

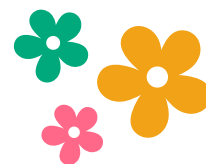
THE APPELBAUM

# DAILY CURRICULUM

Age 3-5



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 MaryIn 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](http://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.
- Empty food/cereal containers boxes, cans (no sharp edges) for our "grocery store". Please send by May 7th.
- Any favorite ball to share from home. Please send by May 15th
- An old baseball cap to decorate. Please send by May 21st.

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
<b>Week 1 Weather</b>			"Icy Freeze" 	"Clouds" 	"Wind" 
<b>Week 2 1, 2, 3 -- Who Do I Appreciate</b>	"Hurray for Teachers" 	"Teacher Appreciation Day" 	"My Gifts for My Teacher" 	"My Special Pals" 	"Mother's Day is Special" 
<b>Week 3 Transport ation</b>	"Cars" 	"Trucks" 	"Planes/Helicopt ers" 	"Trains" 	"Boats/Ships" 
<b>Week 4 Play Ball</b>	"Baseball" 	"Team Players" 	"Running Bases" 	"Cheering for Our Team" 	"Trying Hard" and Memorial Day 
<b>Week 5 Gifts of Spring</b>	"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:** Baggie half filled with water baggie with frozen water, craft sticks, tray of rice, shaving cream, construction paper, ice cube trays, cookie sheet, small tub or bin filled with sand and magnetic letters the children have learned, whiteboard and marker



#### 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

Sensory Digging for Treasure Sounds (Day 1)

Fill a medium sized bin with sand or salt. Then add half of the magnetic letters the children have learned, i, f, n, l, o, x, g, y, v, w. Review the sounds writing them each on a whiteboard, and say them with the children. Then children take turns using take small shovel (like for the beach), to dig for sounds. When they find a sound, they say what it is. Example: "I found a g-g-g." The class claps and says, "\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of child) found a g-g-g."

#### 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

Ice Cube Sort

Children count how many cubes are in an ice cube tray. Have them sort a variety of small objects into the tray. (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:** Cotton ball, picture of clouds (provided), picture of counting raindrops (provided), counters or cut up pieces of paper to be "pretend raindrops," blue construction paper, white construction paper, cotton balls, paste, white bread slice for each child, small tub or bin filled with sand and magnetic letters the children have learned, whiteboard and marker



#### 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

Sensory Digging for Treasure Sounds (Day 2)

Fill a medium sized bin with sand or salt. Then add half of the magnetic letters the children have learned, m, s, t, r, a, p, h, c, b, l, f, n. Review the sounds writing them each on a whiteboard, and say them with the children. Then children take turns using take small shovel (like for the beach), to dig for sounds. When they find a sound, they say what it is. Example: "I found a b-b-b." The class claps and says, "\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of child) found a b-b-b."



#### 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

Counting Raindrops

Give each child picture of "Counting Raindrops (provided). Give them counters or cut-up tiny pieces of paper that will be "pretend rain." Tell them that clouds are filled with tiny water droplets. When these droplets grow and become heavy, they fall to the ground as rain. Show them the big cloud that is filled with rain on their paper. Write different numbers they have learned on a whiteboard and say the number, and that's how many raindrops they put on their sheets of paper. Each time they are finished, have them say, "Hurray. We are counting raindrops."



#### 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

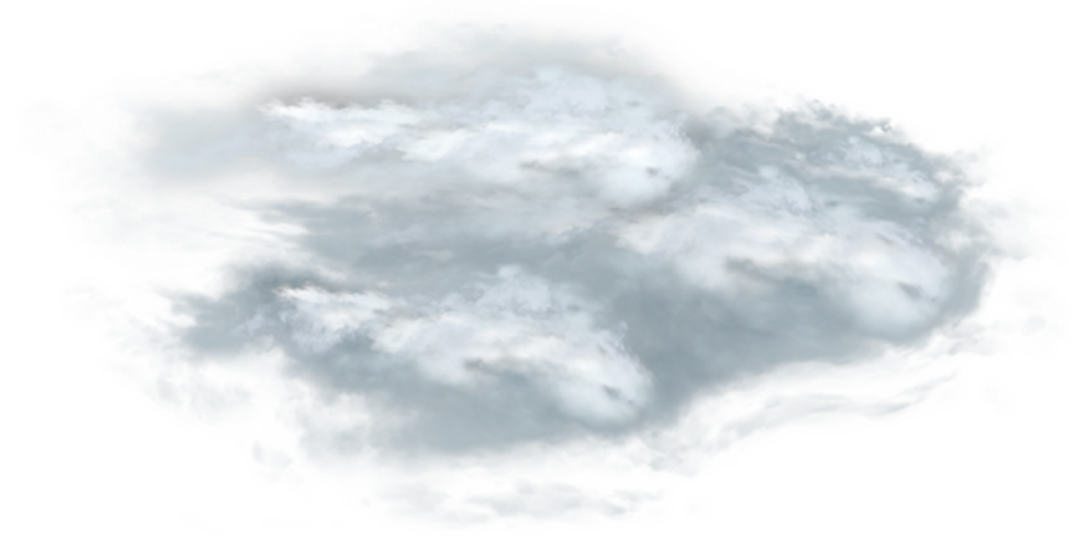
Children pair up and face each other. One child holds a piece of blue paper. The second child tosses a cloud (cotton ball) onto the sky (blue paper). The child holding the paper tries to catch the cloud on the paper. Play until each child gets to be the cloud and the sky a couple of times.

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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# Counting Raindrops



# 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 1-10



#### 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

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:** Bag, all magnetic letters, except for d, j, k, q, u, and z, clear plastic cups, crayons, non-toxic paints, macaroni, duct tape, photo sample for Art (provided), dice, counting paper (photo sample provided)



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Children raise their hands if they can ride a tricycle (or any type of bicycle, scooter, etc.). Ask them who taught them to ride. Say, "Hurray for my mom!" They cheer for the person who taught them to ride a tricycle. Continue cheering for those who taught them to eat, share, sing, etc. Explain that you are their teacher and you want to teach them as much as you can. Explain that you are there to help them keep growing and learning. Chant: Teachers teach us oh so much. Letters, numbers, singing too. Thank you teacher for being you! Hurray! Hurray! Hurray!



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### Hurray for Letters

Place a magnetic letter in a bag. A child pulls the letter out and names it. Then the children take turns naming an item in the room that starts with that letter sound. Finally, they say, "Hurray for the letter\_\_\_\_\_." (Example: A child pulls out the letter S. The other children name a sock, scissors, seat, etc.) Repeat with different letters.



#### FUN ART

##### Shake, Shake, Shaker Cups

Children decorate two clear plastic cups with their handprints. They paint macaroni pasta. Next, they fill one of the cups 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.



#### MATH

##### Hurray for Numbers

Each child sits on the floor with a die and counting paper (provided). The child rolls the die and names the number. They count the corresponding number of crayons and place them on the counting paper. Say, "Hurray for the number \_\_\_\_\_." Roll again and repeat. Continue until all places are covered on the counting paper. (Example; A three is rolled on the die. Three rectangles are covered with three crayons on the counting paper.)



#### 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 for: centers, reading, singing, etc.)

#### SOCIAL SKILLS

Hurray for You, Hurray for Us (Learning About Each Other) Children sit in a circle. The teacher says, "My favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_." respond, "Your favorite color is\_\_\_\_\_."

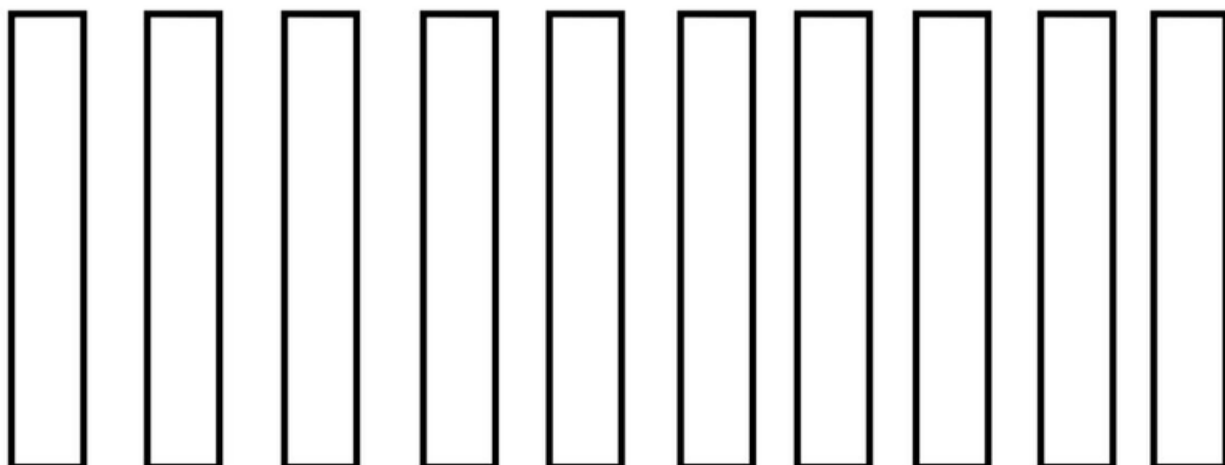
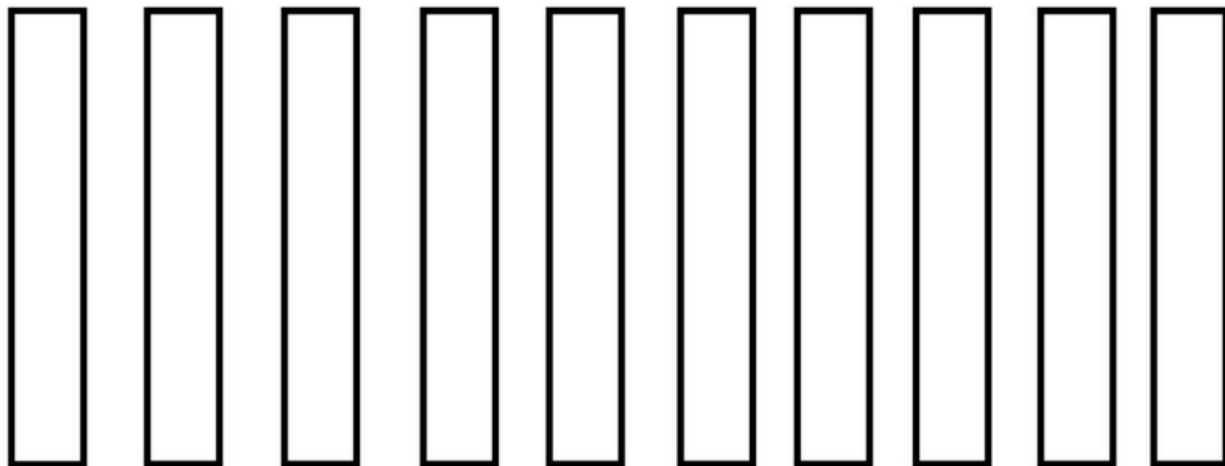
Chant: Hurray for the teacher's favorite color\_\_\_\_\_. Children name their favorite colors. Continue with more statements about yourself such as favorite food, book, weather, outdoor activity, etc.



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



PHOTO SAMPLE FOR ART



**COUNTING PAPER FOR MATH**

# Theme for the Week



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

### *Activities for "Teachers are My Friends"*

**Materials Needed:** Tactile lowercase letters d and b for literacy; chart paper, markers, white construction paper, finger paints, dominoes, numbered index cards, tape



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Ask children how they can be a good friend to everyone in the class. Remind them how sharing, caring, playing, laughing and having fun are all ways to be a good friend. Explain to them that you are a teacher friend. You are a special friend who also wants to share, care, laugh and have fun with them. As a teacher friend, you also make extra sure they are safe, happy and learning every day. Children take turns telling you their favorite activity to do with you in class. Chant: Teachers are our friends too!



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### The Letter "d"

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter d. Say, "This is 'd-d-d'" Have children make the sound. Then show them the tactile letter b that they learned. Have them say b-b-b. Ask them what's different? Talk about how they look the same and different. Show them how each has a straight line and a shape that's almost like a circle. Talk about how the circle is on a different side of the straight line. Then tell them that "door" begins with d-d-d." Have them take turns tracing and holding the "d," and walking to the door saying, d-d-d.



#### 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

##### Domino Number Match

Scatter a set of dominoes on a table face down. Place several index cards numbered one through twelve on the table too. Children turn over one domino, count the dots, and find the matching number card. Play until all dominoes have been matched.



#### 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

Can You Hear Our Teacher Friend? (Practice Listening and Learning Crossovers) You are the "Teacher Friend Director" while the children are the "team." You give directions to give crossovers. The "team" follows your directions. Watch this video of MaryIn with a group of children for ideas on how to do crossovers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uw504NQWfQQ> At the end, children chant: Listening, listening, is what we did. We can listen to our teacher friend.

"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:** Picture of things that begin with d (make 2 more copies that are cut out) for literacy, each child brings a gift box from home, paints, googly eyes, pre-cut paper hearts (welcome kit), paste, ears (provided)



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Play "pass the pinky hug." You turn to a child next to you and give a pinky hug. It is passed around the circle. Then pass a smile around the circle. Explain that receiving a smile, hug, handshake and high five are all special gifts to you. Say, "I am always happy to receive the gift of your smile, hug, handshake or high five." Chant: We can give the gift of a smile.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Things that Begin with "d"

Show the children the pictures that begin with d. Tell them what each one is. "dog, drum, duck, door, dolls, and dancing. Have them say each say the words. Have 2 more sheets of the pictures of the things that begin with d 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 d-d-d sound. Put them on a tray for children to use.



#### 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 paint boxes used in Math today. 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 Box Sort

Provide a variety of boxes in different sizes and/or have children bring an empty box from home. Explain that gifts are often wrapped in boxes. They sort the boxes into groups of small, medium, and large. Count how many in each group. Which group has more? Less? Save for Art today.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Gifts for You (tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star") Teacher, we have gifts for you. Yes, oh yes, oh yes we do!

A hug, high five and hand shake. Awesome days you always make!

Teacher, we have gifts for you. Happy smiles and laughter too!



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

The Gift of Helping

Tell children how teachers clean the classroom to keep it neat for them, plan songs and art and fun. Tell them they have to clean their classroom to keep it neat for each other, and helping to clean is also a gift for the teacher. Give them each a small clean-up/organizing job to do in the classroom. They all say, "I can do it. I am a helper."

"You are a gift to children!"

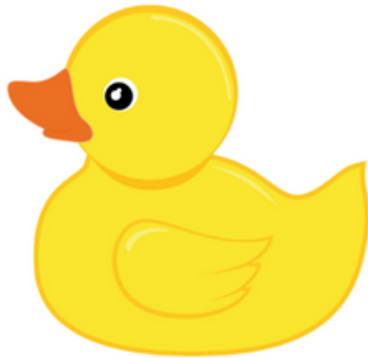
# Things that Begin with "d"



dog



drum



duck



door



dolls



dancing





EARS FOR ART

# Theme for the Week



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

### *Activities for "My Special Pals"*

**Materials Needed:** Index cards, finger paints, white construction paper, green crayons, paste, ribbon, photo sample for Art (provided), paper flowers for Math (provided), basket, clean pair of socks

#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES



Tell the children that the weekend coming up is a time to celebrate special people in their lives. It is special to have special pals that might be family or friends. Ask them who they enjoy going to play with on a playground? Pretend to climb on a slide while saying the name of this special pal. Who do they like to read them a story at home? Pretend to hold a book while saying the name of this special pal. Who do they get excited about when They come to their home for a visit? Pretend to open a door while saying the name of this special pal. Chant: Friends or family. I am blessed to have pals all around me.

#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### My Special Rhyming Pal

In advance, write on five separate index cards: "ig." On separate index cards, write, the letters, b, d, j, p, and w. Give one card to each child. The children with single letters stand next to a child with "ig" to see what word it makes. Name the rhyming pals: big, dig, jig, pig and wig. Repeat with "at," and the separate letters, b, c, h, m, and p to make the rhyming pals: bat, cat, hat, mat and pat.

#### FUN ART

##### Special Flowers for Special Pals

Children make a few handprints in the center of white construction paper to become flowers in a bouquet. Each handprint should be a different color. Then color green stems coming off of each handprint flower. Tie a bow with colored ribbon and paste it on the bundled stems to make a bouquet. Save for Music today. See photo sample (provided) as a guide.

#### MATH

##### Basket Full of Flowers

Place ten paper flowers (provided) in a basket. Say, "There are 10 flowers in the basket. One will go to Jordan's mom. How many flowers are there now?" Count the remaining nine flowers. Then say, "There are 9 flowers in the basket. One will go to Casey's grandmother. How many flowers are there now?" Count the remaining eight flowers. Continue counting down to zero by naming the paper flowers for the special pals of the children. Then children match pairs of the flowers.

#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant Teacher, I Love You Children hold their paper bouquets from Art today and chant:  
I made special flowers for my special pal. They're tied into a bouquet to wish her a special day.  
I will give her 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."





PHOTO SAMPLE FOR ART ACTIVITY



**PAPER FLOWERS FOR MATH**

# Theme for the Week



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

### *Activities for "Mother's Day is Special"*

**Materials Needed:** Lowercase tactile d and "Things I love about my ..." (provided), crayons, dark construction paper, have children bring empty food boxes and washed out food containers to be the play groceries for Math, large shoe box with a mirror inside of it (See video provided) for Social Skills)



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Explain to the children that Sunday is a special holiday called Mother's Day. Tell them they get to celebrate anyone who "mothers" them. Explain that "mothering" is anyone who helps them if they are hurt, shows them love, plays with them, and gets them drinks and food. Have them share the name of anyone who mothers them. Is it their mommy, aunt, grandma, special pal, etc.? Chant: There are people who take good care of me. I will say, "Thank you. You make me happy."



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

"Mothers and Special Pals are d-d-dear"

Tell the children that they learned the sound "d-d-d" this week. Show them the tactile lowercase d. Say, your mothers/special pals are d-d-dear to you. mothers/special pals. Give them the "Things I love about my \_\_\_\_" paper (provided). Have each child take turns telling you what they love about their mothers/special pals, and write down on their sheet those things. Then have them color the heart to take home to their "d-d-dear" mothers/special pal.



#### FUN ART

You Are My Sunshine Sun Prints

Give children a sheet of dark construction paper. They draw a picture of the sun on it. Put it outside on a sunny day and the sun will fade the dark part of the paper in 3-5 hours, and their sun print will stand out. Write across the top of each child's paper: You are my sunshine. They take it home to give as a gift to their mothers/special pals.



#### MATH

Sorting and Counting Groceries

Have children bring empty and washed out (as needed) food containers such as a box of cereal, orange juice jug, soup can, etc. Children place all of the grocery items in a sack. Take them out and count each item. Which goes in the pantry and which need to go in the refrigerator? Then sort them all from tallest to shortest.



#### 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

"Who's that Special Person?"

Tell them that their mom or their special pal is someone that is special to them. Then show them a box. (Inside the box, you have a mirror.) Have the children come up one at a time, and say, "Who's that special person in the classroom?" They look in the box and see themselves. Look at the cute reactions children had when MaryIn brought a mirror to the classroom for the teacher to use.

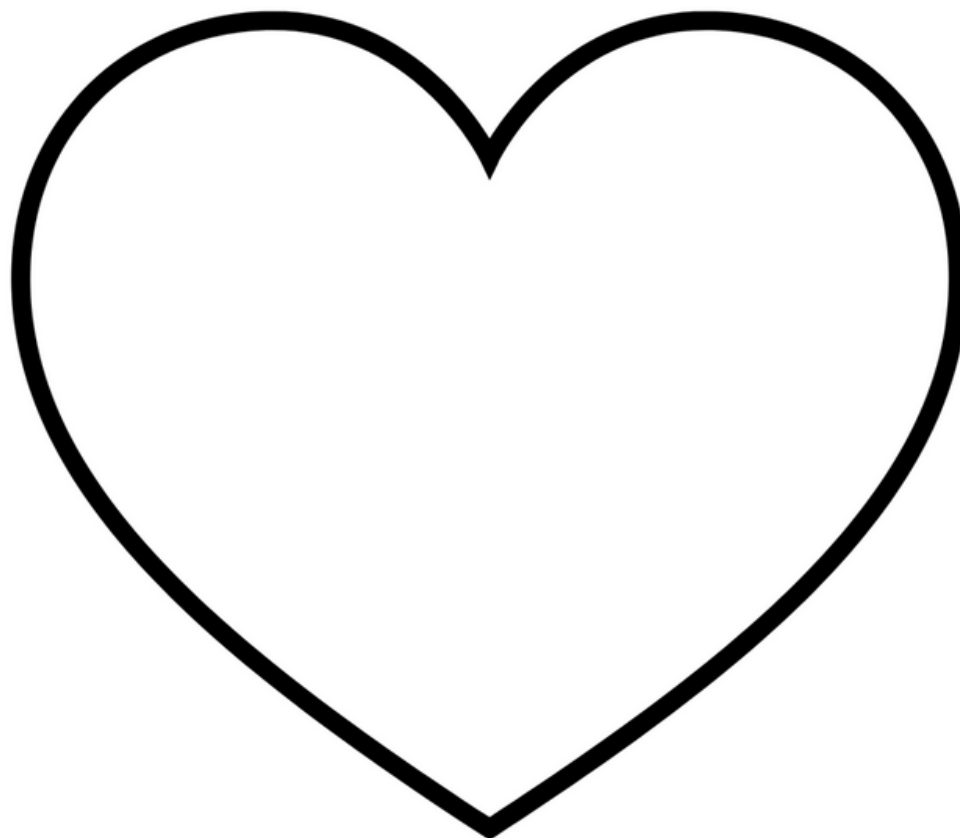
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/MnzQy1b44eI> Tell them to be sure to tell the person at home that is special, "You are special to me."

"Children need to be nurtured and protected."

Things I love about my



\_\_\_\_\_





# Theme for the Week



## Transportation

### *Activities for "Cars"*

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of cars (provided), chart paper, magnetic letters, paper plates, non-toxic washable paints, white construction paper, lots of toy cars



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Ask children to share how they came to school (early childhood center) today. Was it in a car, bus or train? How many came in a car? Show them pictures of cars (provided). Point out that cars have four wheels. Most cars have two or four doors. They raise their hands if their car has two doors or four doors. Tell them that cars transport (move) them from one place to another. All week they will learn about different types of transportation. Cars transport them on land. Chant: The wheels on my car went round and round and brought me to our child care playground!



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### Let's Rhyme Car

Write CAR on chart paper in large print. Children take turns covering up the letter C with magnetic letters. Make a list of real words that rhyme with car: bar, far, jar, and star. Draw a picture of each word. Children stand up and pretend to drive a car. They chant: I want to drive my car far. Can my car drive to a star?



#### FUN ART

##### Tire Track Art

Pour non-toxic washable 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

##### Wheels on a Car

Line up several toy cars. Count the wheels on each car. Place the number four on a card in front of each car. How many wheels on two cars? Count from one to eight. Say, "4+4=8?" How many wheels on three cars? Count from one to twelve. Say, "4 + 4 + 4 = 12." Children can also sort cars by color.

#### 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

##### Drive By Compliments

Children sit in a circle. One child starts by giving a compliment to a friend.

Child C and gives a compliment/kind word. Play continues until all children have received a drive by compliment. Chant: We can give kind words any time on any day to anyone.

"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:** Pictures of trucks (provided), lowercase tactile e, pictures of things that begin with e (provided), d (make 2 more copies that are cut out for children to match on a tray), ) toy trucks, rice cakes, blueberries (you can also add peanut butter, yogurt, or cream cheese) for Art; (Always double check for food allergies when using food.) Cardboard or cookie sheet, masking tape, paper plates for Music, red and green paper



### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Explain to children that another type of transportation is a truck. There are several types of trucks. Some have four wheels, and some have up to 18 wheels! Show them pictures of different types of trucks. Which one is their favorite? Tell them trucks transport people and objects. For example, dump trucks transport sand. Fire trucks transport firemen and water. Trucks drive on land like cars. Chant: Driving a big truck. I hope the big wheels do not get stuck!



### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

#### "The Letter "e"

Show the children the lowercase tactile e. Tell them the sounds it makes and have them make the sounds with you. (The letter e can sound like e in elephant or e like in eat.) Point out things that are in the room that begin with "e-e-e." Show them cut apart pictures of things that begin with e-e-e (provided). Which ones begin with the long e (ear, eagle)? Which ones begin with short e (egg, elephant)? Put the pictures on a small tray for them to practice sounding out the short and long e's.

### FUN ART

#### Making Our Own Tasty Trucks

Children wash their hands well. Give each child a rice cake on a paper plate. Tell them that it is a pretend truck, and that it needs wheels. Give each child a small bowl of blueberries. They place the blueberries on the "truck-rice cake," and then count how many pretend wheels they have. Then they eat their homemade snack. (Note, you can also use peanut butter or yogurt or cream cheese as icing before they put the blueberries on.) Note: Be careful of allergies.

### MATH

#### Trucks on Ramps

Set up a small ramp in the classroom with card board, cookie sheet, etc. Show children a toy truck. They guess how far the truck will go once it goes down the ramp. Mark their guesses with masking tape on the floor. Place the toy truck on top of the ramp and let it ride down. Which guess was closest to the actual stopping place? Continue with different toy trucks.

### 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.

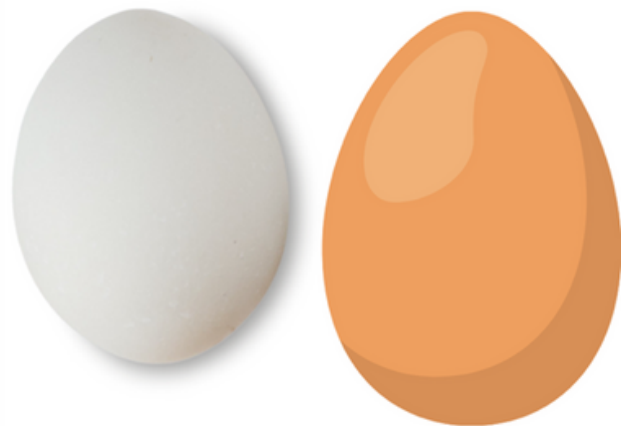
They stop rolling their cars or trucks and place them in their laps. Play several rounds. Give each child a turn to call red light and green light too. Chant: Red means stop and green means go. We are great listeners.

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

# Things that Begin with "e"



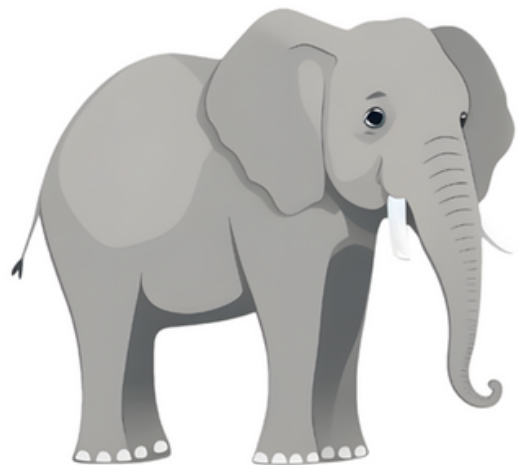
ear



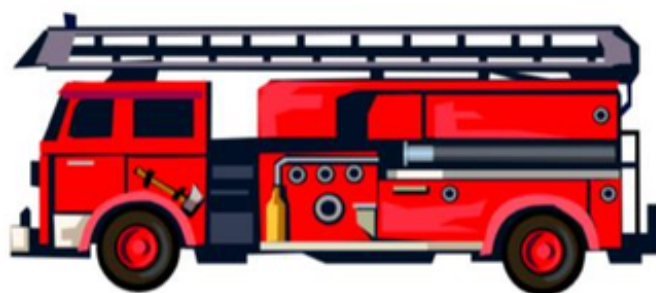
eggs



eagle



elephant



PHOTOS FOR CIRCLE TIME



# Theme for the Week



## Transportation

### *Activities for "Planes/Helicopters"*

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of an airplane and helicopter (provided), index card with each child's name on it for literacy, craft sticks, non-toxic paints, paste, blue construction paper, cotton balls, plain paper, masking tape, tape measure



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Remind the children that cars and trucks on land. Say, "Sometimes people travel in the sky. There is transportation in the sky. Is it a bird?" No. Birds fly in the sky, but people cannot ride on them. Show them pictures of an airplane and a helicopter (provided). Say, "Airplanes and helicopters fly in the sky. They are air transportation." Children share if they have ever ridden or seen an airplane or helicopter. Point out the wings on the airplane and the propellers on the helicopter. Children lift their arms in the air pretending to be an airplane. Chant: Airplanes and helicopters fly in the sky.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### "Flying Sounds"

Show the children the lowercase tactile e. Remind them of the two different sounds the "e-e-e" makes. Then give them each an index card with their first name printed on it. Have them look for "e-e-e" on their index card. If they see one, they pretend the card is an airplane and fly around the room, making the sound of "e-e-e." Do the same thing for other letters sounds they have learned until all children have had a turn.



#### 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. Measure the distance with a tape measure. How far did it fly? Repeat with each child having a turn to fly the paper airplane.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

##### All Aboard the Airplane and Helicopter

Set up chairs to resemble seating on an airplane. Show children to a seat. They pretend to buckle up, and you sit in a pilot's chair. Pretend to fly them around. They look out pretend windows to see trees, streets, cars, etc. Then rearrange the chairs to resemble seating on a helicopter. Fewer children can sit in the helicopter. They take turns going on a pretend ride with you. They cover their ears because helicopters are much louder than airplanes.



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

##### Flying With Me (Getting to Know Each Other)

Children share if they would prefer to fly in a plane or a helicopter and why. Ask them which animal they would bring on their flight if they could bring an animal. Name animals that can fly like butterflies, birds, etc. Name animals that cannot fly like pigs and cows. Ask where they would fly to in a plane or helicopter.

"Children soar into success with structure and love."



PHOTOS FOR CIRCLE TIME

# Theme for the Week



## Transportation

### *Activities for "Trains"*

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of train and train tracks (provided), lowercase tactile e, Match words with "e" to pictures (provided), small tray, paste, train track lines to cut (provided), safety scissors, toy trains, numbered cards, masking tape, crayons or markers



### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell children that another type of land transportation is a train. Show them a picture of a train (provided). Explain that a train does not travel on roads like cars and trucks.

Trains travel on tracks. Show them a picture of train tracks (provided). Explain that the wheels of the train lock onto the rails and follow the path of the track. Has anyone ever been on a train? Children chant: Chug a, chug a, choo choo. Trains can transport me and you!



### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

"Matching words with "e" to Pictures

Laminate and pre-cut the matching words with e to pictures. Show the children the lowercase tactile "e." Remind the children of the 2 different sounds it can make. Then show them one of the words like "net." Have them sound out the word. Show them the 4 pictures, and ask them which one matches the word. Continue doing this until the children have matched each picture with the correct word. Mix up and turn over the words and pictures and have them take turns matching them. Put them on a tray in the literacy center so they can do it.

### FUN ART

Cutting Along the Track

Children cut out train tracks by following along the track lines (provided). They paste their cut out tracks onto colored construction paper. Last, they drive a toy train on the tracks and/or make a train out of a small rectangle paper and paste onto the tracks.

### MATH

The Number Train

Give each child a numbered card to be a train ticket. Make a train track around the room using masking tape. One child is the conductor and says, "Number One board the train please." The child with the number one ticket hands their numbered card to the conductor and follows him/her on the track. They stop and say, "Numbers two and three board the train please." The two children with numbers two and three join the train. Continue until all children are on the train in numerical order.



### 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

Triad Train (Working Together)

Three children stand in a line with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them to form a train of three people. They move around the room and chant: We are a train of three. We are as kind can be. Please stop and wave with me. They stop and wave to observing friends. Then a new group of three children have a turn. Play until all children have been a part of a Triad Train.



"Teachers help children stay on track."

## Match words with "e"

**net**



**vet**



**wet**



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**bed**

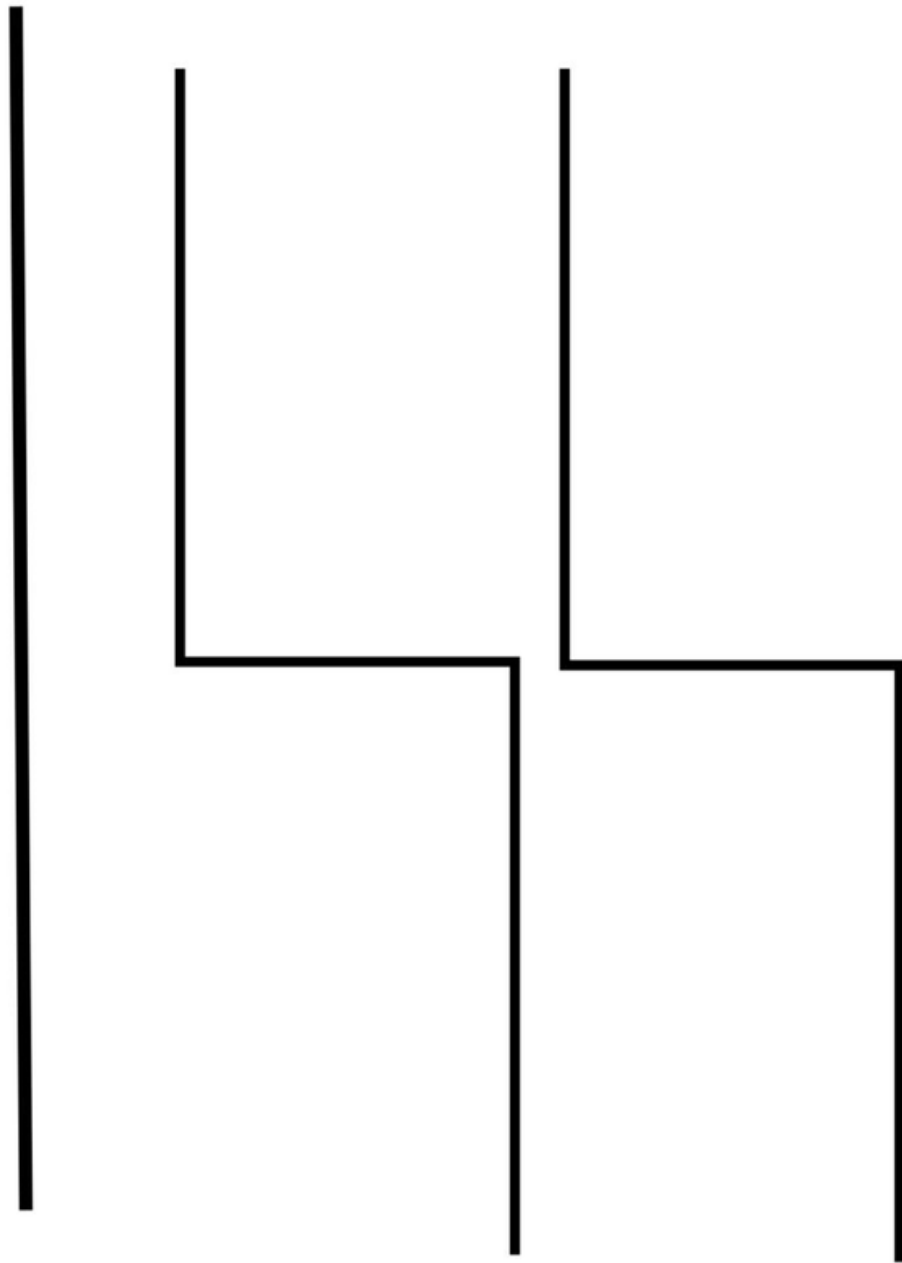






PHOTOS FOR CIRCLE TIME





TRACK LINES FOR ART

# Theme for the Week



## Transportation

### *Activities for "Boats/Ships"*

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of boats and a ship (provided), cake pan of water, magnetic letters or homemade cut out pieces of paper with letters on them, foil, play dough, plain paper, crayons, various items to test if they sink or float



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell the children that they have learned about traveling on land and in the air. Ask, "What about the water? Can people and objects be transported in the water? Fish are in the water. Are they transportation?" No. Show them pictures of boats and a ship (provided). Explain that boats and ships are types of water transportation. They come in small sizes to super large sizes. Has anyone ever been on a boat or ship before? Which is bigger, a boat or a ship? A ship. Chant: You can float on a boat. You can take a long trip on a ship.



#### 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 each with letters sounds they have learned. Call out different letter sounds. They find the sound and put it in their boats. Call out simple words, and they each make the word with the magnetic letters or paper letters in their boats. Use 3 letter words like bag, big, beg, bed, etc.



#### FUN ART

Making boats

Children use foil to make a boat shape. Next, they make a boat out of play dough. Test if they will float during Math today. They draw a person or animal on a small piece of paper. Cut it out and place it in the boat to float too.



#### 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. Also test their foil boats and play dough boats from Art today.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Row Your Boat and Sail Your Ship (tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat") Row, row, row your boat. Gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream. Sail, sail, sail your ship. Quickly down the stream. Happily, happily, happily, happily, life is but a dream. Float, float, float your boats. Calmly in the stream. Joyfully, joyfully, joyfully, joyfully, friends are but a dream. (Point and smile at friends.)



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

Which Vehicle Am I? (Listening, Observing, Taking Turns)

Children take turns playing Transportation Charades. One child at a time pretends to be a car, truck, plane, helicopter, train, boat or ship. The other children guess. They clap for each other. After all children have a turn, they chant: It is fun to play with friends.

"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 and/or a picture of a baseball (provided), paper baseballs (provided), cream cheese, rice cakes, washed and sliced strawberries, each child brings a ball to child care to share, several baseballs, heavy white paper, masking tape, large basket (laundry basket will work) (Note: Always be careful of food allergies.)



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children a real baseball and/or a picture of a baseball (provided). Ask them to name the ball and its colors. Who has played t-ball before? What else do you need to play besides a baseball? Glove, bat and helmet. Talk about what happens when a player hits the ball. Where do they run? Chant: Take me out to the ball game.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### Baseball Letter Memory

Put 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.



#### FUN ART

##### Yummy Baseballs

Wash hands thoroughly. Children spread cream cheese on two circle rice cakes or bread pre-cut in a circle shape. Then they place sliced strawberries as two arcs to resemble a baseball. Use the picture from Circle Time as a guide for strawberry placement. Send home to eat and enjoy with their family and keep one to eat at child care. (Caution: Always double check for food allergies.)



#### MATH

##### Ball Sort

Children bring a ball from home to share for the day. Put all of the balls, along with several baseballs, in a basket. They sort the balls by type. How many baseballs?

Which ball group is the biggest? Smallest? Sort the balls by size from largest to smallest. Count how many balls altogether.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

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

I'll be catching all the baseballs from the air.

I'll be catching all the baseballs from the air.

I'll be catching all the baseballs, catching all the baseballs, I'll be catching all the baseballs from the air. (Other Verses: Hitting all the baseballs from the tee; Throwing all the baseballs to my friend, etc.)



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

##### Baseball Toss (Working Together, Taking Turns)

Pair children and go outside. Each pair gets a homemade baseball. (Crumble heavy white paper and wrap masking tape around it a few times.) They stand close together and toss the ball back and forth. They say, "Way to go!" They each take a step backward and toss again. Continue until they are standing a long distance from each other, and still able to toss back and forth. Chant: We can play with our friends. Friends make playing ball more fun!

"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:** A real baseball and/or a picture of a baseball (provided), paper baseballs (provided), cream cheese, rice cakes, washed and sliced strawberries, each child brings a ball to child care to share, several baseballs, heavy white paper, masking tape, large basket (laundry basket will work)



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell children that some games can be played alone, with two players, four players, etc.

Explain that the game of baseball needs nine players on the field. There are usually more players waiting their turn to play who are also part of the team. Explain that being part of any team means helping the other players, working together and cheering for each other. Tell them that they are on the same child care team - all the children in class are part of a friend and learning team. Show them pictures of a baseball team and a team in a huddle (provided). Make an arm huddle like the picture with the children. Chant: We are team players!



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

How to Be a Team Player

Make a list on chart paper of children's comments on how to be a team player where everyone helps each other. (Example: speak kindly, help others, share, cheer, try hard, etc.) Give each child a piece of plain paper. They draw a picture of themselves being a team player helping classmates. Write on each paper what the child is doing in the picture. Staple all of the pages together to make a class book. Read it to the class and send home for their families to read it too.



#### FUN ART

Team Players on the Field

Place a large piece of green butcher paper on the floor. Draw a large baseball diamond on the green paper. Children color their shape players from Math today. Paste the shape team players on the green butcher paper. Be sure to place in positions for 1st base, 2 base, shortstop, etc.

#### MATH

Shape Player (Shape Review)

Place the following pre-cut shapes (provided) in an envelope for each child: circle, square, two short rectangles, two longer rectangles. Review the names and attributes of each shape. Children make different designs with the shapes. After exploring, they make a person with the shapes. Paste the pieces onto paper in the shape of a person. Save for Art today.

#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Chant and Act Out Stand Big and Tall

Look at me stand big and tall. (Stand on tip toes.) I 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 my cheering scream! (Everyone shouts "Hurray!")

#### SOCIAL SKILLS

Team Spirit Huddle (Working Together)

Show children the team huddle picture again as shared during Circle Time. Have them notice the team is standing in a circle with all hands in the middle. Children stand and make a huddle like the picture. Once all hands are in the middle, chant: We are a team.

We are great! They throw their hands in the air, step back and say, "Yay!" Repeat several times. Children take turns saying something positive about the class.

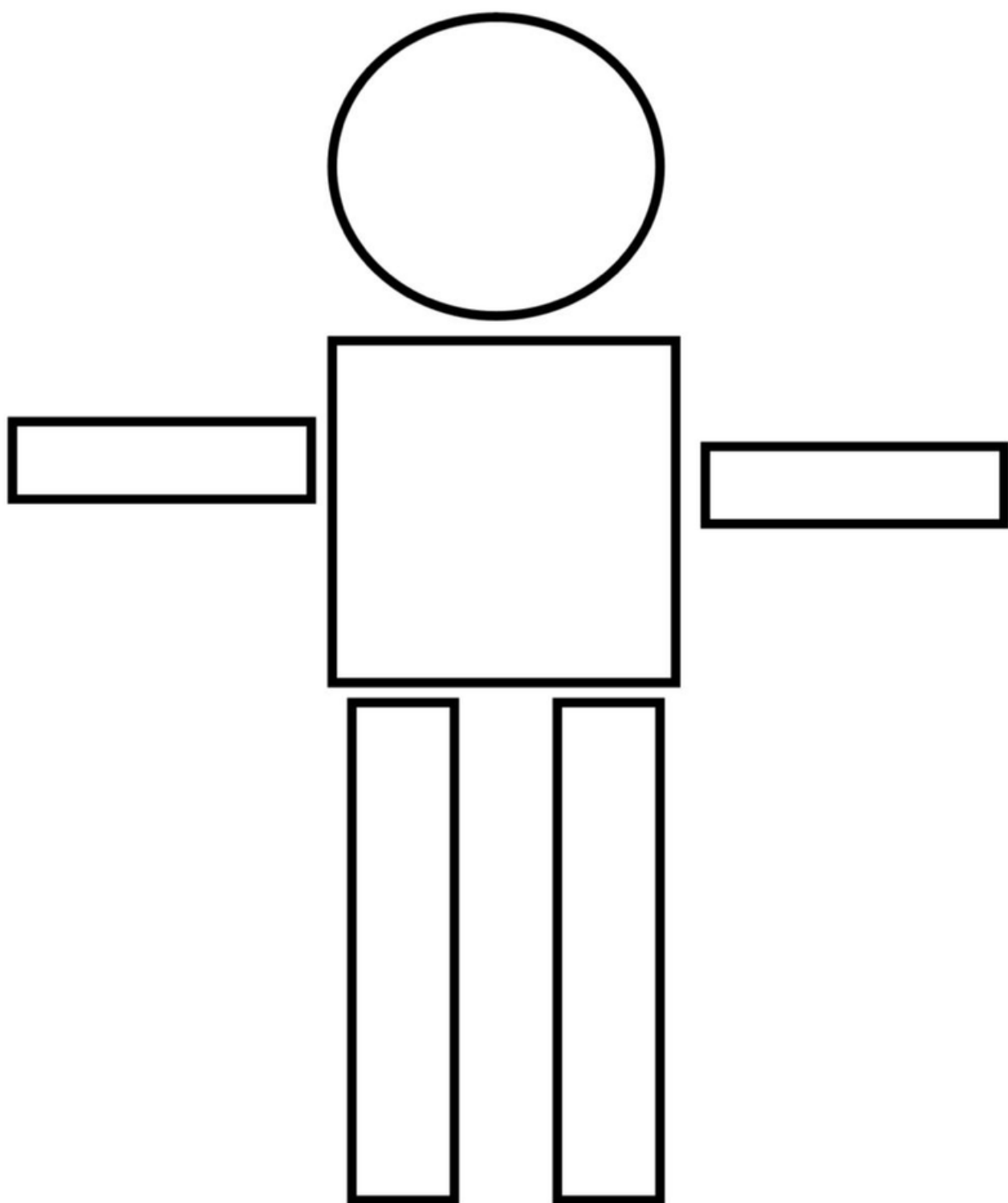
"Teachers can create positive team energy in the class room."







PICTURES FOR CIRCLE TIME



SHAPES FOR MATH

# Theme for the Week



## Play Ball

### *Activities for "Running Bases"*

**Materials Needed:** Lowercase tactile j, child sized jacket, pictures of home plate and a baseball field (provided), pre-cut black circle (Welcome kit), and white and red non-toxic paints



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children a picture of a baseball field (provided). Explain that in the game of baseball you stand at home plate to hit the ball. Home plate is similar to the shape of a house. Show them a picture (provided). After hitting the ball you run to first, second, third bases and back to home plate. Children chant: First, second and third base. Then back to home plate.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### The Letter j

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter j. Say, "This is 'j-j-j,'" Have children make the sound. Then show them the tactile letter i that they learned. Have them say i-i-i. Ask them what's different? Talk about how they both have dots. The j-j-j is longer and has curves at the bottom. Then tell them that "jacket begins with j-j-j." Have them take turns tracing and holding the "j." Then pass around a jacket. The children each say, "j-j-jacket."



#### 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 nontoxic paint. Then they make red lines on the baseball with red fingerprints using red non-toxic paint.



#### MATH

##### Ordering Objects

Remind children that they hit a baseball at home plate and then run to first base. Next is second base. Then third base. They say, "First, second and third base. That's the order of running bases." Line up three children. They name the child first in line, second in line and third in line. Give all children a turn to be in line. Then line up three objects such as a book, toy car and stuffed animal. Ask, "Which object is second?" The toy car. Continue with more questions.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

##### Run and Chant Run the Bases

Children go outside. In advance, set up a baseball diamond with home plate and bases. Children take turns running the bases. They all chant: Stand at home plate. Hitting the ball is great. Run to first, then second. Third base is next and now home plate. Yay! We did it.



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

##### Walk the Classroom

Explain to children that hands are time. Listen to the sound of feet. Say, "Did you hear my feet? No, because my feet were so quiet when I walked. Now it's your turn." Children take turns walking quietly one foot at a time around the classroom. Praise children for walking quietly.

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





**HOME PLATE AND BASEBALL FIELD FOR CIRCLE TIME**

# Theme for the Week



## Play Ball

### *Activities for "Cheering for Our Team"*

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of cheerleaders (provided), masking tape, two large sheets of paper each with a "j" written on it, several pieces of colored tissue paper, safety scissors, paper towel tubes, triangle pieces (provided), tape, two baseballs, stapler



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Explain to children that many sports teams have cheerleaders. They often wear matching clothes and have pom-poms. Anyone can also be a cheerleader. People watching the game cheer for the team by yelling positive words like "Yay. Go team go. You can do it." Show children pictures of cheerleaders (provided). Chant: Yay for our class. We are great. We can do anything, yes we can!



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Walking Forward and Backward to "j-j-j"

Place a long line of masking tape on the floor. At each end of the masking tape have a large sheet of paper that has "j-j-j" written on it. Children walk the line moving forward and say, "I'm trying my best to walk forward to the j-j-j. Then they stop and walk backwards. As they walk backward, they say, "I am trying my best to walk backward to "j-j-j." Children cheer for each other. Lastly, they sit with a partner and roll a ball backward and forward.

#### FUN ART

Homemade Pompoms

Give each child two colors of tissue paper. They 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 pom-pom.

#### MATH

Make a Diamond Shape

Remind children that a baseball field is in the shape of a diamond. They will make their own diamond shape. Help children trace and cut out two triangles (provided). Help them tape their two triangles together to make a diamond. Number the corners; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Home.

#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Baseball Relay

Line up children in two lines. The first person in each line passes a baseball under their legs to the next person. The last one in line takes the ball and goes to the front and starts again. They cheer for each other.

#### SOCIAL SKILLS

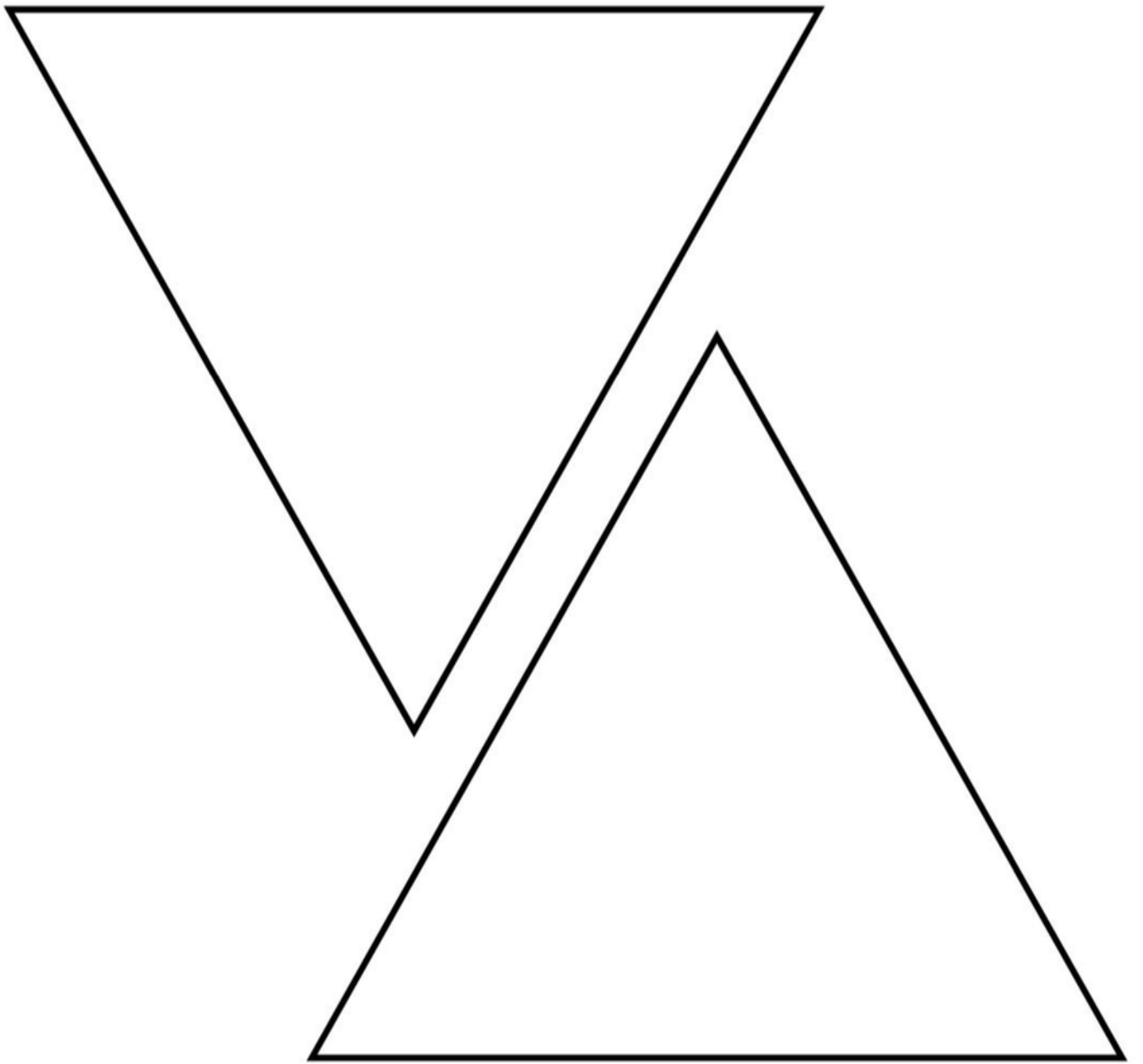
Let's Celebrate You (Cheering for Each Other)

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."



PICTURES FOR CIRCLE TIME



PICTURES FOR MATH

# Theme for the Week



## Play Ball

### *Activities for "Trying Hard" and Memorial Day*

**Materials Needed:** Have children bring an old baseball cap to class, Things that begin with the letter j (provided), make 2 more copies that are cut out for children to match on a tray), paste, foil, cotton balls, red, white and blue decorations like colored pompom balls, plain paper, crayons, red, white, and blue sheets of paper, stapler, picture of the USA flag



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Tell children that next week on Monday, there is a special holiday named Memorial Day. Explain that the word memorial means to remember. Tell them it is a day to remember all of the brave people who help keep all of them safe. There are soldiers that go all over the world to keep the USA safe. Show them the flag of the USA , and point out the colors. They "always try hard." They work their hardest to do their best. Sometimes you have something that's hard but you do your best too. Chant, "Try, try, try. Always try your hardest and do your best."



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

Things that Begin with j

Explain to children that their smart brains help them remember people, places, and thing. Tell them you are going to give them something new to remember today. Show them the pictures of things that begin with the sound j. Tell them what each one is. "jar, jacket, jeans, juice, jump, jam., 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 j-j-j 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.

(Note: If you are open on Monday, have the children bring their caps to wear on Memorial Day for Music. If you are not open, have them take the hats home.)



#### MATH

Patriotic Color Hunt

Pass red, white, or blue paper to each child. Children find all the objects in the room that are the color they received. If possible, they bring the objects to the circle. Say the name of the color. Count how many red objects, blue objects, etc. How many blue and red altogether? How many white and red altogether?



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

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

Introduce the song by telling the children they can catch all the baseballs because they "try hard." I'll remember all the soldiers who try hard, who try hard I'll remember all the soldiers who try hard, who try hard I'll remember all the soldiers who try hard I'll remember all the soldiers, helping the USA I'll remember all the soldiers who try hard



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

If I were a USA Flag Color...(Learning About Each Other)

Children take turns answering the statement, "If I were a USA Flag color, I would be..." Tell children that the colors of the USA flag are red, white and blue. Show them again a picture of the USA flag (provided). Have them each choose and hold one of those colors they would choose to be. After all have shared, they chant, We tried hard to choose colors. We try hard every day to be kind. We are a wonderful class.

"Never give up on a child."



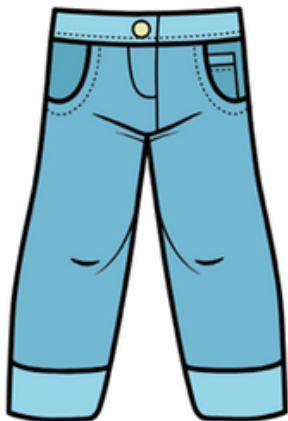
# Things that Begin with "j"



jar



jacket



jeans



juice



jump



jam



# 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 flowers in grass (provided), green construction paper, crayons photo samples for Literacy and Art (provided), plastic forks, green non-toxic paint, lima beans



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Show children pictures of flowers growing in the grass (provided). Say, "We often see flowers growing in the grass. Grass is several leaves all together. They create a green, grassy area." Take children on a walk outside and have them look closely at the grass growing. Chant: Grass is green. It is a plant, too.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

**In the Grass I Can See**

Fold a piece of green construction paper so that 1/3 of the bottom is turned upward and cut to resemble grass. See photo sample (provided). Write across the top, "In the grass I can see \_\_\_\_\_."

Write down each child's response. Point to each word as you repeat the sentence with the children. Children draw a picture of what they see in the grass such as a flower, ladybug, cat, ball, 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. Then they trace over their name by dipping their forks in the green paint and then over the letters. See photo sample (provided).



#### MATH

**Green for Grass**

Place a variety of colored counters in a large bowl. Children sort them by color.

Count how many green counters total. Hide them in the grass outside and children hunt for them. Be sure to tell them how many they are looking for total. (Example: They are looking for 15 green teddy bear counters. Number ahead a piece of paper 1 - 15. As one counter is found they place it on the number one and so forth until all 15 numbers are covered.)



#### 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

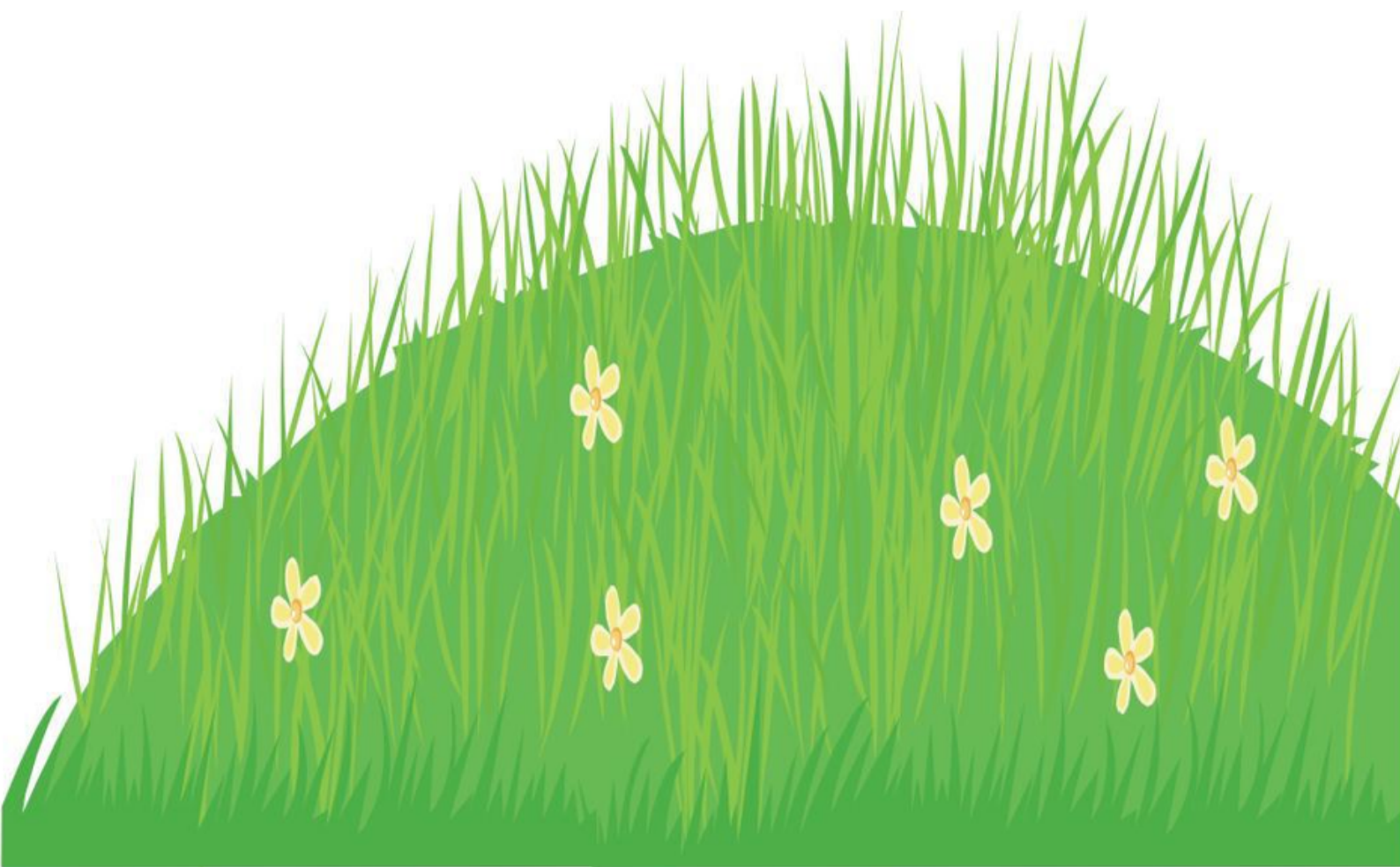
**Sprinkle Seeds of Kindness**

Tell children that you want to sprinkle kind words (like water) onto them. Give each child a compliment.

Then children take turns handing their partners a bean seed and giving a compliment to their partner. Tell children that just like the seeds grow with water and sunshine, they grow with kind words. Chant: Kind words help us grow into kind-er kids. You can add these bean seeds to their cups from Day 1 when you spray with water today.)

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





**GRASSY PICTURES FOR CIRCLE TIME**

In the grass I can see .....

Someone Kicking a ball.



SAMPLE FOR LITERACY ACTIVITY



Children use fork to make grass strokes to write their name.

**SAMPLE FOR ART ACTIVITY**



# Theme for the Week



## Gifts of Spring

### *Activities for "Spring Art"*

**Materials Needed:** Crayons to sharpen for shavings, cheese grater, child-safe sharpeners, white construction paper, lowercase tactile k for Literacy, masking tape, watercolors



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Place crayons, paints and paper in the center of the circle. Have children tell you what the objects in the circle are used for. Painting, drawing, coloring, creating and doing art. Say, "Art is a beautiful and fun thing you get to do at school. I love receiving art and watching each of you create art." Give each child an index card and one crayon. Have them do a quick art sketch of their choice and take turns sharing.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### The Letter k

Show the children the tactile lowercase letter j. Say, "This is 'k-k-k,'" Have children make the sound. Talk about what it looks like. Pass it around so the children can trace it. Then tell them that "kids begins with k-k-k." Look for things in the class that begin with k. Tell them there's an animal that's called a k-k-k. It's a k-k-kangaroo. Kangaroos like to j-j-jump. Have the children stand up and jump and chant. K-k-kangaroos like to j-j-jump." I can j-j-jump too.



#### FUN ART

##### Crayon Shaving Spring Art

Have spring-colored crayons like soft yellow, baby pink, and blue. Children use child-safe sharpeners to practice fine motor skills sharpening crayons to create crayon shavings. (You can use a cheese grater to make the crayon shavings ahead to help speed up the shaving process while they are sharpening.). Have them paint paste onto construction paper. Then children sprinkle the colors onto the paper making a spring art drawing.



#### MATH

##### Counting Colored Strokes

Children count out ten short strips of masking tape as they place them on paper in any design they choose. Then they make watercolor strokes on the paper painting over the tape and paper. Have them count each stroke. Let the art work dry. Then carefully remove the tape to enjoy a neat design.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

##### The Springtime Dance

Tell children that it's springtime, and time to do the springtime dance. Sing aloud, "It's springtime. Let's do the springtime dance." Call out, "Bunny hop," (They hop like bunnies) Bird Dance (They flap their wings up high.) Sprinklers (They move their hands like a sprinkler.) Flower Dance (They move their hands up growing from the ground.) Watch on YouTube and follow our friend Jack Hartmann do it at this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWgoYgaxQ0E>



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

##### The Hand of My Teacher

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 telling how they like you to help them. (Example: I like your help tying my shoe. I like your help opening my snack, etc.)

# Theme for the Week



## Gifts of Spring

### *Activities for "Picnic Time"*

**Materials Needed:** Lowercase tactile k, picture of things that begin with k (provided), and make 2 more copies that are cut out for children to match on a tray), blanket, basket with paper plates, spoons, forks, and napkins, enough so there is one for each child for Math, flat white sheet, non-toxic and washable paints, a couple of your favorite foods like a banana in a lunch bag for Social Skills



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Set up a blanket with picnic foods on it. Have children tell you what is in the center of the circle. Ask if anyone has ever had a picnic before. Where? Who with? Tell children that they will all get to enjoy a "May Picnic" lunch with you today. Chant: We "re going on a picnic. Yummy foods we will pick. Eating as a bunch. With our teacher and friends we will lunch.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

The Letter k

Show them the tactile lowercase k. Have them take turns tracing it. Show them the pictures of things that begin with the sound k. Tell them what each one is: kitten, kangaroo, kids. Have them say each say the words. Have 2 more sheets of the pictures of the things that begin with k 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 k-k-k sound. Put them on a tray for children to use.



#### FUN ART

Picnic Cloth

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



#### MATH

Counting Picnic Items

Have prepared ahead enough for each child in the class. Example: If you have 12 children, have 12 paper plates, 12 spoons, 12 forks, and 12 napkins all in a basket. Have children help you spread a blanket outside if the weather is nice, or indoors if it is raining. Then they remove the items in the basket so they are in a pile. They count and sort them into different piles like all the paper plates in one pile, spoons in another, etc. Then have them count how many there are altogether. Have them play games taking away 5 and seeing how many are left, or 10, etc.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Love Our Friends (tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Love, love, love our friends. (Blow kisses to a friend.)

Yes, oh yes we do.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, so special -- that's you! (Point to a friend.)



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

Teacher Lunch Bag (Learning About the Teacher)

Place an item in a lunch bag that is one of your favorite lunch foods.

Describe the item and have children guess what it is. Repeat with different items. (Ex: Place a banana in the bag. Say, "It is yellow. I eat it for a snack or part of my lunch. It is yellow. What is it?")

"Relax and reflect on your blessings daily."





## Things that Begin with “k”



**kitten**



**kangaroo**

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**kids**



**PHOTO SAMPLE FOR ART ACTIVITY**

# Theme for the Week



## Gifts of Spring

### *Activities for "Spring Showtime"*

**Materials Needed:** Basket with all the magnetic letters the children have learned, paper, crayons, paper grocery sack for each child, non-toxic paint and paintbrushes, yarn, paste, two colors of construction paper



#### CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

Sing and dance for the children. Choose a song they know well and have them sing along with you the second time. Then have them stand and dance with you for a third singing. Chant: Singing and dancing creates a special show. With our teacher we learn and grow.



#### LANGUAGE-LITERACY

##### "It's Showtime with Sounds"

Have a basket of magnetic letter sounds that the children know. Children take turns reaching into the basket and taking out one of the sounds. They skip or hop or jump "making a show" while saying the sound. Before, they each have a turn, the children chant: It's showtime, showtime, showtime. The child takes the turn, and then afterwards, the children all clap for the child and say, Yay!



#### FUN ART

##### Showtime Props

Children make teacher wigs to use during Social Skills today. Cut out the front section of a paper grocery sack. They paste yarn on for hair, cut the top part of the bag to become bangs, paint the bag, etc.



#### MATH

##### Paper Chain Stage

Children use alternating colors of construction paper strips to make a long chain. Discuss the repeating pattern with them. Count how many of each color and how many altogether. Then use it to mark the stage area for Social Skills today.



#### MUSIC-MOVEMENT

Sing Teacher, We Love You (tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Teacher, Teacher, we love you. Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes we do!

You are fun and oh, so sweet. We're so glad we got to meet.

Teacher, Teacher, we thank you. Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes we do!



#### SOCIAL SKILLS

##### My Teacher Shows Me.....

Children wear their teacher wigs made in Art today. They take turns pretending to be the teacher and "teach" the class something the teacher has taught them, such as how to sit in a circle, put away blocks, push in a chair, etc.

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