



KE-804003

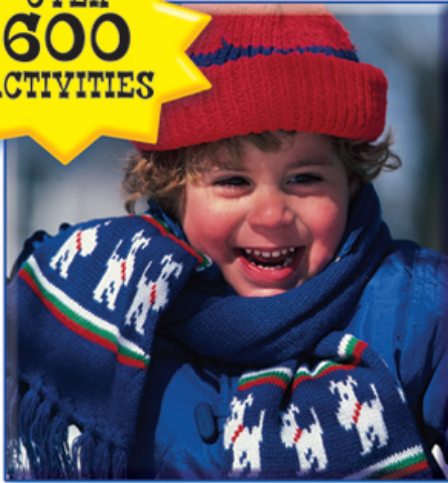
Early Learning Thematic LESSON PLANS

Grades
PreK-1

32 Thematic Lesson Plans for a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

OVER
600
ACTIVITIES

NCTE · NAEYC · NCTM · NCSS



Includes:

- Organized lesson plan pages
- Popular themes taught in all early childhood programs
- Children's literature guide for each theme
- Reproducible pattern and student activity pages
- Integrated activities
- Morning circle activities



by Sherrill B. Flora

Key Education Publishing Company, LLC

MORNING CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The first activities of the day are very important to young children. How a teacher chooses to begin each day can greatly influence the children's behavior and their "moods" for the rest of the day. Beginning each day with the same schedule of "Morning Circle" activities will give preschool children a sense of organization and familiarity, and will help prepare them for the rest of the day's upcoming activities.

Morning circle activities can take anywhere from 20 to 30 minutes. During this time the children will be participating in five to six different activities. Providing a variety of activities for the children to do and talk about makes the time pass very quickly and will maintain the interest of the children.

Suggested activities are:

- Name Recognition
- The Weather
- Show-and-Tell (Wednesdays)
- Today's Helpers
- Special News (Fridays)
- The Calendar

NAME RECOGNITION

Name recognition activities will provide the children with the experience of learning to read their own names. The activities may also simply be used for taking attendance.

After using one of the following name recognition ideas, ask the children if anyone is absent and have them speculate why. If a child has returned from an absence, be sure to welcome him back. These types of discussions and questions help the children to feel very important.

1. Photo Cards

Cut pieces of tagboard into four or five-inch squares. Make one square for each child in your class. On each square, tape a photograph of the child on one side of the card, and print the child's name on the other side. Attach yarn at the top so the squares can be hung on a bulletin board.

Each morning ask the children, one at a time, to find their names. If a child chooses correctly, he will turn the card around to discover his own photograph. Rearrange the photographs often so the children are constantly challenged.



(front of card)



(back of card)



2. Where Is _____?

(Sung to the tune of "Where is Thumbkin?")

Where is <u>child's name</u> ?	(teacher sings)	How are you today <u>child's name</u> ?	(teacher sings)
Where is <u>child's name</u> ?	(teacher sings)	Very well, I thank you.	(child sings)
Here I am.	(child sings)	We're glad you're here.	(everyone sings)
Here I am.	(child sings)	We're glad you're here.	(everyone sings)

3. Name Chart

Create a name chart on a large piece of poster board or cover a bulletin board with brightly colored paper. Write each child's name on an envelope. (*The envelopes will serve as pockets that will hold the children's photographs.*) Attach the envelope to the board with self-stick Velcro™— one side of the Velcro™ on the board and the other side of the Velcro™ on each envelope. This will enable you to rearrange the envelopes often. Make sure when you place the Velcro™ on the board that you leave enough space between the envelopes to accommodate the photographs. (*See illustration.*)

Each of the children will need a photograph of themselves that fits into the envelope. To take attendance have the children place their photo into their name pocket. At the end of the activity the children will be able to see which of their classmates are absent that day.



SHOW-AND-TELL (Wednesdays)

All children love to bring something special to school. From a child's perspective, it is a lot of fun! From a teacher's perspective it can create chaos!

Providing a once-a-week show-and-tell time is a wonderful compromise for the children and the teacher. Giving the children one day to bring a special "something" to school can work extremely well. The children will look forward to this day, and generally put more thought into what they would like to show to their friends. Here are some ideas that will make it easier for you:

1. Ask the parents to put their child's name on each item brought to school. If an item comes unmarked, mark it yourself with removable masking tape.
2. Provide the children with a show-and-tell box. That way the children will know they have a safe place to keep their items until it is time to share them. It is also easier for the teacher to have one place to look for everything that was brought to school that day.
3. Show-and-tell is a wonderful time to help develop expressive language skills. Encourage the children to use descriptive vocabulary and to offer good information. These questions will help guide them: Where did you get it? Who gave it to you? What does it do? Why is it a favorite of yours?

A Special Note About Toys: *If you teach in a child-care center or full-day program with preschoolers who must nap, please allow them to have a special blanket, stuffed animal, or whatever else may help them fall asleep. Something special from home can be a tremendous help!*

SPECIAL NEWS! (FRIDAYS)

Special news is a language experience similar to show-and-tell. In this activity, the children take turns telling about some special event that has taken place or an event that is about to happen. Here are some examples: we are going to grandma's house; we ate dinner at a restaurant; the cat had kittens; mom made my favorite dinner. Remind parents that Friday is "Special News" day, and they should encourage their children to plan what they would like to share.

THE WEATHER

Providing daily weather activities will:

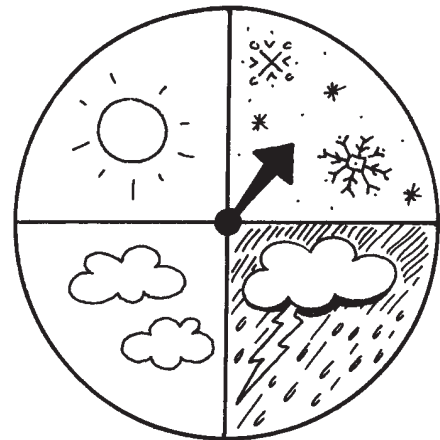
- Help children to increase their vocabulary and expressive language skills
- Help children to become more aware of their environment
- Help children learn to make more appropriate choices of clothing for various weather conditions
- Help children learn about the changing seasons

Weather vocabulary:	sun	sunny	cloud	cloudy	thunder	chilly
	rain	rainy	hail	storm	lightening	hot
	snow	wind	windy	cool	cold	warm
	foggy					

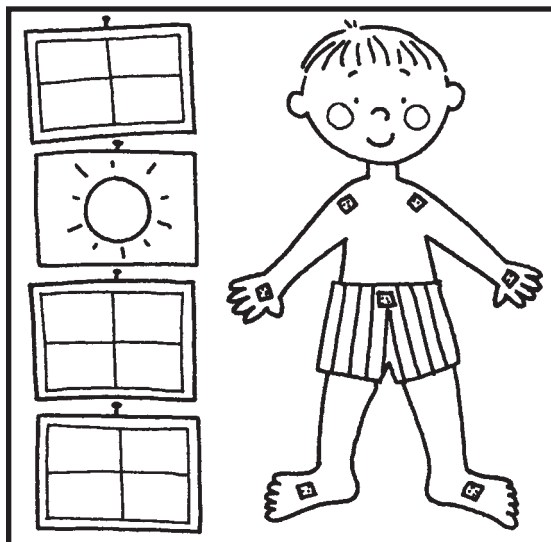
1. Weather Wheel

Cut a large circle out of tagboard. Divide the circle into four sections. In each section, draw and color a picture depicting a certain weather condition.

Attach an arrow to the center of the circle using a brass fastener. The daily weather person should move the arrow to the picture showing the day's weather condition. Encourage descriptive vocabulary and ask for a recommendation of what clothing everyone will need to wear for playing outside today.



2. Weather Windows and Weather Warren



Draw a Weather Warren on a large piece of tag board. Place self-stick Velcro™ on the top of his head, shoulders, hands, waist, and feet. Make clothing to fit Warren for various weather conditions.

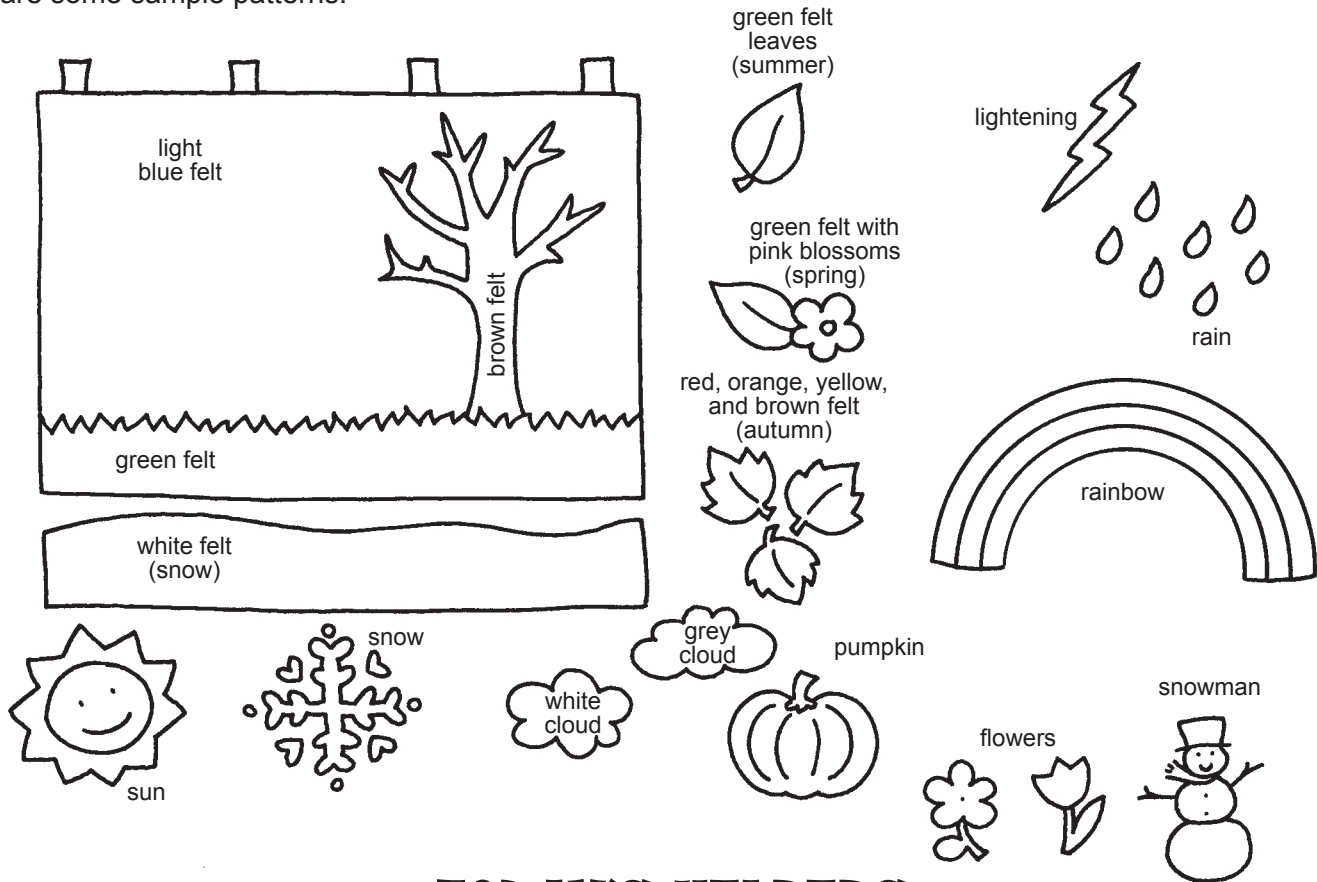
Make four windows that will be hung on the left side of the bulletin board. On one side of each window, simply draw window panes. On the other side of the window, draw various weather conditions. Attach a string to each window so it can be hung on the bulletin board. The children will leave the correct window showing and turn around the other windows. With this display you can use two weather people: one to dress Warren and one to change the weather windows.

3. Weather Felt Hanging

The weather felt hanging provides the children with the experience of adding felt pieces to make a flannel board picture of the day's weather. The children will also be able to add seasonal accents, such as flowers, leaves, and whatever additional pieces the teacher would like to make.

You can also use the hanging to show the children what other parts of the country may look like. For example, if you live in southern Florida you can show the children a picture of a snowy day.

The background of the wall hanging is made from light blue felt. Glue a strip of green felt at the bottom to represent grass. Cut a piece of white felt the same size that can be added for snow. Glue a brown tree trunk with branches. Additional pieces may be made for depicting different weather conditions. Here are some sample patterns:

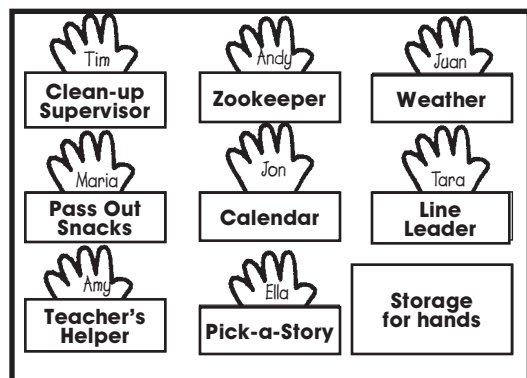


TODAY'S HELPERS

The following are ideas for posting classroom helpers. These duties are meant to be changed daily. Changing the jobs on a daily basis will allow the children to have turns more frequently and will lessen the amount of time each child must wait for a favorite job.

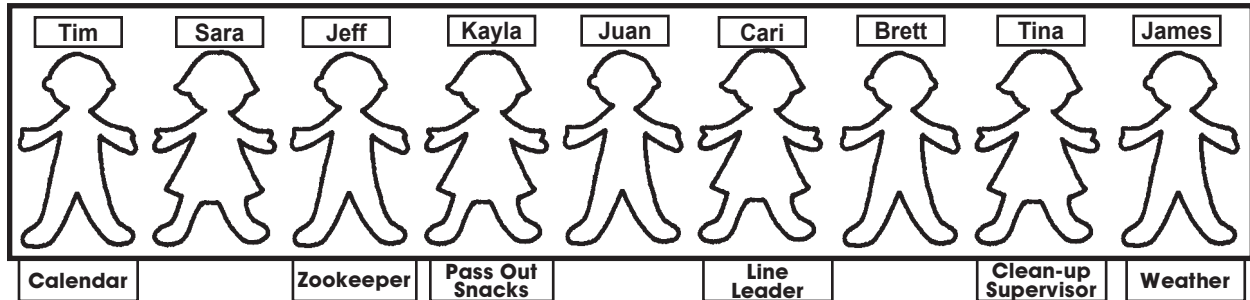
1. Helping Hands Job Assignment

Trace each child's hand on tagboard, cut out, and print the child's name on the palm. On a large piece of tagboard make pockets and pictures for each classroom job. The hands will fit into the pockets. Attach a larger envelope to the chart for storing all of the hands. Keep up all year as the job assignment chart.



2. Our Helpers

Make a paper doll shape for each boy and girl in your class. Let the children finish the dolls by coloring in facial features, clothes, and gluing on yarn for hair. This activity can also be done by having the children make stick puppets of themselves using tongue depressors. Make job cards that can be placed under the children's figures to show who has what responsibility for the day.



THE CALENDAR

Daily calendar activities will give the children opportunities to:

- Increase rote counting skills
- Increase number recognition skills
- Learn the days of the week
- Begin associating which holiday falls within which month
- Learn the months of the year
- Build sequencing and patterning skills

Make a large calendar from tagboard and laminate it for durability. (*Commerically made calendars may also be purchased.*)

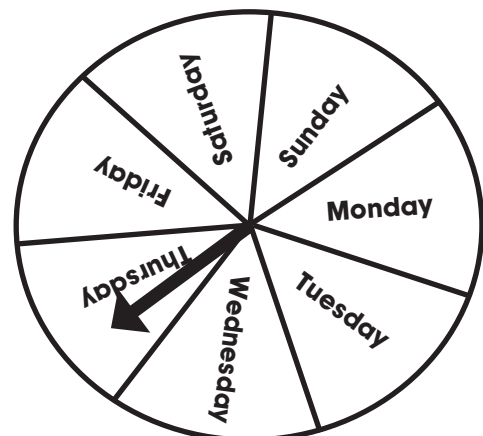
Month						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Monthly Calendar Patterns

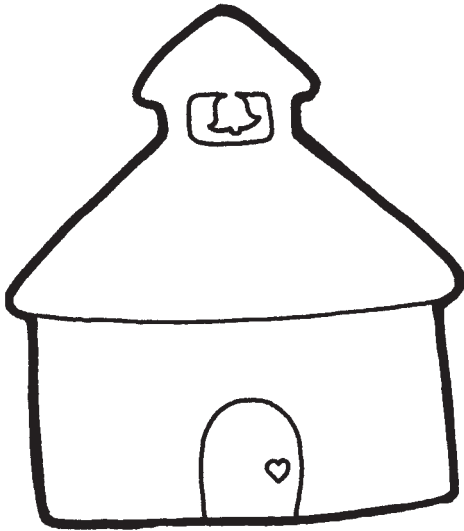
Monthly patterns can be found on pages 11 and 12. Reproduce these patterns on colored construction paper. Number each one and laminate them so they may be used over and over again.

Days of the Week Wheel

A "Days of the Week Wheel" is a fun addition to keep on display with your calendar activities. Have the children turn the arrow until they have found the correct day. For young preschoolers, add pictures of special things that you do on each day, such as show-and-tell on Wednesdays.



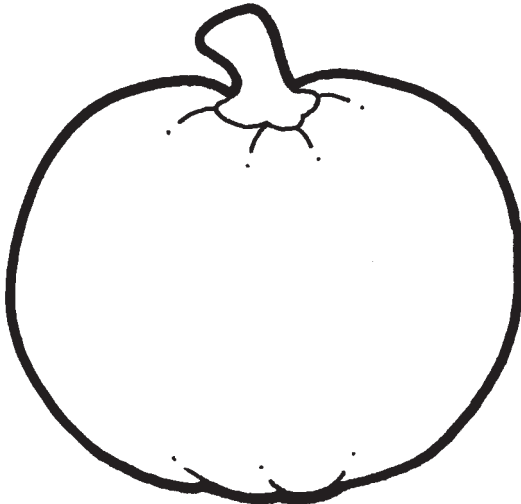
Monthly Calendar Patterns



September



October



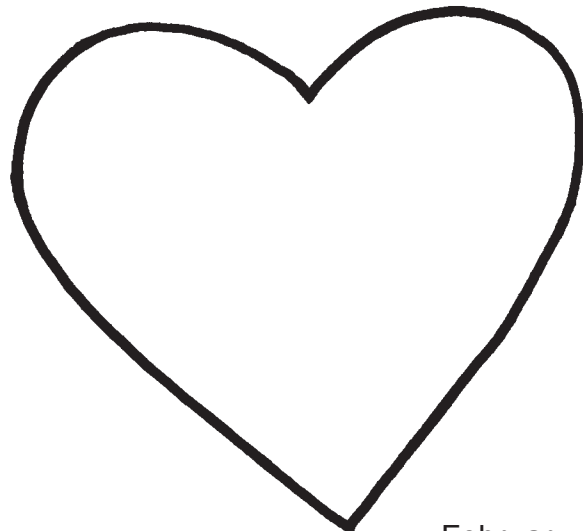
November



December



January



February