle Time so that there are ___ rays on the sun shape.

Choose a number for counting.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant Sunshine on My Face

Children hold their sunflowers from Art while singing:

Sun, sun, sun, shine on me. Sun, sun, sun, where can you be? (Hold sun puppet behind backs.) Here comes the sun shining on my face. It brings me to a happy place. (Place sun puppet in front of your face.) Sun shine up and sun shine down. I hope the sun will shine all around. (Move the sun puppet up in the air, down low and in a circular motion.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Sitting Quietly

Children sit in a circle. Choose a child to be "It." "It" puts a sun (yellow paper circle) in a child's hand while everyone has their eyes closed. Children open their eyes and guess who has the sun.

"Teachers are a ray of sunshine in the lives of children."

SUNFLOWER FOR ART



“A positive attitude is like the rays of sunlight – brightening up the day of others.”

Theme for the Week



Weather

Activities for "Rain"

Materials Needed: Cut out circles on grey construction paper that each have a letter sound children have learned: h, i, f, n, l, o, g. Strainer or plastic bottle with holes cut in the bottom, bowl of water, grey paper circles, paste, craft sticks, paints, construction paper, water droppers, cups, large bowls for water



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Look out the window at the weather today. Is it sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, cold, or hot? Say, "Today you will learn more about rainy weather." Use a strainer and a bowl of water to show children how they can "make rain." Press the strainer (or a plastic bottle with holes cut in it) into the water. Lift it out and "rain" will come through.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Walking in the Rain (Review 2 of Sounds)

Cut out circles on grey construction paper. Write one letter on each of the grey circles. Use the letters, h, i, f, n, l, o, g. Place them on the floor. Tell the children that they will walk in the rain with you. They pretend the grey circles are huge drops of rain. Children follow you as you walk to each rain shape and name each sound saying it out loud together.



FUN ART

Raindrop Art

Children paint any design onto construction paper. While the paint is still wet children empty a water dropper one drop at a time onto their painting. Talk about how the colors spread and look different now.



MATH

Empty and Full

Fill a cup full of water. Say, "The cup is full of water." Pour the water out into a large bowl. Say, "The cup is empty" Let children explore filling up and pouring out water with a small cup and a large bowl.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Act Out the Traditional Song The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The Itsy Bitsy Spider went up the water spout. (Walk fingers up in the air.)

Down came the rain, and washed the spider out. (Wiggle fingers down.)

Out came the sun, and dried up all the rain. (Make a circle shape with hands.) And the Itsy Bitsy Spider went up the spout again. (Walk fingers up in the air.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Rain Finger Dance Cooperation

Children create the sound of a rainstorm while sitting at a table.

Rain, rain comes falling from the sky. (Wiggle fingers down like rain.)

Drip, drip, drip, water went in my eyes. (Wipe water off of eyes.)

Rain, rain, rain makes a loud boom. (Make a loud clap.)

That was thunder we heard in the room. (Cup hand over ear.)

Rain, rain, rain keeps us inside.

We get to go out when everything has dried. (Point outside.)

Theme for the Week



Weather

Activities for "Icy Freeze"

Materials Needed: Ice cubes, crushed ice, cookie sheet, bowl of water to freeze, tactile lowercase "y," ice trays, Saran wrap, Kool Aid, craft sticks.



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Look out the window at the weather today. Tell them that you will talk about snowy and icy weather today. Pass around a cup of ice cubes. Children touch them and tell how they feel (wet, cold, slippery). Pass around a cup of crushed ice. How does it feel? Pour each onto a cookie sheet. Are the crushed pieces smaller or larger than the cubes? Tell them that ice is frozen water. Put a small bowl of water in the freezer and bring it out at the end of the day for the children to see. Chant: Put the water in the freezer. It will be ice even later.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The Sound of "y-y-y"

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter y. Say, "This is 'y-y-y.'" Have children make the sound. Have them say, "y-y-y," y-y-yarn, -y-y-yawn, y-y-yellow, and y-y-yes. Explain that the color yellow has the "y" sound too. They take turns naming a yellow object in the room. They say, "I see a yellow _____."



FUN ART

Ice Cube Paintbrushes

In advance, fill ice cube trays with different colors of Kool Aid or colored water (Ex: one ice tray with grape Kool Aid and one with orange Kool Aid). Cover the tray with Saran wrap and then poke a craft stick into each cube. (The Saran wrap holds the craft stick up straight while the water freezes. You may need to use a knife to cut a small opening for the craft stick to easily go through. Be cautious to take off the Saran wrap before returning the ice trays to the children.)



MATH

Choose your desired number.

Ice cube count

In advance, freeze 20 ice cubes. At math time, dump ___ ice cubes onto a cookie sheet. Children get to touch them as they count 1 - ___. Talk about all the water that will begin to form on the cookie tray as they melt during counting by each child. Tell them that snow and ice melts into water too.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Brrrr It's Cold

Brrrr, it's cold. I need a hand to hold. (Children hold hands.) Brrrr, it's a freeze. I need a hug please. (Hug a friend.) Brrrr, where is my coat? And a scarf for my throat! (Put on pretend or real coat and scarf.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Cold Weather Coughs

Tell children that people often cough and catch colds and coughs during cold weather. They can help stop others from catching their coughs by covering it up.

Show them how to cough or sneeze in a tissue or on their arms. Tell them that washing their hands a lot helps. Teach them the poem: When you cough and sneeze; Cover your mouth please.

Blow your nose with a tissue; And sickness won't be an issue.

"Teachers get to melt the hearts of children."

Theme for the Week



Weather

Activities for "Clouds"

Materials Needed: Pictures of clouds (provided), shaving cream, paste, blue construction paper, cotton balls



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Look out the window at the weather today. Is it sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, cold, or hot? Today we will learn more about cloudy weather.

Pass around a cotton ball. This is not a real cloud, but it looks like a cloud.

Show a picture of a cloud (provided). Have children share words to describe it (fluffy, white, big).



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Cloud Conversation

Go outside and lie on the ground with all the children. Have children talk about the clouds. What do they see? What colors do they see? Are there any shapes? Are they big or small? Do you see the sun underneath the clouds? Go inside and together make a list of words describing the clouds on large paper. Read the words back to them.



FUN ART

Torn Art

Give each child a piece of blue construction paper. Children tear white construction paper and/or cotton balls to paste onto the blue paper in the shape of clouds.



MATH

Eating Clouds

Give each child a piece of white bread. (Be sure to double check for allergies.) Tell children to bite off the crust. (They can tear it off too, if needed due to allergies.) Now only the white part of the bread remains.

Compare the bread "clouds." Do any look like something? Sort them into big clouds and small clouds.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Rain, Rain Go Away

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day.

My friend and I want to play.

The rain comes pouring from the clouds and the thunder is so loud.

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day.

My friend and I want to play.



SOCIAL SKILLS

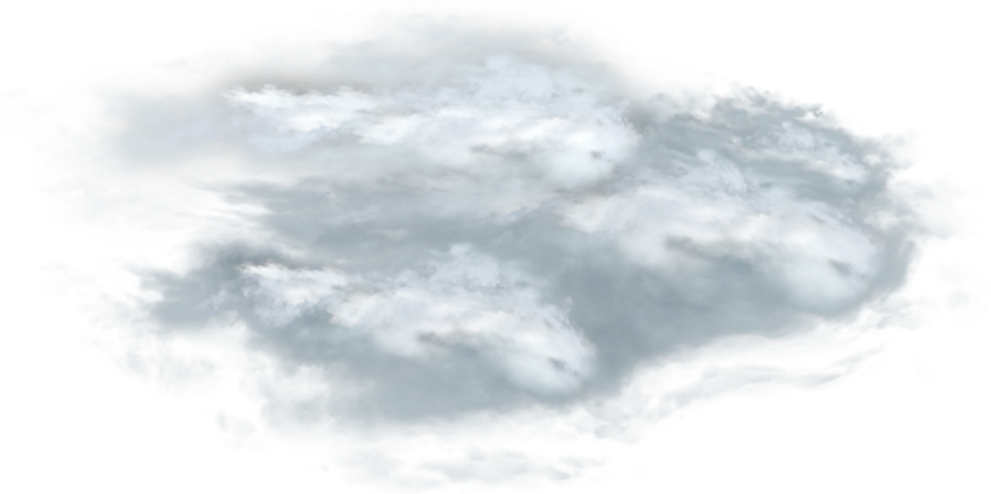
Cloud Tossing Teamwork

Children pair up and face each other. One child holds a piece of blue paper. The second child tosses a cloud (cotton ball) onto the sky (blue paper). The child holding the paper tries to catch the cloud on the paper. Play until each child gets to be the cloud and the sky a couple of times.

When finished, children say, "Thanks for playing with me," to each other.

"When clouds cover the smile of a child give them hope that all will clear up soon."

Clouds



Theme for the Week



Weather

Activities for "Wind"

Materials Needed: Bubbles, pinwheel, streamers, tape, piece of paper, construction paper, food coloring, straws, index cards numbered 1-20



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Look out the window at the weather today. Is it sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, cold, or hot? Today we will learn about windy weather. Blow bubbles. Have children notice that when you blow air from your mouth it is wind making the bubble. Blow on a pinwheel and streamers. Tell children the air from your mouth makes wind to make the pinwheel and streamers move. Sing to tune of Frere Jacques: I am wind, I am wind. Watch me blow, watch me blow. Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh. (Children blow out of their mouths as they say, "Whoosh.")



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Word of the day: air

Tell children that wind is moving air. We cannot see air, but we can see the effects. Look outside. Are the tree branches moving? If yes, that is wind.

Place a piece of paper on the floor. Children blow on the paper with their mouths. Does the paper move? Yes, because of air from our mouths. Repeat the bubble, pinwheel and streamers from circle time.

FUN ART

Air Art

Give each child a piece of construction paper with a couple of drops of colored water (colored with food coloring). Children take turns blowing through a straw to get the air to move the colored water on the paper. (It is important to take turns blowing through the straw so children can be closely monitored.)

MATH

Choose your desired number.

Scattered Numbers

Number index cards 1 - _____. (Make odd numbers one color and even numbers a different color.) Blow with a straw to scatter the numbers.

Children collect the numbers and put them in order while counting to ____.

Notice the repeating pattern as well.

MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing "Wind, Wind" (tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat) Wind, wind is moving air. It blows through trees everywhere.

Wind, wind, can you see it moving through my hair?

(Children gently move their heads back and forth like the wind was blowing their hair.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Catch My Bubble

Children take turns blowing a bubble to their friend to see if the friend can catch it. One child says, "Please blow a bubble so I can catch it." The child blows the bubble. The friend catches it, and says, "Thank you."

"Wind is invisible, but we see it move things. A child's spirit is invisible, but we can see it move, too. Teachers are powerful moving agents in the lives of children."