

THE APPELBAUM

DAILY CURRICULUM

Age 2



May

Dear Subscriber,

It's May!! We hope you have a wonderful month packed full of hugs and smiles and lots of feelings of appreciation for the important work you do. This is a month packed with activities. It has Teacher Appreciation Day and Teacher Appreciation Week, and we hope that you get to feel very appreciated. You make a difference every day, and we want you to know we appreciate you.

It also has Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. Many of you may be closed on Memorial Day, so we combined the themes on the Friday before Memorial Day with the regular theme, and also on Monday, too so the children won't miss out on anything.

Have a wonderful month.

PS. We welcome you join the over 100,000 early childhood providers who get our free daily messages of classroom management tips and inspiration, Monday thru Friday from Maryln via email. Go to <https://www.atiseminars.org/mfm>

PSS. Check out our online webinars for topics that interest you. Go to: www.atiseminars.org

Below is a sample letter you can use to ask parents to bring some items from home to assist you with activities. Feel free to edit it based on your needs.



Dear Parents,

We have a great month planned for your children. Our May themes are:

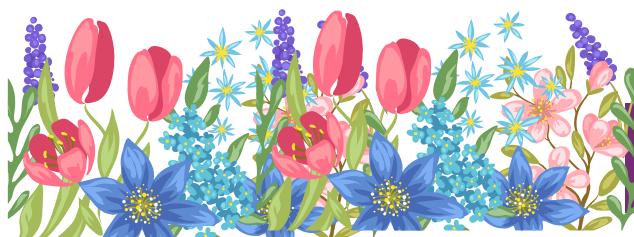
- Weather
- 1, 2, 3, Who Do I Appreciate (Includes Teacher Appreciation Day, Mother's Day/ Special Pals Day)
- Transportation
- Play Ball (Includes Memorial Day)
- Gifts of Spring with Memorial Day Monday

We are asking that your child please bring the following to class this month:
























- A gift box to decorate from home. Please send by May 3th.
- An old child-sized white t-shirt. Please send by May 16th
- An old baseball cap to decorate. Please send by May 21st
- An old solid-colored child-sized t-shirt. Please send by May 28.

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

Sincerely,



MAY 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 Weather			"Icy Freeze" 	"Clouds" 	"Wind" 
Week 2 1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate	"Hurray for Teachers" 	"Teachers are My Friends" 	"My Gifts for My Teacher" 	"My Special Pals" 	"Mother's Day is Special" 
Week 3 Transportation	"Cars" 	"Trucks" 	"Planes/Helicopters" 	"Trains" 	"Boats/Ships" 
Week 4 Play Ball	"Baseball" 	"Team Players" 	"Running Bases" 	"Cheering for Our Team" 	"Trying Hard" and Memorial Day 
Week 5 Gifts of Spring	"Memorial Day" 	"Green Grass" 	"Spring Art" 	"Picnic Time" 	"Spring Showtime" 

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

For any Math Counting activity, feel free to adjust the number up or down depending on the needs of your class.

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. Is it sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, cold, or hot? Today we will learn more about icy cold weather. Pass around a baggie half filled with water followed by a baggie with frozen water. (Be sure to pre-freeze a baggie filled half way with water.) Why is one hard and the other not? (It is frozen.) Put the water baggie in the freezer to check on throughout the day. Fill an ice tray with water and food coloring. Cover with plastic wrap. Poke a popsicle stick into each cube. Freeze and save for art time.



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 Painting

Children each get a frozen cube from the tray prepared during circle today.

Use it as a paintbrush to make a picture on construction paper. (Rinse the empty ice cube tray and save for math today.)



MATH

Exercise caution when using small objects.

Ice Cube Sort

Children count how many cubes are in an ice cube tray. Sort a variety of objects into the tray with them as a group activity. (Ex: buttons, beans, candies, etc.)



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing and Act Out Brrrr It's Cold

Brrrr, it's cold. I need a hand to hold.

Brrrr, it's a freeze. I need a hug squeeze.

Brrrr, where is my coat? And a scarf for my throat!



SOCIAL SKILLS

Ice Cubes Together

Two children sit with a tilted cookie sheet, and each child has an ice cube.

The teacher says, "Go," and they each drop their ice cubes to slide down the cookie sheet. They watch it move to the bottom to see if they can have their ice cubes slide at the same time together and land at the bottom together. They do it over and over until their cubes land at the same time or are melted. Afterwards, they say, "Yay! Thanks for playing with me."

"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

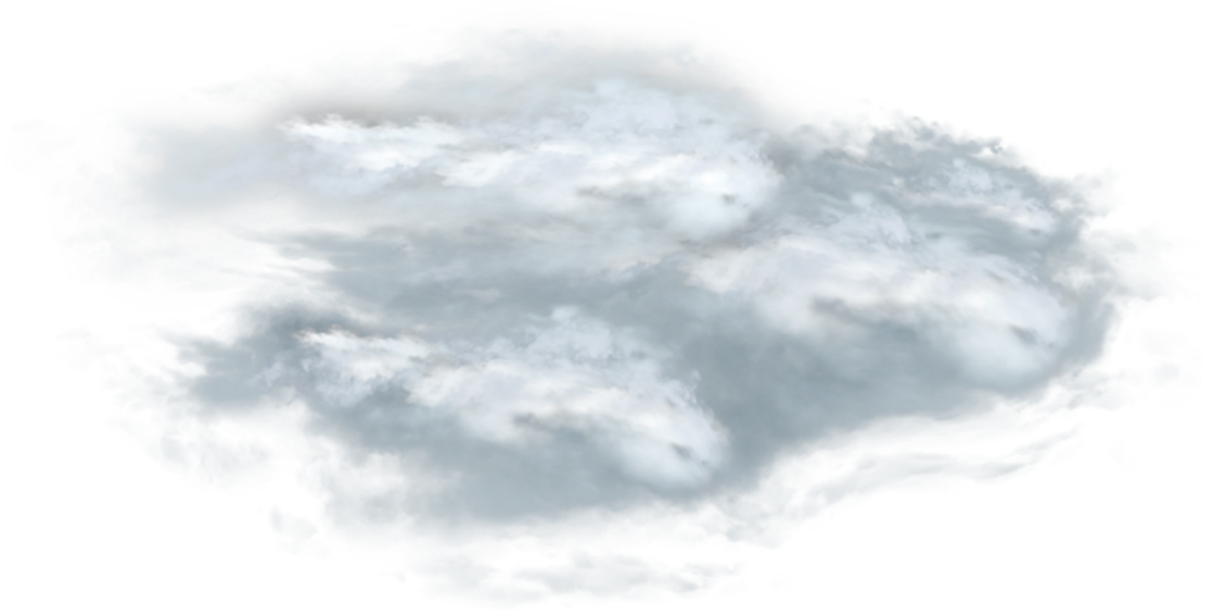
Cloud Tossing Teamwork

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



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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

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

Scattered Numbers

Number index cards 1-20. (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 20.

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."

Theme for the Week



"1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate"

Activities for "Hurray for Teachers"

Materials Needed: Magnetic letters, clear plastic cups, stickers, non-toxic paints, macaroni painted to put in a shaker in Art, duct tape, photo sample for Art (provided)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Say to the children, "I am your teacher and it is fun to teach you." Sing to them: Me, me, me. Do you see? I am your teacher, happy as can be. Children sing: Me, me, me. Also happy as can be. Happy for my teacher here with me. Hurray! Hurray! Hurray!

Children tell you their favorite thing to do with you at child care.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Hurray for the Letter

Give each child a magnetic letter. They take turns standing up with their letters and saying, "I have the letter _____."

My teacher taught me this letter _____. Hurray for my teacher and the letter _____."



FUN ART

Shake, Shake, Shaker Cups

Children decorate two clear plastic cups with stickers and/or handprints. Next, they fill one cup with painted macaroni. Place the second cup on top of the filled cup. Duct tape them together. See photo sample (provided) as a guide. Save for Music today. (Caution: Always observe closely while children use small objects.)



MATH

Jumping Hurray's

Hold hands with a child and say, "Please jump three times with me to the table." Count each jump as you hold hands and jump to the table with Child A. Say, "Hurray for you!" The Child says, "Hurray for my teacher!" Repeat with Child B. Jump a different number of times to a different location. All other children count with you and the jumping child. Repeat until all children have a turn to jump with you.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Hurray Teacher (tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Children shake their shakers from Art today while singing:

Hurray Teacher! Hurray Teacher! You're so great. You're so great.

Mornings are so fun here. Mornings are so fun here. At child care. At child care.

(Option: Repeat and substitute mornings are for: centers are, reading is, singing is, etc.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Let's Listen! (Practice Listening)

Make up a story about three animals such as a dog, cow and cat. Each time you say the name of an animal the children make the sound of the animal (like moo, woof and meow). Repeat with a new story with new animals. Say, "Hurray for you. Thank you for listening to the story and having fun with me?"

They say, "Hurray for you Teacher.

Thank you for telling us a story!"

"Hip hip hurray! Teachers create special child care days."



PHOTO SAMPLE FOR ART

Theme for the Week



"1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate"

Activities for "Teachers are My Friends"

Materials Needed: Play dough, white construction paper, finger paints



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell the children that they are sitting in a circle of friends. Say, "I am your friend too. Friends care and share and are nice. I like to share with you and I certainly care about you too." Children take turns introducing themselves: Hi, I am your friend _____."

The others reply, "Good morning friend! We are happy to see you today!" Hold hands and chant: Friends, friends, friends. We have many friends. Our teacher is a friend too!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Making Letters with My Friends

Children make ropes with play dough. They use them to make the shapes of letters. They take turns telling their friends the name of the letter they made.



FUN ART

Teacher Friend Fun Face

Children finger paint the teacher's face on white construction paper. Let them look at you close up to see the color of your eyes and hair. They share their teacher fun faces.



MATH

First and Last on the Teacher Train

Have three children stand in a line behind you. Explain that you are all on the teacher train. You are first in the train. Who is last? They name their friend who is standing last in the train. Repeat with a new group of children, being sure to have a new child as first and last. Play until all children have a turn to be in a train.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing My Teacher Helps Me (tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean") My teacher helps me learn so much. My teacher gives me a loving touch. My teacher helps me play nice too. Thank you Teacher for all you do! You help, you help. You help me grow and be so great. You help, you help. You are first rate!



SOCIAL SKILLS

Act Like My Teacher Friend (Listening and Observing)

Children sit in a circle with you as you say, "1, 2, 3, act like me." You clap on your knees and scratch your chin. The children copy you. Say the words again with a different action. After several copies, they all hold hands and chant: We are great listeners and watchers!

"Teachers help children learn the life skill of friendship."

Theme for the Week



"1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate"

Activities for "My Gifts for My Teacher"

Materials Needed: Each child brings a gift box from home, lowercase tactile v, whiteboard and marker, finger paints googly eyes, pre-cut paper hearts (Welcome Kit), paste, gift bags of different colors and/or designs, paper ears (provided), small pieces of paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Explain to the children that you like to receive a hug, high five or handshake from them. Say, "These are all like a gift to me. May I have a high five or handshake now?" Walk around the circle and children give you a handshake or high five. After receiving each one say, "Thank you for your sweet gift."



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The Letter "v"

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter "v." Say, "This is a "v-v-v." Have children make the sound, v-v-v. Talk about what it looks like. Write it on the whiteboard to show them how it has 2 lines. Have them get on the floor with a partner and make a "v-v-v."



FUN ART

Listening Box

Explain to the children that it is a very special gift to you when they listen with their eyes, ears and hearts. This means they look at you, hear you, and have interest in what you are saying. Children finger paint gift boxes. Tell them they are "Listening Boxes" because the children listen to you. The children decorate the boxes with googly eyes, painted or pictures of ears, along with painted or paper hearts.



MATH

Gift Bag Order

Give three children a gift bag. (Be sure they are all a different color or design.) They place them in a line on the floor. Children tell which bag is first, second and last in the line. Then have three new children place the bags in a new order.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

The Gift of a Cheer!

Children take turns saying something you do for them (Examples: Wiping their tears, smiling at them, laughing together, hugs, kisses, etc.) The child that is standing to talk, says, "Teacher, you are a gift for me. Here's my gift for you." Then the child does a dance or a jig or a cheer or any other movement as a gift for you, and the whole class cheers for you and the child.

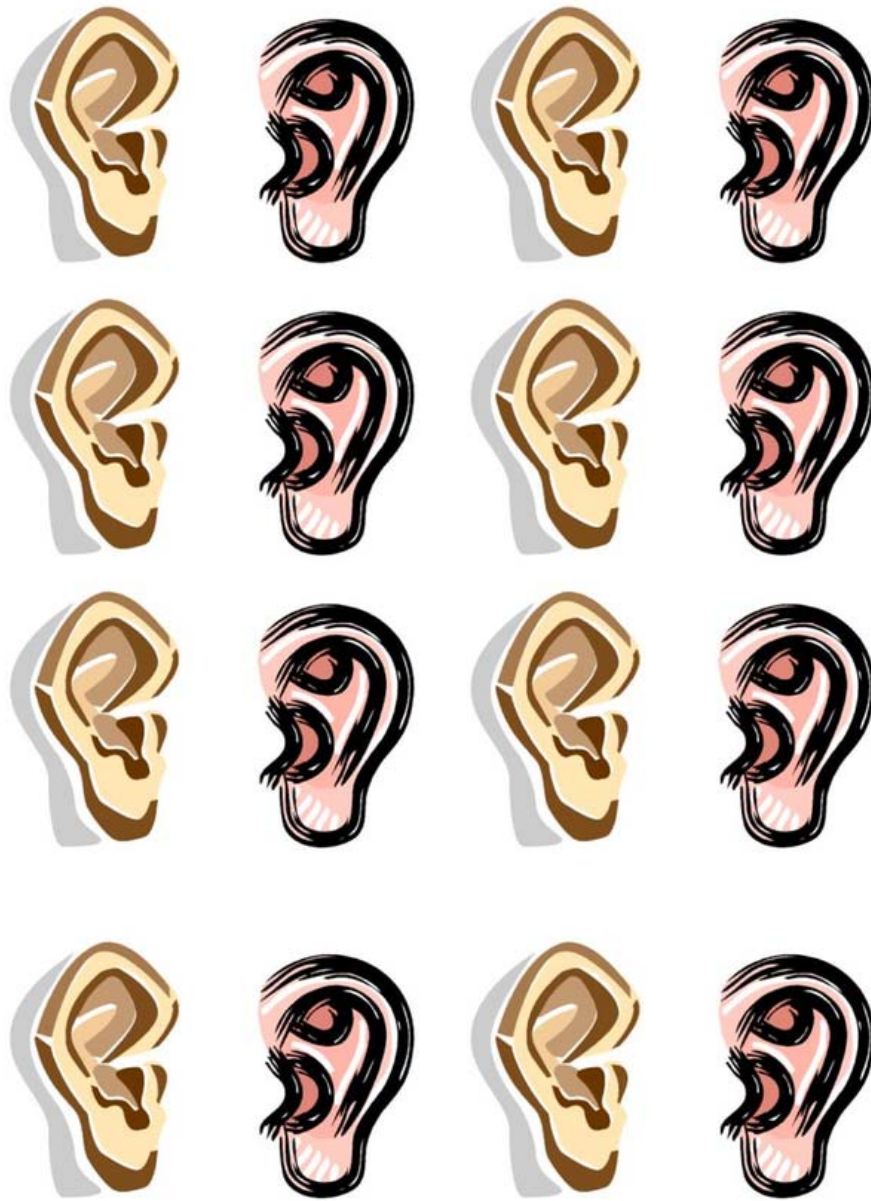


SOCIAL SKILLS

The Gift of Quiet (Listening and Talking Softly)

Give each child a very small piece of paper to hold in the palms of their hands. Have them blow gently to move the paper out of their hands. Ask, "Did you hear the sound of the wind coming from your mouths? You have to be very quiet to hear this quiet sound." Children take turns blowing softly and whispering their names. Explain that it is a gift to have quiet time just like it can be a gift to have louder times during play time.

"You are a gift to children!"



EARS FOR ART

Theme for the Week



"1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate"

Activities for "My Special Pals"

Materials Needed: Plastic spoons, fun music and player, white 9 X 12 construction paper, colored construction paper, finger paints, paste, crayons, basket, clean pair of socks, picture of things that begin with v (provided)



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Children take turns sharing the name of the adults who live in their house. It can be a mommy, aunt, grandma, babysitter, etc. Tell them that these are all special adult pals who love and care for them too. Chant: We have many friends here at child care. There are special friends in our homes too. Yay for special pals!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Things that Begin with "v"

Show the children the pictures that begin with v. Tell them what each one is. "vacuum, vegetables, vest, Have them say each say the words. Have 2 more sheets of the pictures of the things that begin with that are laminated and cut so there are 2 sets of individual pictures. Turn them over and mix them up and have the children match them saying the word for each and stretching out the v-v-v sound. Put them on a tray for children to use.



FUN ART

Special Heart Prints for Special Pals

Use 9X12 white construction paper to pre-cut a heart shape for each child.

They fill the heart shape with colored finger prints by dipping their fingers into finger paint. Once dry, they paste the heart onto colored construction paper.

Save for Music today. They take it home to give to their mommies or special pals.



MATH

10 Flowers for Special Pals

Fold a piece of white construction paper in fourths. Open it. Number the squares 1, 2, 3, 4. Children draw one flower in the 1 square, two flowers in the 2 square, etc. Then count how many flowers in all on the page ($1+2+3+4=10$ in all).



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant Teacher, I Love You

Children hold their hearts from Art today and chant:

I made a special heart for my special pal.

It's finger painted to wish her a special day.

I will give my teacher a bear hug and share a big smile.

I know she will be happy for a long, long while.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Play Sock in the Basket Toss (Encouraging and Playing Together)

Teach children a fun game to go home and play with their special pals.

Children take turns trying to toss a rolled up pair of clean, small socks into a basket. When the socks make it into the basket, they say, "Score. Score. Let's play some more." Children cheer for each other.

"Teachers are special difference making pals for children."

Things that Begin with “v”



vacuum



vegetables

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vests



Theme for the Week



"1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate"

Activities for "Mother's Day is Special"

Materials Needed: Pre-cut circles (shape kit) using heavy paper, permanent marker for teacher to use, crayons, green pipe cleaners or craft sticks, tall plastic cups, paste, paint brush for paste, colored tissue paper, teacher brings five wash cloths and five towels from home for Math, plain paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Explain to the children that they can give gifts to their mommies (or special pals) just like you received a handshake or high five from them the other day. Say, "Hugs and high fives are great gifts to give. Smiles and laughs are extra special too." Children take turns sharing a big smile and saying, "I can give a big hug to my mommy when I get home today."



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Letter Flowers

Pre-cut several small circles using heavy paper. Sit with the children and write one letter of their names per circle with a permanent marker. (Example: Samuel will have six circles with S, A, M, U, E, L.) They color the circles to become flowers. They paste green pipe cleaners or painted green craft sticks to the circles to become stems. Save for Art today.



FUN ART

Special Vase for a Special Mom or a Special Friend

Mix paste together with a small amount of water. Children paint the paste mixture onto the outside of plastic cups. Then they place several pieces of colored tissue paper all around the cup to cover all areas. Let it dry. Fill the colorful vase with the letter flowers from Literacy today. They take it home to their mommies or special pals and say, "Guess who loves you? Read the flowers to find out who!"



MATH

Help Mommy with the Laundry

Bring five wash cloths and five towels from your home. Children fold them in half. Then they pair one wash cloth with one towel. How many groups? Five. Which one is bigger? The towel. Which one is smaller? The wash cloth. What else can be folded in half?



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Mommy, I Love You (tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Mommy, Mommy, I love you. Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes I do!

You are sweet and oh, so fun. Let's go play out in the sun.

Mommy, Mommy, I love you. Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes I do!

(Note: Substitute the name Mommy for Auntie, Grandma, etc. as needed for each child's family make-up.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Following Directions (Listening and Working Together)

Remind children that it is important to follow directions at home and at child care with their mommies, special pals and teachers. Children sit with a partner. Partner A has a piece of paper and crayons.

Partner B gives directions such as: Color blue. Color red, etc. Children reverse roles. When finished, they say to each other, "Thanks for playing with me."



"Children need to be nurtured and protected."

Theme for the Week



Transportation

Activities for "Cars"

Materials Needed: Toy car, pictures of cars (provided), chart paper, paper plates, non-toxic paints, white construction paper, several toy cars, pictures of cars to cut in half (provided), paper clip



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children a toy car. Spin the wheels. Count the wheels. Explain that a car has four wheels that go round and round to move it from one place to another. Show them pictures of cars (provided). Children share what color car their family drives or their favorite color of car. Tell them that cars transport them. Transport means to move them. Place a paper clip on top of the toy car and push the car on the floor. Say, "The car transported the paper clip." Chant: Cars move us from one place to another. Cars transport us.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

A-Driving We Will Go

Write the following poem on chart paper. Read it aloud to the children. Repeat and pause at the rhyming words for the children to fill in from memory. Oh, a-driving we will go, a-driving we will go, we'll see a fox in a box and then we will go. Oh, a-driving we will go, a-driving we will go, we'll catch a fish in a dish and then we will go. Oh, a-driving we will go, a-driving we will go, we'll see a frog on a log and then we will go.



FUN ART

Tire Track Art

Pour non-toxic paints onto paper plates (one color per plate). Children dip a toy car onto the plate and drive it around in the paint. Then they drive the toy car onto white construction paper to make tire tracks.



MATH

Car Match-Up

Cut several pictures of cars (provided) in half. Scatter them on a table or the floor. Children match the car pieces.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Vroom, Vroom, Vroom

Children sit on the floor and pretend to have their hands on a steering wheel.

Vroom, vroom, vroom. You will see me in my car driving by real soon.

I can turn to the left. I can turn to the right. It is fun driving in the sun so bright.

I can stop. I can go. I always wear my seat belt I hope you know.

Vroom, vroom, vroom. Get in my car. I have room!



SOCIAL SKILLS

Stop, Look and Listen (Parking Lot Safety)

Talk to children about the importance of holding an adult's hand in a parking lot.

Explain that cars are often moving in a parking lot and they may not be able to see other children.

Have the children take turns holding your hand and walking in a pretend parking lot. They stop, look for moving cars, listen for moving cars and stay at your side.

"Teachers help drive children to success and confidence."

Cars for Circle Time



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Theme for the Week



Transportation

Activities for "Trucks"

Materials Needed: Several different types of toy trucks, pictures of trucks (provided), masking tape, paper towel tubes, paper plates, finger paints, paint brushes, crayons, red and green paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children different types of toy trucks such as a fire truck, dump truck and pick-up truck. Spin the wheels. How many wheels do they each have? Explain that different types of trucks have a different number of wheels. Show them pictures of different types of trucks (provided). Which one is their favorite? Ask what can go inside a dump truck? Dirt. It can transport dirt. Trucks transport all types of items. Fire trucks transport water and firemen. Chant: Trucks have wheels too. They can transport many things.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Lettered Truck Sounds

Place a piece of masking tape on top of several toy trucks. Letter each truck a different letter by writing on the tape,. Give each child a lettered truck. (Note: The trucks have the sounds they have learned.) Children "drive their truck in front of them and say, "This truck makes the _____ sound. It can move forward and backward." After each child has a turn, line the trucks up and the children all make the sounds of their trucks at the same time.



FUN ART

Painted Wheels

Cut several paper towel tubes into fourths to create big wheels. Children roll them in a paper plate of finger paint. Then they can brush paint any areas that are not covered in paint. Be sure to make these "wheels" in a variety of colors. Stand them up to dry. Save for Math today.



MATH

Sorting Colors

Stand up the "wheels" from Art today. Children place matching crayons inside of them. For example, a red crayon is placed inside of a red painted paper towel tube. How many crayons in each colored tube? Remove all of the crayons. Children explore rolling the "wheels" on the floor.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Traveling in a Truck

Children stand up and hold paper plates as a pretend steering wheel.

We like to travel in a truck. Hurray, hurray. (Pretend drive around the room.)

A truck can be big or small. Hurray, hurray. We buckle up before we go. (Pretend to buckle up.)

Even if we are going slow. (Drive slowly around the room.)

A truck can stop to dump. (Stop and pretend to dump sand.)

A truck can help put out a fire. (Stop and pretend to put out a fire.) A truck can take me home. (Pretend to get out of truck and open house door.) Trucks, trucks, trucks. So many types of trucks. Hurray. Hurray.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Red Light, Green Light (Practice Listening)

Children sit in a circle holding a toy car or truck. You say, "Green light," and hold up a green piece of paper.

They roll their cars or trucks back and forth in front of them. You say, "Red light," and hold up a red paper.

They stop rolling their cars or trucks and place them in their laps. Play several rounds. Give each child a turn to call red light and green light too. Chant: Red means stop and green means go. We are great listeners.



"When the going gets tough ... Keep on trucking. Never give up."

Theme for the Week



Transportation

Activities for "Planes/Helicopters"

Materials Needed: Masking tape, toy car and toy truck, blue construction paper, cotton balls, pictures of an airplane and helicopter (provided), non-menthol shaving cream, magnetic letters, craft sticks, non-toxic paints, paste, plain paper, masking tape, tape measure



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Make a roadway with masking tape on the floor. Place a toy truck and toy car on the roadway. Say, "Pretend sky. Can trucks and cars drive in the clouds?" No. Show them pictures of an airplane and helicopter (provided). Say, "This is an airplane and helicopter. They travel in the sky among the clouds." Chant: An airplane and a helicopter fly in the sky.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Sound Planes

Squirt non-menthol shaving cream in puffs on the table to be pretend clouds. Children "fly" magnetic letters through the clouds by pushing them through the shaving cream. They name the plane with the name of the letter sound. Once all the shaving cream is covering the table (no longer puffy clouds), they practice writing letters with their fingers.



FUN ART

Craft Stick Helicopter

Children paint craft sticks. Then they paste them together in the shape of an airplane. Paste the craft stick helicopter onto blue construction paper. They paint white clouds in the sky or use cotton balls.



MATH

Flight Distance

Make a paper airplane. Children guess where the airplane will land. Mark their guesses with masking tape. Fly the paper airplane. Which went the farthest distance? Which went the shortest distance?



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing The Wings on a Plane (tune of "The Wheels on a Bus") The wings on a plane go through the sky, through the sky, through the sky.

The wings on a plane go through the sky, all through the clouds.

The kids on the plane read a book, read a book, read a book. The kids on the plane read a book, all through the clouds. The pilot on the plane drives so safe, drives so safe, drives so safe.

The pilot on the plane drives so safe, all through the clouds.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Seats on a Plane (Helping Each Other)

Set up chairs on a pretend airplane. Have a seat available for all the children. When people get on an airplane, they have to find a seat. Pair children. Partner A says, "May I help you find your seat?" Partner B says, "Yes, thank you." Partner A walks Partner B to a seat. Reverse roles.

"Children soar into success with structure and love."



PHOTOS FOR CIRCLE TIME

Theme for the Week



Transportation

Activities for "Trains"

Materials Needed: Pictures of a train and train tracks (provided), colored construction paper rectangles, (Welcome Kit), paste, white 12 x 18 construction paper, finger paints, index cards, tape, small black paper circles (Welcome Kit), toy train, crayons.



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Sit down in the circle and say, "Choo. Choo."

Ask what makes that sound. Is it a dog? A cat? No, it is a train. Does a train have wheels? Yes. It also travels on land like cars and trucks, but a train's wheels must be guided on a train track. Show children a picture of a train and a train track (provided). Explain that trains can be long and short. They can go slow and really fast. Children chant: Choo Choo. A train can move things and people too.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Chuga Chuga Choo Choo Sounds

Have the children line up with one child being at the front (The conductor), and the last child is the caboose. Have them march around the room two times saying, "chuga chuga choo choo." Then show them one of the tactile lowercase letters they have learned. Example "v-v-v." They march around the room and say, "chuga chuga voo voo." Do it with other sounds. Example: "b" would be "chuga chuga boo boo."



FUN ART

Paint a Train Track

Give each child a piece of 12X18 white construction paper. They paint lines on the paper to be train tracks. Then they paint three index cards solid colors. They paste small black circles on the rectangles to become wheels. Tape the three index cards together to be a train and place the train on the track they made.



MATH

Long and Short Trains

Give each child a pre-cut paper rectangle. (Use two different colors such as red and blue.) They make a train with three reds and one with five reds. Which one is longer?

Which one is shorter? Make a pattern train with red, blue, red blue. Add to the train to continue the pattern and make it longer.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Choo Choo Train

I am a choo choo train. (Stand up with hands on hips or arms on shoulders of partner.)

I am moving down the track. I am moving forward. (Move forward.) Now I am moving back. (Move back.) Do you hear the whistle blowing? (Pretend to pull a whistle rope and whistle.) The train is slowing. (Move slowly.) Now it is chugging quickly down the track. (Move quickly.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Pass the Train (Taking Turns)

While sitting in a circle with legs stretched out, one child pushes a toy train to a friend.

The friend says, "Thank you," and then pushes the toy train to a different friend and crosses his/her legs. Play continues until all have had a turn, and all children have their legs crossed. Chant: Chug a, chug a, choo choo. I pushed the train to you.

"Teachers help children stay on track."



PHOTOS FOR CIRCLE TIME

Theme for the Week



Transportation

Activities for "Boats/Ships"

Materials Needed: Toy boats, cake pan of water, pictures of boats and a ship (provided), magnetic letters, white butcher paper, finger paints, crayons, plain paper, paste, various items to test if they sink or float



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Place a toy boat in a cake pan of water. Say, "This is a boat. Boats and ships travel on water. They float from one place to another." Show pictures of boats and a ship (provided). Explain that ships are very big and boats are smaller than ships. Children move their arms to make pretend wave motions as they chant: Boats can float. Ships can float too. They travel across the water.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Putting Sounds and Words in Boats

Children each have a piece of foil that they make into a boat shape. Give them each magnetic letters or small pieces of cut-out papers that each have the letters sounds they have learned. Call out different letter sounds. They find the sound and put it in their boats.



FUN ART

Boat Full of Smiles

Pre-cut a large boat shape out of white butcher paper. Children paint it together and then hang it on a bulletin board. Each child draws a picture of themselves. Help them cut it out and paste each child's self-portrait in the class boat.



MATH

Sink or Float?

Invite children to bring a small toy boat from home (or a favorite bath toy like a rubber duck). Fill a cake pan with water. Place a variety of objects on the table such as an apple, spoon, quarter, toy boat, rubber duck, etc. Children predict if the item will sink or float. Test each item. Group together the floaters and the sinkers.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing and Act Out London Bridge with new lines

Two children stand and make a bridge while other children take turns "floating" underneath with a toy boat in their hands. London bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down. (Bring arms down.) London bridge is falling down, my fair lady. Build it up with wood and clay, wood and clay, wood and clay. (Bring arms back up.) Build it up with wood and clay, my fair lady. Watch the boats go floating by, floating by, floating by. Watch the boats go floating by, my fair lady. See the ships come sailing by, sailing by, sailing by. See the ships come sailing by, my fair lady.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Who Has the Boat? (Sitting Quietly and Taking Turns)

Children sit in a circle. Explain that the name of the person who steers a boat or ship is called a captain. Choose a child to be "the captain." "The captain" puts a toy boat in a child's hand while everyone else has their eyes closed. Children open their eyes and guess who has the toy boat.

"Create a sea of calmness in the classroom for children and yourself."



PHOTOS FOR CIRCLE TIME

Theme for the Week



Play Ball

Activities for "Baseball"

Materials Needed: A real baseball, pictures of baseball/bat/glove (provided), paper baseballs (provided), scrap paper and/or newspaper, masking tape, white and red non-toxic washable paints, paper plates, paint brushes



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Roll a baseball to Child A and say, "Good morning, (Name of Child)." Child A rolls the ball back to you and says, "Good morning, (Teacher's Name)." Continue until all children have greeted you. Say, "You said good morning with a baseball today. It is white with red stitching. Baseballs are used to play the game of baseball. A baseball player hits the ball with a bat. Another player tries to catch the ball with a glove." Show them pictures of a bat, ball and glove (provided). Chant: Hit a baseball with a bat and catch it in a glove!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Baseball Letter Memory

Put some of the letters the children have learned on paper baseballs (provided). Make a second set. Children place them all face down. They turn over two at a time looking for letter matches. Add more of the letter sounds when they finish.



FUN ART

Homemade Baseballs

Place a pile of scrap paper and/or newspaper on the table. Children take a few pages and crumble it into a tight ball. Help them wrap it well with masking tape. They roll their balls in a paper plate of white non-toxic washable paint. Let them dry. Then they finger paint red lines on their balls to resemble a baseball. Save for Social Skills today.



MATH

Baseball Number Memory

Letter 10 paper baseballs (provided) one through ten. Make a second set. Children place them all face down. They turn over two at a time looking for number matches.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing, I'll Be Catching All the Baseballs (tune "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain")

I'll be catching all the baseballs from my friend, from my friend.

I'll be catching all the baseballs from my friend, from my friend.

I'll be catching all the baseballs, catching all the baseballs, I'll be catching all the baseballs from my friend, from my friend.

(Other Verses: Hitting all the baseballs from the tee; Throwing all the baseballs to my friend, etc.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Baseball Fun (Following Directions)

Children hold their baseballs from Art today. Give verbal directions for them to follow naming where to place their balls and what to do with them. Examples: Put your ball on your knee and tap it. Place your ball in your hand and toss it. Place your ball on the floor and push it.

"Teachers score a homerun in the hearts of children."



PICTURES FOR CIRCLE TIME



PICTURES FOR LITERACY

Theme for the Week



Play Ball

Activities for "Team Players"

Materials Needed: Pictures of baseball team (provided), plastic baseball bat or a picture of a bat (provided), each child brings an old child's size white t-shirt, finger paints, permanent marker, paper caps (provided), whiteboard and marker, hula hoop, plastic balls or crumbled paper balls



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Children all hold hands. They raise their hands in the air and chant. We are in class together. We are on the same friend team. Explain that a team is a group of people who all work together to help each other. Show them pictures of a baseball team (provided). Remind them that a baseball team works together to throw, hit and catch baseballs. Chant: Teams are terrific!



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

What Sounds Like Bat?

Show children a plastic baseball bat. (If it's the plastic bat, put it out of reach after sharing for this lesson) You can also use the picture of a bats (provided). Then show them a white board where you have written the words, one underneath the other: bat, cat, fat, hat, mat, pat, rat, and sat. Have them read the words with you sounding them out. Then have them repeat other words that sound like bat with you and act out: The big fat cat sat on a mat. A rat in the hat ran across the bat.



FUN ART

Team jerseys

Have children bring an old white t-shirt to child care (preferably solid white). Explain that players on a team all wear the same shirt called a jersey. Place all of the t-shirts in a line on a table. Children go by and make one handprint on each shirt. Write the name under each person's handprint with a permanent marker. They will all have a t-shirt with one handprint of each friend. Save for Music today.



MATH

Sets of Caps

Tell the children that baseball teams wear matching baseballs caps. Pre-cut 12 paper baseball caps (provided). Sort the caps by color. How many teams? Three: orange team, blue team and green team. How many caps of each color? Four. Make a repeating pattern of orange, blue, green, orange, blue, green, etc.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Stand Big and Tall

Wear t-shirt jerseys from Art today while singing:

Look at me stand big and tall. (Stand on tip toes.)

I can help my team if they fall. (Help a friend stand up.)

Watch me stand with a bat. (Pretend to hold a bat.)

Hear me hit the ball Splat! (Pretend to swing a bat.)

I love to play on this team. Hear me give a cheering scream! (Shout "Hurray.")



SOCIAL SKILLS

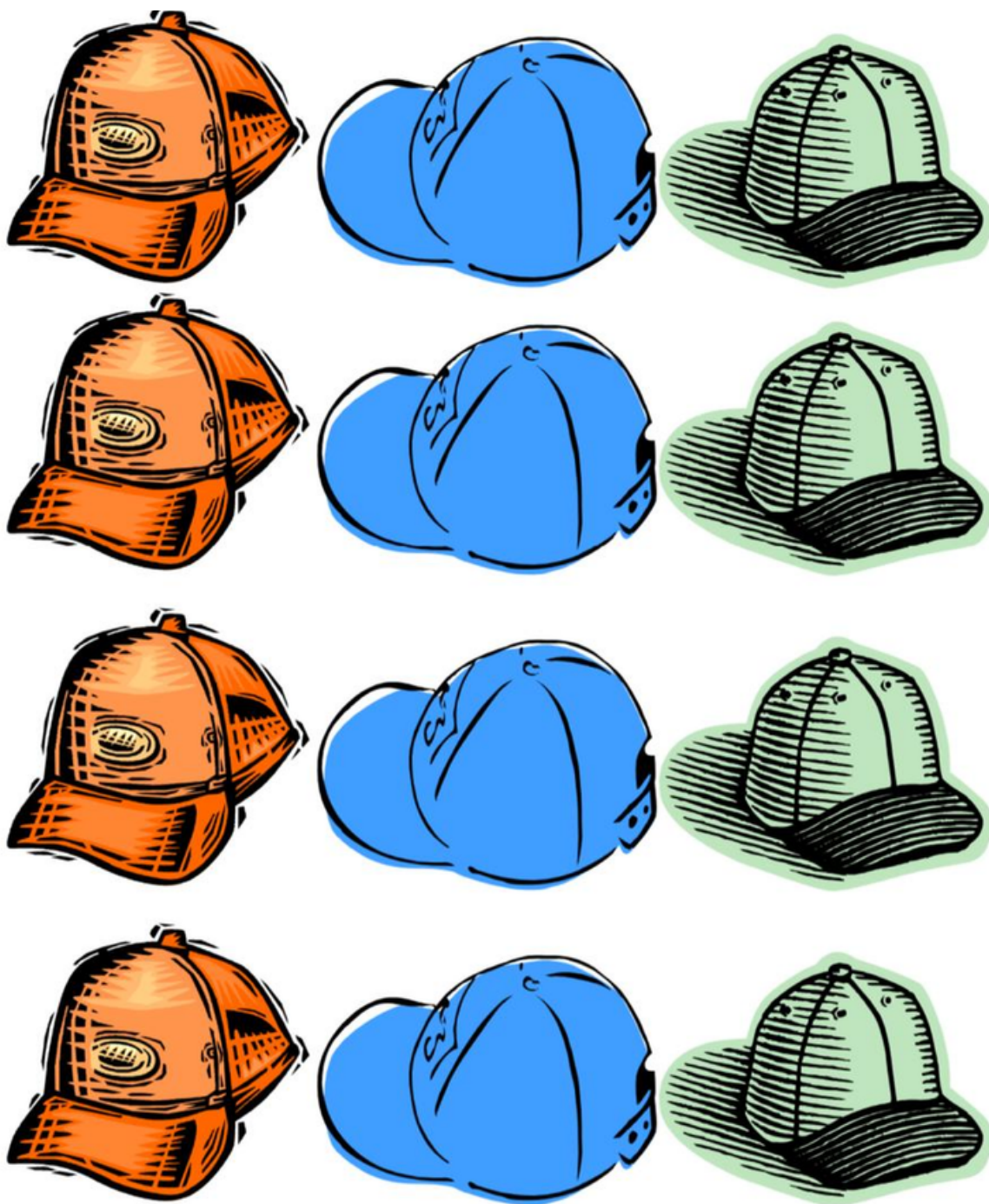
Baseball Toss (Taking Turns with Your Team)

Place a hula hoop on the floor. Remind children that they are a team and together they will count how many balls they can throw into the hula hoop. Children take turns tossing plastic balls (or crumbled paper into the hula hoop. Cheer for each throw.

"Teachers can create positive team energy in the class room."



PICTURES FOR CIRCLE TIME



CAPS FOR MATH

BASEBALL BAT



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Theme for the Week



Play Ball

Activities for "Running Bases"

Materials Needed: Pictures of home plate and a baseball field (provided), plain paper, stuffed animal, paper towel tube, small ball, , pre-cut black circle (Welcome Kit), tactile lowercase letters, v and w, white and red non-toxic paints, pre-cut colored paper squares (Welcome Kit) for Math



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Place four pieces of plain paper in the center of the circle to resemble bases on a baseball field. Place a stuffed animal on home plate. Have the stuffed animal make a pretend hit of a small ball using a paper towel tube as a bat. Run the stuffed animal around the bases naming first, second, third, and home. Explain that baseball players run the bases once they hit the ball. Show them pictures of a real home plate shape and a baseball field (provided). Chant: Stand at home plate to hit the ball. Run to first, second, and third base, and back home again.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The Letter w

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter w. Say, "This is "w-w-w," Have children make the sound. Then show them the tactile letter v that they learned. Have them say v-v-v. Ask them what's different?. The w-w-w is longer and has 2 v's.. Then tell them that w-w-walk and w-w-wall begin with w-w-w. Have the children trace the w in the air saying "w-w-w." Then have them take turns walking to the wall chanting, I am w-w-walking to the w-w-wall." Afterwards, they all say! W-w-wow! W-w-we w-w-walked to the w-w-wall."



FUN ART

Fingerprint Baseballs

Make a baseball with fingerprints. Give each child a pre-cut black circle. They cover the black circle with white thumbprints by dipping their thumbs in white non-toxic paint. Then they make red lines on the baseball with red fingerprints using red nontoxic paint.



MATH

Bases are Squares

Remind children that first, second and third bases are each shaped like a square. Give each child a colored square piece of paper, with each child receiving a different color.

Ask three children to share their papers with you. Line them on the floor. Point to the first square. Ask what color it is. Say, "The first square is the color_____. Repeat with the second and third squares. Then ask for three new children to share their squares with you and name each color for first, second and third.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant Players Run the Bases

Baseball players hit the ball and run. (Pretend to hit a ball with a bat.)

They wear a cap out in the sun. (Pretend to put on a cap.)

Off to 1st base they go. (Hold up one finger.) Around to 2nd, 3rd and home for a baseball show. (Hold up two and three fingers.) Go team, go!



SOCIAL SKILLS

Whisper Cheers

Children sit in a circle. Whisper to them, "Let's give whisper cheers. We will talk like this." Turn to the child next to you and whisper, "Go team, go." Guide the child to now whisper to the friend sitting next to him/her, "Go team, go." Go around the circle. At the end, they all whisper together, "We are a great team."

"Teachers help children run bases in order by giving building blocks of learning every day."



PICTURES FIELD FOR CIRCLE TIME

Theme for the Week



Play Ball

Activities for "Cheering for Our Team"

Materials Needed: Make a pompom in advance for Circle Time which will be today's Art project for the children, pictures of cheerleaders (provided) team pennant shapes (provided), crayons, straws, tape, several pieces of different colored tissue paper, safety scissors, paper towel tubes, diamond shapes (provided), craft sticks, stapler



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Come to the circle with a pre-made pompom that will be made in Art today. Shake them and say, "Yay for you. Each one of you. I am so proud of you." Tell them that you are one of their cheerleaders. Explain that teams have people who cheer for them. Cheering for someone is saying kind words and encouraging them to do their best. Show them pictures of people cheering (provided). Point out the pompoms in the picture. Tell them they will get to make their own pompoms today. Chant: We are on the team of friendship. Yay for our friends. Yay for being kind.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Team Pennant

Remind children that they are all on the Friendship Team. Call on one child at a time. Write their name very big on a pennant shape (provided) saying each letter aloud as you write it. Then say, "These are the letters in your name?" Have them trace over the letters with a crayon. Tape the pennants to straws and hang them in the room.



FUN ART

Home Made Pompoms

Show children the picture of cheerleaders with pompoms (previously provided). Remind them that cheerleaders often use these to shake as they cheer for their team. Give each child two colors of tissue paper. Help them use safety scissors to cut several long strips of the paper. They stuff the cut strips part way into a paper towel tube. Press the tube down flat and staple for the children so all the colored tissue strips are stapled to the paper towel tubes. The majority of the colored strips will be hanging out of the tube as the pompom.



MATH

Shape of a Diamond

Tell children that a baseball field is in the shape of a diamond. Give each child a paper diamond (provided). How many sides does it have? Four. Have them color over each outside line in a different color. How many lines make the shape of a diamond? Four. Now give them four craft sticks each to make a diamond shape on the floor. Can they find anything in the room in the shape of a diamond?



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant I Can Jump and Run

Children face a partner and chant: We can jump and run. (Jump.) We can play baseball in the sun. (Pretend to catch a ball.) We can smile and laugh too. (Make a big smile.) Most important is to have fun with YOU! (Point to friend.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Let's Celebrate You (Cheering for Each Other)

Tell children that they can do great things. Children take turns standing up and saying, "I can_____." They share something they can do like dance, sing, hit a ball, share, etc. The other children clap and cheer for the child sharing. Once everyone has shared, have them chant: Cheer for you and cheer for me. Let's celebrate our child care family!



"Teachers can be the best cheerleaders for children."

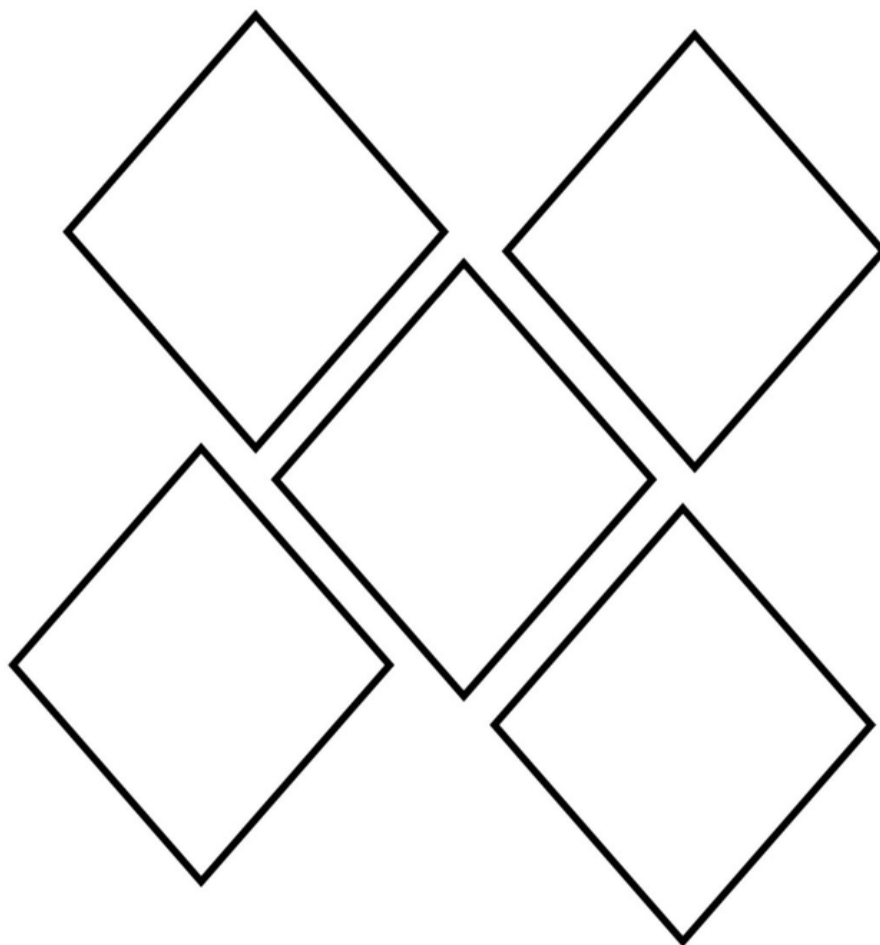
CHEERLEADERS



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Team Friendship

PENNANT FOR LITERACY



DIAMONDS FOR MATH

Theme for the Week



Play Ball

Activities for "Trying Hard" and Memorial Day

Materials Needed: Child's cup with a lid that has a hole for a straw, straw, lowercase tactile w, things that begin with w (provided), have children bring an old baseball cap; paste, foil, cotton balls, colored pompom balls, index cards, butcher paper, tape, fabric markers



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell them that it's important to try hard. When they eat their lunches, they try hard to finish. When they color a picture, they try hard. Tell them that there are some other people who try hard, and that is people who keep our country safe. Tell them Monday is Memorial Day, a special holiday to remember the soldiers who try hard to keep our country safe. They "always try hard." They work their hardest to do their best. Sometimes you have something that's hard but you have to keep going and do your best too. Chant, "We all try hard to do our best."



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The Letter w

Show them the tactile lowercase w. Have children trace it in the air and say, "w-w-w." Show them the pictures of things that begin with the sound w. Tell them what each one is. "whale, watermelon, water, wagon. Have them say each say the words. Have 2 more sheets of the pictures of the things that begin with j that are laminated and cut so there are 2 sets of individual pictures. Turn them over and mix them up and have the children match them saying the word for each and stretching out the w-w-w sound. Put them on a tray for children to use.



FUN ART

Baseball Class Spirit

Children bring one baseball cap to class that can be decorated. They paste on red, white, and blue materials to make a fun class cap. They can use materials such as cotton balls, colored pompom balls, foil, ribbon, fabric markers, etc. After they make them, they say, We tried hard to make special caps. We try hard to remember our soldiers on Memorial Day on Monday.



MATH

Diamond Shuffle

Pre-cut 20 index cards to be diamond shapes. Number them one to 20. Put the corresponding number of dots on each one. Example: Card with a 1 has one red dot. Card 2 has 2 red dots, etc. Shuffle the cards and give one or two cards to each child (depending on your class size). Ask for diamond number 1. The child holding number one tapes it to a piece of butcher paper. Continue calling all numbers through 20 until the number line is complete.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing I am a Team Player (tune of "Farmer in the Dell") Children wear their decorated caps from Art while singing: I am a team player. I am a team player. Hi-ho, I try real hard. I am a team player. I like to play baseball. I like to play baseball. Hi-ho, I try real hard. When I'm playing baseball.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Using ASL to say "thank you."

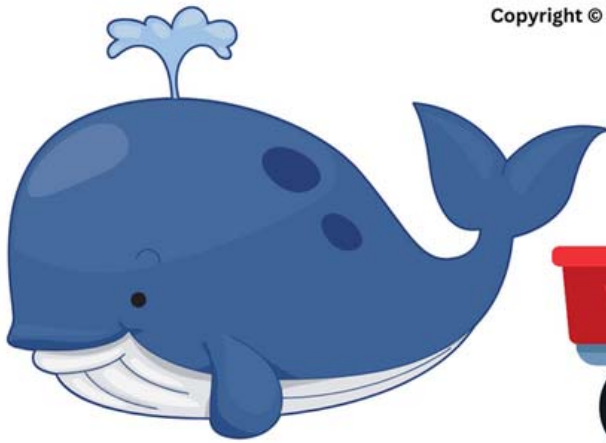
Tell the children they are learning and doing wonderful things and you are proud of them for trying their hardest. Say, "We all try hard." Let's all say, "Thank you" to each other in a special way. Show them how to say thank you in ASL. Take your dominant hand and place your fingers near your lips having your hand be as flat as can be. Move your hand forward and slightly downward to the child you are thanking. Have the children take turns saying thank you in ASL to all their friends for trying hard. And then have them do it one more time into the air, and tell them, "That's for all the soldiers that we remember today for trying hard and doing their best."



"Never give up on a child."

Things that Begin with "w"

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whale



wagon



water



watermelon



Theme for the Week



Gifts of Spring

Activities for "Memorial Day"

Materials Needed: Pictures of soldiers (provided), poster board or real flag, picture of flag (provided), white and blue construction paper, red and white paints



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children pictures of soldiers (provided). Say, "Soldiers are very special men and women. They work hard to keep us safe. On Memorial Day we often have parades to celebrate them." Show children how to march in place. They stand up and march while chanting: Soldiers are very brave. They protect you and me.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Write I love the USA very large on a piece of paper. Point to each word as you read. Tell them that USA is the name of where they live. Children take turns passing a flag (real or picture) around the circle. One child holding the flag says, "I love the USA. Do you love the USA?" The flag is passed and the second child says, "Yes, I love the USA. Do you love the USA?" Continue until each child has received the flag. They all hold hands together and say, "We all love the USA!"



FUN ART

Patriotic Flag

Give each child a white piece of construction paper. Children finger paint seven red lines across the paper to resemble red stripes on a flag. Paste a blue square into the top left corner. Children then make white dots on the blue to be the stars.



MATH

Red and White Stripes

Show children a real flag, if available, or a picture of a flag (provided). Say, "How many red stripes?" Point to each red stripe and count 1 -7. Say, "How many white stripes?" Point to each stripe and count 1 -6. Say, "How many stripes altogether?" Count all 13 stripes. Remind children to only make seven red lines in Art today.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Our Special Flag (tune of "You're a Grand Old Flag")

Children learn this song to sing and march around the room during Social Skills.

Look at our special flag of the USA.

With our handprints we made it today. It has red, white and blue for me and for you.
This is our flag so true.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Patriotic Parade

Children hold their flags from Art and sing the song learned in Music as they march around the school in a patriotic parade. Come back to the circle. Tell children that soldiers do a salute to show respect. Show children how to do a salute with their hands to their foreheads. Use the pictures from Circle Time today. Children take turns turning to a friend, doing a salute and saying, "I salute you as a great friend."

"You are planting seeds in the minds of children that can bloom into beautiful flowers of knowledge, respect and confidence for years to come."

Soldiers for Circle Time



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Flag of USA



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Theme for the Week



Gifts of Spring

Activities for "Green Grass"

Materials Needed: Picture of grass (provided), white construction paper, green non-toxic paint, plastic forks, Sample for Art Activity (provided).



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Sit outside in the grass in a circle. Say, "What color is the grass? Pick three pieces of grass and look closely at them." Then have children jump in the grass. Chant: Grass is green. Playing with friends in the grass is fun! If weather does not permit, have children look out the windows to see grass and show them a picture of grass (provided).



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Letters in the Grass

Children paint green across the bottom of white construction paper. Let it dry.

Then they take turns placing a magnetic letter on the paper "in the grass." They say, "I see the letter sound, "b-b-b" in the grass, etc



FUN ART

My Grassy Name

Children use a plastic fork as a paintbrush to create "grassy strokes" on construction paper. Write each child's name in large print across the paper.

Help them trace over their name by dipping their forks in the green paint and then over the letters. See photo sample (provided).



MATH

Grass Rolls

Five children lie down in the grass. (Be sure to check for allergies.) Count them. Children take turns rolling to their friends. The teacher and children chant: Roll over, roll over, let (Child's Name) come over. The named child rolls out of the group. Now count the four remaining children. Continue to zero and repeat with a new group of children. (Note: If weather is bad, do this indoors and children pretend to be outside on the grass or have children paint butcher paper green to be "pretend grass.")



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out In the Tall, Tall Grass

In the tall, tall grass creeps the cat. (Crawl like a cat and say, "Meow?")

In the tall, tall grass buzzes a bee. (Buzz like a bee.)

In the tall, tall grass slithers a snake. (Slither like a snake and say, "Hisssss.")

In the tall, tall grass plays the child. (Laugh and jump in place.)



SOCIAL SKILLS

Outside Grass Path Tour

Children hold hands and walk outside in the grass. They stop in different places and say to their friend, "(Friend's Name), let's hop in the grass." This is a great activity to build a sense of community by holding hands. Change the activity from hop to jump, sit, shake hands, etc. with each stop.

"Gently 'pull the weeds' out of a child's life with redirection and praising the positives."



GRASSY PICTURES FOR CIRCLE TIME



In this photo the child is making grass strokes with a plastic fork to “write” the name *John*.

SAMPLE FOR ART ACTIVITY

Theme for the Week



Gifts of Spring

Activities for "Spring Art"

Materials Needed: Crayons, butcher paper, pencil, construction paper, flour, salt, food coloring, water, mixing bowls and spoons



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell children that today they will love the special art they get to do. Sit children in a circle around a long piece of butcher paper. Have them color a section of the paper as a gift for the friend sitting next to them. It's their special art for a friend. Chant: We love art. Coloring is fun. It's fun to make art for our friend.



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Textured Letter Display

Write with a pencil on different pieces of construction paper, some of the letter sounds the children have learned. Help children use the paint from Math today to trace the letters. Let them dry. Then have children rub their fingers over the textured letter shapes and say each sound as they touch the letter.



FUN ART

Sensory Finger Painting

Children finger paint with the paints made in Math today. They can make any creation they wish.



MATH

Follow a Recipe: Textured Paint

Children help you make textured paint for Art by following this recipe.

They count out each ingredient. Repeat the recipe for additional paint colors.

Mix 1 cup flour with 2 tsp. salt in a large bowl. Add one cup water and mix well with a spoon. Add a few drops of food coloring. The paint will have a gritty, thick texture. Store in airtight containers.



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing and Act Out Smiling Faces (tune of "Jingle Bells") Smiling faces, happy faces, laughing all around. Oh, what fun we have this way in our cheerful class each day.

He-he-he, ha-ha-ha-ha, In our happy class each day!



SOCIAL SKILLS

The Hand of My Teacher-Friend

Trace your hand onto construction paper and cut it out while sitting in the circle. Tell them it's a "helping hand" for them. Pass the paper hand around the circle. Children take turns looking at the teacher and saying, "Thank you for helping me."

"Just like artwork is unique, so is each child."

Theme for the Week



Gifts of Spring

Activities for "Picnic Time"

Materials Needed: Blanket, large paint brushes, non-toxic different colors of paint in bowls, flat white twin-sized sheet, liquid dish detergent, cake tray, cups, spoons, whisks, rotary beaters, empty lunch bag



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell children that eating outside on a blanket is called a picnic. Spread out a blanket for them all to sit on. Have them pretend to eat food.

Chant: Eating outside on a blanket is a picnic. A May picnic is special.
It's a springtime gift. Children share their favorite lunch



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Disappearing Letters

While outside for the May picnic, children dip large paint brushes in water and paint over the sidewalk or side of the building. They watch as the water makes the concrete, brick or wood color darken, and then as the water dries, their strokes disappear. Have children practice making the shapes of letters and give them extra time to explore with the paint brushes and water. They say, "We make disappearing letters for our teacher."



FUN ART

(Note: Children are making a fun class cloth to sit on for a picnic or to use as a table cloth.) Spread out a flat white twin sheet. Children take turns making their handprints in different colors of paint all over the sheet. See the photo sample (provided).



MATH

Outside Bubble Play

Squeeze a generous amount of liquid dish detergent into a large cake pan of water. Children experiment in bubbly water with cups, spoons, whisks and rotary beaters to make more bubbles. Then have them fill up an empty bowl by pouring small cups of the mixture into the bowl. Have them say, "Now the bowl is full."



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Love Our Teacher (tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat") Love, love, love our friends. (Blow kisses to several friends.)

Yes, oh yes we do.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, so special - that's you! (Point to two different friends.)

SOCIAL SKILLS

Sharing Picnic Foods

Have an empty lunch bag. Ask the children what their favorite food is that might be inside of the lunch bag. They take turns answering. Then say, "Let's pretend this is your lunch bag, and it has your favorite food. There is enough for you to share with someone. I'll start. My favorite food is a banana. Let's pretend I have two bananas in the bag. Watch how I ask a friend if they want to share my banana with me. Turn to a child and say, "Would you like to share my favorite food with me? The child says "yes." And they both say, "We're sharing food." Pass the bag to another child and do the same thing, until all the children have had a turn.



"Relax and reflect on your blessings daily."



PHOTO SAMPLE FOR ART ACTIVITY

Theme for the Week



Gifts of Spring

Activities for "Spring Showtime"

Materials Needed: All the lowercase tactile letter sounds children have learned for Literacy; Pipe cleaners, blocks, each child brings one old solid colored shirt to be painted, acrylic non-toxic paints, cut into strips pieces of different colored construction paper



CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children how to use their hands as a hand puppet. Have them talk to their friends with their hand puppets. Have them sing to you: Good morning teacher. How are you? How are you? We are happy to be with you too. Tell children that they did a singing puppet show. (Note: To use your hand as a hand puppet, move your four fingers up and down over your thumb to make a talking motion.)



LANGUAGE-LITERACY

"A Showtime of Letter Sounds"

Line up the lowercase tactile sounds the children have learned. Children take turns taking one, handing it to the teacher, then doing a show about that sound. They can make the shape with their bodies; They can make the shape with pipe cleaners; They can find things in the room that begin with the sound; They can make the letter shape with blocks. Children make the sound each time they do it. After all the children are finished, they hold hands, and say, "Hurray for us!!!"



FUN ART

T-Shirt Costume

Children bring a prewashed, solid colored, old shirt to school to paint. Have them decorate the shirt with paints and save for Music today.



MATH

Color Patterns

Help children place colored construction paper strips to make a color pattern. Discuss the patterns with them. Count how many of each color and how many altogether. (Example: red paper, blue paper, red paper, blue paper, etc.)



MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Show My Love to You

Children stand in a line wearing their shirts from Art, with their arms on the shoulders of the person in front of them to become a people train. We move forward. Chug-A-Chug-A- Choo Choo (Walk forward.) We move backward. Chug-A-Chug-A- Choo Choo (Walk backward.) See our colors on our shirts. (Point to shirts.) Our teacher helped us. She's an expert! (Point to the teacher.) We just move around chugging love to you. Choo! Choo!



SOCIAL SKILLS

It's Showtime!

Have the children chanting and/or singing a song like this one below from The Learning Station:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apgUpXYSUI>

It's showtime, it's showtime. It's ready, set, and go time.

It's showtime, it's showtime. It's ready, set and go time.

We'll dance (Children dance); We'll sing: (Children sing, "Lalala.")

We'll laugh (Children laugh). We'll have surprises too. (Children do something silly.) Repeat of chorus.

(Note: Be sure to like and follow The Learning Station. They have awesome songs for kids.)

"Let the show of learning and growing begin with you."