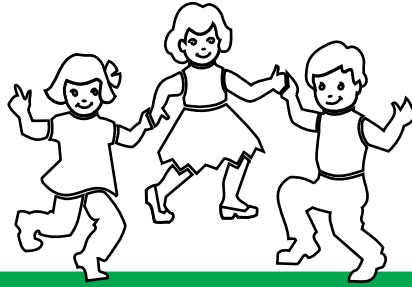


The Daily Format



Welcome Warm-up (15 minutes, independent activity)

Directions and downloadable print materials are provided as needed for this daily theme-related activity that children do independently as they wait for classmates to arrive.

Circle Time (15 minutes)

The class gathers together in a circle. Activity directions, song lyrics and downloadable print materials are provided. The theme day follows a routine:

1. Silly Song Transition, invites children to come together and start the day.
2. Theme Talk, builds foundation for learning.
3. Calendar, reinforces number awareness.
4. Weather Watch, encourages thinking skills.
5. Game, stimulates imagination, builds auditory skills.

Exploration Stations (60 minutes, small group or individual activity)

Directions are given for setting up a variety of exploration stations. These should be added to the children's usual independent play stations. The exploration stations should remain for several days after the theme week, giving children a chance to explore them all and revisit favorites.

Build-a-Snack snack time (15 minutes)

Recipes and ideas are given for child created, theme-related snacks for the day.

Discovery Corner (15 minutes)

Children's questions are the jumping-off point for an exploration into the natural world around them. This interdisciplinary project-based activity uses simple, no-cost, or inexpensive supplies.

Fun Games (30 minutes)

Children gather together during this active time to participate in lively theme-related songs, dances and games.

Story Circle (30 minutes)

Language arts are emphasized during this quiet close to a busy preschool day. Downloadable materials and directions are provided for each component of this important lesson time. The daily routine includes the following:

1. Mailbox, provides continued opportunity to build language arts skills.
2. Read Aloud, reinforces thematic concepts through classic children's tales.
3. Health and Manners, provides an opportunity to learn and practice good habits and behavior.
4. Gazing Glasses, a chance to reflect on the lessons and joys of the day. If you would like to make glasses, a sketch and simple instructions are included on page 18.