



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: A Cat and a Dog	Author: Claire Masurel
Illustrator: Bob Koplar	Language: English
Activity: Friendship bracelet	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Friendship

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, identify characters and major events, making predictions

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about a cat and a dog.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen a dog chasing a cat? Why do you think the dog chases the dog? Do you think they can get along if they tried?
- Lead the class into a discussion about friendship. Ask if they have many friends and if they always get along.
- Teacher and children will play Beanbag Hello by tossing a beanbag to each child and saying hello. Explain that it is nice to greet friends and it makes them feel special.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Beads (different colors)
- Yarn

Directions:

- Each child will receive a piece of yarn and beads (encourage children to use different colors).
- The children will then begin to make a friendship for themselves and a friend.
- Then the children will give the bracelet to a friend.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?
- What happened to the dog and the cat that made them get along?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about different feelings they may feel. Parent and child can make a greeting card for each other. Parent and child can write a message or draw a picture.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: A Lot of Otters	Author: Barbara Helen Berger
Illustrator: Barbara Helen Berger	Language: English
Activity: Sea otter puppet	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sea Life

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict it's about sea otters and a boy.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have been to the beach and if so what animals they've seen. Lead the class into a discussion about sea animal behavior and characteristics.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Paper lunch bags
- Brown pom poms
- Brown construction paper circles
- Gray construction paper whiskers
- Black markers
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a paper lunch bag.
- Then they will cut out two brown circles and will glue the circles to the top portion of the bag.
- Next they will glue three gray whiskers the bag.
- They will then glue the brown pom pom on top of the whiskers.
- Finally they will use the black marker to draw the otter's eyes.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to the children that sea otters live in the ocean.
- Who was the main character?
- What happened first, second, ...?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible take your child to Monterey Bay Aquarium, the coast, or the zoo to see sea otters and other sea life. Using newspaper and paints parents can have an ocean collage of sea creatures.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Across The Stream	Author: Mirra Ginsburg
Illustrator: Nancy Tafuri	Language: English
Activity: Handprint Hen	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Hens

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, retelling, sequence of events, making predictions

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about a hen, baby chicks.
- Lead the class into a discussion about hens and baby chicks.
- Ask children to tell what they think the story will be about.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Yellow, grey, red paint
- Construction paper any color
- Glue
- Googly eyes
- Black marker
- Feathers (optional)

Directions:

- For the handprint chicken, paint the hand white, press onto the paper, and wait for it to dry. After the handprint dries, paint on the white part of the legs and a white head - don't forget to add a short neck. Then paint on orange legs and a beak. Lastly, paint on the red under the beak and the tongue. If kids want to make baby chicks follow hen directions, only use different colored paint. Use feathers to glue on chicken.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?
- What happened to the hen and her baby chicks?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Have your child retell you the story that was read. Give them materials to draw a picture from the story.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Africa Calling, Night Time Falling	Author: Daniel Adlerman
Illustrator: Kimberly M. Adlerman	Language: English
Activity: Macaroni Lion	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Lions

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, making predictions, animal habitats, animal characteristics

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover and the title the children should predict it is about animals that live in Africa.
- Lead the class into a discussion about animals that live in the savannah. Discuss their behavior and characteristics.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Yellow cardstock circles
- Macaroni (spiral pasta)
- Googly eyes
- Black markers
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a yellow cardstock paper and cut out the circle.
- They will then glue the googly eyes on the center of the circle.
- Next they will glue macaroni around the whole circle.
- Finally they will draw on the mouth with a black marker.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was your favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?
- What are some animals that live in Africa on the savannah?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can take their children to the zoo. Parent and child can play "I spy with my little eye" game. An example of this would be "I spy with my little eye an animal with black and white stripes."



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: An Island in the Sun	Author: Stella Blackstone
Illustrator: Nicoletta Ceccoli	Language: English
Activity: Orange and Yellow Triangle Sun	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Water

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, making predictions, rhyming words

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover the children should predict that the book will be about a boy and the sun in the ocean.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children “Who has been to the beach?” “What did you do there?” “What did you see?”
- Lead the class into a discussion about the ocean. Ask, “What kinds of things do you find in the ocean?” Talk about smells and noises that one can hear.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Small paper plates
- Pre-cut yellow and orange triangles
- Yellow, black and red crayons
- Black yarn
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a small paper plate.
- They will then color the entire plate yellow.
- Next they will glue yellow and orange triangles around the paper plate.
- Finally they will use black and red crayons to draw the sun’s face.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was your favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?
- What were some animals that the boy saw in the ocean?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can take their children to the beach. While at the beach they can talk about all the wild life that live in the ocean and on the beach. Parent and child can play “I spy with my little eye” game just like the little boy played in the book “An Island in the Sun”. An example of this would be “I spy with my little eye an animal with black and white stripes.”



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: And If The Moon Could Talk	Author: Kate Banks
Illustrator: Georg Hallensleben	Language: English
Activity: Craggy Moon Surface	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Outer Space

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, sense of time

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about the moon.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen the moon?
- Lead the class into a discussion about the moon. What do the children think walking on the moon would be like? Is the moon always the same shape?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Beads, buttons, beans, macaroni
- Glue
- Paper plates
- Foil paper
- Markers
- Paper

Directions:

- Let your child play and create his own moon surface with beads, buttons, dried beans and macaroni. Help your child glue these items to the back of a paper plate, and allow the glue to dry thoroughly. Cover the back of the plate with foil and push the foil down around the items to create mountains, valleys and rocky plains. Create an American flag to go on the moon's surface with a toothpick, some paper and a few markers.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Ask children to retell you what they remember occurred in the story.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can take their children outside when it's night time. Have children look at the moon, talk about the shape, ask questions about the story that was read.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Baby Snakes Shapes	Author: Neency Twinem
Illustrator: Neency Twinem	Language: English
Activity: Shapes Train	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Shapes

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, shapes recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about a snake or shapes.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen a snake?
- Lead the class into a discussion about shapes.
- Teacher and children will talk about different things that can be made from using shapes.
- Ask the children to name the shapes they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Paper
- Paste
- Paint

Directions:

- Have your children cut two circles, one triangle, one large square, and one rectangle from the paper. They can then add the circles to the bottom of the square and the rectangle standing up on top of the square and the triangle pointy end to the square. Then let your children paint their train. This makes a cute train and lets your children see how different shapes can go together to form a unique shape.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Review shapes with children.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can take their kids for a walk; try to find shapes during your walk. Discuss the story that was read and the different shapes baby snake found along the way.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Caps For Sale	Author: Esphyr Slobodkina
Illustrator: Esphyr Slobodkina	Language: English
Activity: Counting Monkeys	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Animals

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess animals, llama
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children if they know what a llama is? Have they seen a llama?
- Have discussion about other animals, what they eat and where they live.
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Premade matching game with different animals
- Glue
- Colors
- Scissors

Directions:

- Give each child the whole sheet with different animals
- Give them a second sheet with the matching animals as the first
- This sheet the children can color and they will cut the animals
- Have the kids match and glue the animals they cut on the first sheet

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about different animals in the story. What was different? Where did they live? What do you think they eat? Discuss the different sound they make and the colors they are.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Caps For Sale	Author: Esphyr Slobodkina
Illustrator: Esphyr Slobodkina	Language: English
Activity: Hat Craft	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Counting

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess monkeys, a man, caps/hats
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children to tell you what is going on in the front cover, why do they think there is a man sleeping on the tree?
- Have discussion about the monkeys, what are the monkeys doing?
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Count the monkeys and caps from the story as you are reading
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large colored construction paper or large paper bag
- Crayons, Markers
- Glue, Scissors
- Stapler
- Decorating materials

Directions:

- Have kids choose the color of construction paper they want
- Construction paper should already have the semi circles kids are going to cut out to make their hats
- Have children cut the semi circles
- Teacher will staple semi circles all the way around leaving the bottom part open
- Have children decorate their hats after you have stapled them

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can practice counting and colors at home. Talk about the story with your child. Ask them questions to see if they can remember what the story was about.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Chaucer's First Winter	Author: Stephen Krensky
Illustrator: Henry Cole	Language: English
Activity: Tear Art	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Winter

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, learn about the seasons, different animals that live in the snow, temperature, hibernations (why animals sleep in the winter)

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict the book is about snow, winter, and bears.
- Engage children in conversation about bears, and winter.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.
- After reading the story, introduce materials to children and explain what the activity will be.

Materials:

- Sheet of blue construction paper
- Brown paper
- White paper
- Googly eyes
- Glue

Directions:

- Give each child a sheet of blue construction paper
- Also give them a piece of the brown and white paper (tell the children that they will tear the white and brown paper into pieces)
- They will glue the white paper pieces to the bottom of the blue paper to represent snow. They will then glue the brown paper pieces to create a bear.
- Next they will glue the googly eyes to their bear.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- To retell the story. What do they remember about Chaucer and his friends? What did mama and papa bear want Chaucer to do? What did Chaucer and his friends play in the snow? Key words: hibernation / instinct.

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible take a trip to the snow or a natural history museum. Parents can talk to their child about bears and other animals that hibernate and their environment.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Chica Chica Boom Boom	Author: Bill Martin Jr & John Archambault
Illustrator: Lois Ehlert	Language: English
Activity: Alphabet Tree	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Alphabet

Skills Development: Language and literacy, letter recognition, knowledge of lower and upper case letters

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about letters, alphabet.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they know the alphabet? Why do they think the letters are going up the coconut tree?
- Lead the class into abc song.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Alphabet letters (stickers or cut out your own from craft colored paper.)
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

Directions:

- Draw a coconut tree trunk on brown construction paper. Also draw 5 curved pieces for the branches.
- Cut out the tree trunk and branches.
- Glue the tree trunk at the center of your picture. Glue the 5 branches in a fan-like fashion, just like a real coconut tree
- Make your own alphabet letters by cutting them out from green craft foam or paper. You can also use pre-cut craft foam or sticker letters or print out these lower case and upper case letter templates.
- Make some different-colored letter O's to make the coconuts.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Ask children to identify letters from the alphabet.

Take it further (PARENTS):

At home parents can make an alphabet soup, children can practice writing their name, or sing alphabet song.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Duck in the Truck	Author: Jez Alborough
Illustrator: Duck in the truck	Language: English
Activity: Paper Plate Duck	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Ducks

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, predicting

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess it's about a duck and a truck.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have driven in the rain with their parents and if so how does it feel and what are the things that have happened.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Paper plates
- Yellow construction paper circles
- Yellow construction paper hands
- Large orange construction paper triangles
- Small orange construction paper triangles
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a paper plate and fold it in half.
- Then they will cut out a yellow circle and glue it to the top end of the plate.
- Next they will glue two hands to the other end of the plate.
- They will then glue the googly eyes on the yellow paper circle.
- They will then glue the orange triangle to the circle.
- Finally they will glue two large orange triangles on each side of the folded part of the plate.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book was?
- Explain to the children that ducks can live in the farm.
- What happened first, second, ...?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible take your child to a farm to see farm animals. Parent and child can sing Old Macdonald had a Farm and make animal sounds.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Eating The Alphabet	Author: Lois Ehlert
Illustrator: Lois Ehlert	Language: English
Activity: Plate collage	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Healthy Habits

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color & letter recognition, encourage healthy eating habits

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book (front cover, back cover, spine)
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover or title children should guess fruits and vegetables or the alphabet.
- Ask the children to name the fruits and vegetables on the front cover.
- Explain to the children that eating healthy foods will keep them healthy and make them strong.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words
- After reading story, as a large group categorize healthy foods and unhealthy foods

Materials:

- Small pictures of healthy foods and unhealthy foods
- Two poster size papers on the wall, one labeled healthy foods with a picture the other labeled unhealthy foods with a picture
- Tape/Glue
- Small paper plates
- Several old magazines, newspaper ads, old recipe books
- Small scissors 1 per child

Directions:

- Place small pictures of healthy and unhealthy foods in a bag, have students pull out the pictures and place them on the correct poster paper
- Each child will receive a paper plate and a pair of scissors (small group)
- The children can choose to cut from a magazine, book or ad.
- The teacher will ask the children to cut out pictures of healthy fruits and vegetables only. Encourage the children to cut out a variety of colors to make their plate colorful.
- Finally the children can glue what they have cut out on to their plate to create a colorful collage of fruits and vegetables.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- Encourage students to make healthy eating choices
- Discuss why it's important to eat healthy foods
- During free play make available pretend foods that students can play with

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible discuss the importance of healthy eating habits with your child. Allow your child to pick their favorite fruits and vegetables during a visit to the grocery store. Encourage your child to name each fruit and vegetable they recognize and their color.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Goodnight Moon	Author: Margaret Wise Brown
Illustrator: Clement Hurd	Language: English
Activity: Night & Day	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sense of Time

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess moon, night
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children to tell you what they see is going on in the front cover.
- Have discussion about the moon and the stars
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Talk about the different colors there are in the pictures
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- White construction paper
- Black, yellow and blue paint
- Glitter stars
- Paint brushes

Directions:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper folded in half
- Make sure you explain to the kids that one half will be used to paint the day and on the other half they will paint the night sky
- Talk about day and night, explain that these are the opposite of each other and you can give more examples of opposites

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When parents have a chance take your kids out side during the day and talk about what you see. Than do the same thing at night and talk about what you see, compare the two what is different?



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Goodnight Moon	Author: Margaret Wise Brown
Illustrator: Clement Hurd	Language: English
Activity: Mobile	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sense of Time

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess moon, night
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children to tell you what they see is going on in the front cover.
- Have discussion about the moon and the stars
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Talk about the different colors there are in the pictures
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Cut outs of stars and moons
- Yarn
- Scissors, Glue, Hole Puncher
- Crayons
- Paper plates

Directions:

- Introduce materials to children
- Talk to them about the concept of time and what we do during the day and what we do at night
- Give each child a paper plate, moon and stars
- Also give them glue and yarn
- Stars and moons should have a hole for lacing
- Paper plates should also have hole punches all around for lacing
- Child will lace the yarn through the moon and stars.
- They will lace the yarn with stars and moons through each hole on their plate so that they will hang

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class

Take it further (PARENTS):

When parents have a chance take your kids out side during the day and talk about what you see. Than do the same thing at night and talk about what you see, compare the two what is different?



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Grandma Fina And Her Wonderful Umbrellas	Author: Benjamin Alire Saenz
Illustrator: Geronimo Garcia	Language: English / Spanish
Activity: Rainy Day Umbrellas	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Umbrellas

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, letter knowledge “U”

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about umbrellas.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children what colors the umbrellas are and if they have an umbrella? When do they use their umbrella?
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Sheet of Paper – any will do
- Glue
- Scissors
- Cotton Balls (or even marshmallows!)
- Blue Colored Sugar (or glitter if you have it)
- Baking Cups (cupcake papers)
- Chenille Stems (or tooth picks, spaghetti noodles, etc. for the handle)

Directions:

- Spread glue all over the piece of paper and sprinkle the blue sugar “rain.”
- Stretch out some cotton balls and glue onto paper to make “clouds.”
- Cut three baking cups in half and glue onto paper for the “umbrellas.”
- Add handles to your umbrella with the chenille stems or whatever else you have to use. Now you’re done with your rainy day scene!

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Who was the main character in the book?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can take their children for a walk with their umbrellas. Talk about the story and ask your children if they remember the different colors of umbrellas people gave Grandma Fina.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Hello Ocean	Author: Pam Muñoz Ryan
Illustrator: Mark Astrella	Language: English
Activity: Colored Sand	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Ocean

Skills Development: Fine motor, Color recognition, Language development, Communication skills

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book (front cover, back cover, spine)
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess ocean, beach, water etc...
- Have conversation about the ocean; ask children if they have been to the ocean?
- Ask children to tell you what the ocean is like, and what they like best about visiting the ocean.
- If possible have props, sand, shells, starfish, sand dollars
- Show students pictures of the ocean, in library area offer different books about the ocean that children can read during free choice.
- While reading story, ask questions and allow students to make predictions this will help engage students in story.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large side walk chalk in different colors (grated)
- Salt
- Construction paper
- Glue

Directions:

- Give children a small container with salt
- Have kids choose the color of chalk they would like to use as sand
- Children will mix salt and chalk
- Give children the color construction paper of their choice
- Have kids make designs with glue on their paper
- They will then cover the glue designs with the colored chalk and salt
- Remove excess sand from paper as necessary
- Different colors may be used if desired

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class. Ask students questions about their art project this will help students become comfortable when speaking to their peers.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about the ocean. What the waves sound like? What animals live in the ocean? What different things they might be able to make with sand. Parents can also talk about safety when visiting the ocean.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Hello Ocean	Author: Pam Muñoz Ryan
Illustrator: Mark Astrella	Language: English
Activity: Ocean Collage	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Ocean

Skills Development: Fine motor, Color/Number recognition, Language development

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess ocean, beach, water ect...
- Have conversation about the ocean, ask children if they have been to the ocean?
- Ask children to tell you what the ocean is like, and what they like best about visiting the ocean.
- If possible have props, sand, shells, starfish, sand dollars
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Have conversation with children about different sea creatures.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.
- When working on craft ask children about the colors they are using and the sea animal they chose.

Materials:

- Cardstock sea creatures from Lake Shore
- Small sequence for gluing
- Googly eyes
- Colored sand
- Use all materials in Lake Shore Ocean Collage Kit

Directions:

- Children will choose the sea creature of their choice
- Give kids glue and remind them to only use small drops. (Dot dot, not a lot)
- Each child will get a small cup with the sequence they are using
- Also give each child an eye to use for their sea creatures
- While children are working on their project teachers should go around and ask the children about their project. Ask open ended questions so children can become involved.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about the ocean. What the waves sound like? What animals live in the ocean? What different things they might be able to make with sand. Parents can also talk about safety when visiting the ocean.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: How Do I Love You? ¿Como te Amo?	Author: P.K. Hallinan
Illustrator: P.K. Hallinan	Language: English/Spanish
Activity: Making a Flower	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Holidays/ Valentine's Day

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, learn about the holidays, retelling important events, predicting

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict the book is about a little boy.
- Lead the children in a conversation about their relationship with their parents.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.
- Make personal connections with the little boys' actions.
- After reading the story, introduce materials to children and explain what the activity will be.

Materials:

- Pink (different shades), purple and red card stock hearts
- Green cardstock leaves
- Candy lollipops
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- Give each child two cardstock hearts, four leaves, and two lollipops.
- They will cut the two hearts and then they will glue the hearts to the lollipop wrapper.
- They will then place the lollipop stem in the center of the lollipop and coat the entire inside surface with glue and fold it over the lollipop stem, pressing to secure.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- To retell the story.
- What do they remember about the little boy?
- What were some of his actions?
- Did he always follow directions?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible make a craft; do something that both parent and child enjoy doing. Do an outside activity that both enjoy doing ex: fly a kite, take a walk, go to the park.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: I Ain't Gonna Paint No More	Author: Karen Beaumont
Illustrator: David Castrow	Language: English
Activity: Finger Painting	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sensory & Colors

Skills Development: Fine/large motor, Color recognition, Language development, Creativity

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess painting, colors
- Have conversation about what is happening in the front cover.
- Ask them questions about the different colors they see and what the child is doing
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Have conversation with children about the different colored paint the child is using
- Talk about being a good listener, and safety when the child in the story stalks chairs to reach paint
- Discuss with children where paint should be used on walls or paper?
- When reading book take time to ask questions and allow children to share their ideas
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Construction or butcher paper in different colors
- If using butcher paper you may place on the flat ground so all children can paint at one time
- Finger paints/ paint brushes
- Large paper plates
- Plastic aprons

Directions:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper or make sure butcher paper is on the floor ready for kids to paint.
- Give each child a large plate with different colored paint
- Make sure kids wear an apron so they don't get paint on their clothing
- Have children do hand prints or foot prints on their paper
- Ask the kids what colors they are using? What are they painting? What does the paint feel like?

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can ask their children what the story was about, this way we can see if the child can retell the story. Ask about the colors they used and what they painted. Remind parents to always ask their children what they draw or paint.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: I Ain't Gonna Paint No More	Author: Karen Beaumont
Illustrator: David Castrow	Language: English
Activity: Prints	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sensory & Colors

Skills Development: Fine/large motor, Color recognition, Language development, Creativity

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess painting, colors
- Have conversation about what is happening in the front cover.
- Ask them questions about the different colors they see and what the child is doing
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Have conversation with children about the different colored paint the child is using
- Talk about being a good listener, and safety when the child in the story stalks chairs to reach paint
- Discuss with children where paint should be used on walls or paper?
- When reading book take time to ask questions and allow children to share their ideas
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Construction or butcher paper in different colors
- If using butcher paper you may place on the flat ground so all children can paint at one time
- Finger paints/ paint brushes
- Large paper plates
- Plastic aprons

Directions:

- Give each child a piece of construction paper or make sure butcher paper is on the floor ready for kids to paint.
- Give each child a large plate with different colored paint
- Make sure kids wear an apron so they don't get paint on their clothing
- Have children do hand prints or foot prints on their paper
- Ask the kids what colors they are using? What are they painting? What does the paint feel like?

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can ask their children what the story was about, this way we can see if the child can retell the story. Ask about the colors they used and what they painted. Remind parents to always ask their children what they draw or paint.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: In The Tall, Tall Grass	Author: Denise Fleming
Illustrator: Denise Fleming	Language: English
Activity: Egg carton caterpillars	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Insects

Skills Development: Fine motor, color awareness, sensory awareness, language development

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess bugs or insects.
- Ask the children to name a few bugs. For example ants, ladybugs, spiders etc.
- Ask the children questions regarding where we can find insects. Ask them what colors or sizes insects can be. For example a lady bug is red and black and it is small.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Egg cartons
- Glue
- Paint, paint brushes (if egg carton is smooth and shiny it will require a different type of material such as tissue paper. Paint and or markers will not work on the smooth and shiny egg carton.)
- Black pipe cleaners(cut into 2 inch pieces), googly eyes

Directions:

- Each child will receive a piece of egg carton. The carton should be cut into equal parts so that each child has a body for his/her caterpillar. For example a piece of carton with at least 4 compartments is big enough for the caterpillar's body.
- The children will paint the caterpillar's body. If the carton is shiny it will require that it be covered with tissue paper instead. The tissue paper can be cut into small squares and glued over the carton.
- Next the children will glue on the eyes and use pipe cleaner to make small antennas and feet. The children can make one set of antennas and 4 pairs of feet. The pipe cleaners can be attached by inserting them into the carton.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Share some fun facts about caterpillars. For example how many feet does a caterpillar have?
- Discuss how caterpillars turn into butterflies.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible visit your local library and check out "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. This is a great book and a great way to get your child excited about learning new things. During your visit you can also check out books about butterflies.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: In The Tall, Tall Grass	Author: Denise Fleming
Illustrator: Denise Fleming	Language: English
Activity: Sponge Painting	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Insects

Skills Development: Fine motor, color awareness, sensory awareness

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess bugs or insects.
- Ask the children to name a few bugs. For example ants, ladybugs, spiders etc.
- Ask the children questions regarding where we can find insects. Ask them what colors or sizes insects can be. For example a lady bug is red and black and it is small.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large construction paper
- Paint (greens and browns), Foil tins for paint
- Insect die cuts or print outs (flies, spiders, ants, ladybugs, dragon flies etc.)
- Different textured sponges cut into strips

Directions:

- Each child will receive a piece of construction paper
- The children will take a piece of sponge/s and paint grass across the paper (different textures can be used to create a unique look)
- While the paint is still wet the children can choose which insects will go on their paper. Placing the insects while the paint is still wet will eliminate the need for glue. Each child can create a unique insect painting.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Ask them to briefly share their final art piece. What colors did they use? What insects did they choose and why?

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible take a nature walk with your child. Discuss all the things you see and hear. If possible collect items during your walk. For example you can collect sticks, leaves, pebbles or rocks. These items can be used to do a nature collage with your child.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Inch by Inch	Author: Leo Lionni
Illustrator: Leo Lionni	Language: English
Activity: Measuring Worms	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Worms

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, retelling, sequence of events, making predictions, math skills

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book(front cover, back cover, spine)
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about worms.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen a worm? What color was it? What did the worm feel like? How long was the worm?
- Lead the class into a discussion about worms.
- On large paper write down the different characteristics of worms. You can also create a web with questions students have about worms. Together read different books of worms to find the answers to the questions they have?
- Engage students by asking questions while story is being read. Talk about the different animals in the story. What color are they? Do they all fly?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Play dough
- Rulers
- Paper/ Markers

Directions:

- Students will make worms out of play dough
- They will use the ruler to measure their worms
- Teacher will help students write down the measurements of the worms

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What do they remember about the story?
- What did the worm do?
- Who wanted to eat the worm?
- During play time have a container filled with soil and toy worms. Students can look for the worms in the soil and measure them to see if they are different sizes. Engage in conversation about the way worms look? The different patterns they might have? Talk to children about how worms help gardens.

Take it further (PARENTS):

If weather allows it do some gardening with your child. You might dig up some worms that your child can study.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Is Your Mama A Llama?	Author: Deborah Guarino
Illustrator: Steven Kellogg	Language: English
Activity: Matching	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Animals

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess animals, llama
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children if they know what a llama is? Have they seen a llama?
- Have discussion about other animals, what they eat and where they live.
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Premade matching game with different animals
- Glue
- Colors
- Scissors

Directions:

- Give each child the whole sheet with different animals
- Give them a second sheet with the matching animals as the first
- This sheet the children can color and they will cut the animals
- Have the kids match and glue the animals they cut on the first sheet

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about different animals in the story. What was different? Where did they live? What do you think they eat? Discuss the different sound they make and the colors they are.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Is Your Mama A Llama?	Author: Deborah Guarino
Illustrator: Steven Kellogg	Language: English
Activity: Llama Collage	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sensory

Skills Development: Fine/Sensory motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess animals, llama
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children if they know what a llama is? Have they seen a llama?
- Have discussion about other animals, what they eat and where they live.
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Precut of a Llama
- Glue/Googly eyes
- Markers
- Cotton

Directions:

- Give each child a Llama
- When you give children the cotton have them spread the cotton balls with their hands
- Have kids glue the cotton balls on their llama
- Remind children to use a little bit of glue and ask then questions about how the cotton feels and what color it is.
- Give them googly eyes so they can glue them on the llama
- With the markers children can color over the cotton to make their llamas a different color if they want to that.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about different animals in the story. What was different? Where did they live? What do you think they eat? Discuss the different sound they make and the colors they are.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Kiss Kiss	Author: Selma Mandine
Illustrator: Selma Mandine	Language: English
Activity: Teddy Bear Ears	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Bears

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, retelling, predicting, compare and contrast

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict the book is about a little girl and a teddy bear.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking children about their family members and the things they do with them.
- Lead the children in a conversation about their stuffed animals or a favorite toy they might have.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.
- Make personal connections with the little girl and family member.
- After reading the story, introduce materials to children and explain what the activity will be.

Materials:

- Long brown strips of construction paper
- Brown construction paper circles
- Small pink tissue paper squares
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- Give each child a brown strip of construction paper and two brown construction paper circles.
- Children will cut out the brown construction paper circles (bear ears) and glue them on the brown strip.
- They will then crumple the pink tissue paper and glue it in the inside of the brown paper circles (ears).

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- To retell the story. What do they remember about the little girl? What were some of her actions and interactions with her family?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible make a craft; do something that both parent and child enjoy doing. If possible go to build a bear workshop and look at all the stuffed animals and go through the process of stuffing a stuffed animal.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Let It Fall	Author: Maryann Cocca-Leffler
Illustrator: Maryann Cocca-Leffler	Language: English
Activity: Finger paint fall tree	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Seasons/Fall

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, learn about the seasons, retelling important events, predicting, color recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict the book is about leaves or fall.
- Have discussions about the leaves changing colors
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.
- Discuss about the different events that are taking place in the story
- After reading the story, introduce materials to children and explain what the activity will be.

Materials:

- White construction paper or card stock
- Orange construction paper
- Scissors
- Acrylic or poster paint in green, brown, orange, yellow, tan and red
- White craft glue

Directions:

- Help child carefully lay their arm and fingers down on the paper, fingers extended. Hand should go in the center of the paper to allow room for the leaves. Gently press down and roll each finger, palm and arm onto the paper. Lift arm straight up into the air.
- Wash paint off arm and hand and dry completely.
- Place a nickel sized amount of each color paint into a paper plate. Have child dip their finger into the paint and onto the paper creating leaves of all different colors. The fingers on the paper are the branches, so put the leaves at the end of the branches and all around them.
- Use a paint brush to add some grass at the bottom of the tree.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- Retell the story, ask children questions about the story you read. What do they remember, what can they tell you.

Take it further (PARENTS):

At home parents can go on a nature walk. Collect different types of leaves and make a collage. Talk about the different colors and sizes of the leaves.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Moonlight and Shadow	Author: Elisabeth Jones
Illustrator: James Coplestone	Language: English
Activity: Shadow tracing	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Body Tracing

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover of the book the children should guess horses.
- Ask the children about the title of the book. What does the word shadow mean?
- Ask them to describe how the horse is feeling by looking at his picture on the front cover.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large white butcher paper 1 piece per child
- Black color, pencil or marker
- large outdoor area
- Tape
- Colors

Directions:

- Each child will receive a piece of butcher paper (enough to draw the child's entire body)
- The children will need lots of space (best in an outdoor area on a sunny day)
- Next the children will choose a partner to work with.
- First they will tape their piece of paper to the floor so that it does not move.
- Next they will stand next to their paper until they can see their shadow.
- Finally they will stand very still in order for their partner to trace their shadow onto the butcher paper. Once finished the children will switch places and both will have traced their shadow. The children can color and decorate their tracings. Teachers may display the drawings in class without names so that children and parents can guess who is who.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Discuss where we can find horses like the ones in the story? Share some fun facts about horses with your classroom.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible use a flash light and a dark room to have some fun with your child. Practice making different animals or figures with your hands. Have your child guess what it is. You and your child will have so much fun. Try this website for some cool ideas www.shadow-puppets.com



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Moonlight and Shadow	Author: Elisabeth Jones
Illustrator: James Coplestone	Language: English
Activity: TP roll horse	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Horses

Skills Development: Lang. and literacy, fine motor, color recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover of the book the children should guess horses.
- Ask the children about the title of the book. What does the word shadow mean?
- Ask them to describe how the horse is feeling by looking at his picture on the front cover.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- 1 Toilet paper roll per child
- Colors
- Glue
- Scissors
- Yarn (black or brown)
- Horse print out

Directions:

- Each child will receive a toilet paper roll
- The children will color and cut the template.
- Next the children will glue the body parts onto the toilet paper roll.
- First they will glue the large rectangle around the TP roll to cover the horses' body.
- Next they can glue the head, arms, feet and tail.
- Finally they can take some black/brown yarn and cut a few short pieces to add to his tail.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Talk about shadows and how they are created.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible discuss Moonlight's fear of the dark. Ask your child what causes them fear. Explain to your child that it is okay to be afraid sometimes and reassure them that everything will be okay. Ask your child what brings them comfort. For example their favorite stuffed animal or their baby blanket.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Mouse's First Snow	Author: Lauren Thompson
Illustrator: Buket Erdogan	Language: English
Activity: Snowy Handprint Tree	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Winter

Skills Development: Knowledge about winter, Practice fine motor skills, Sensory Skills, Colors, Listening Skills and Language Development

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should make predictions that the book will be about a mouse in the winter season.
- Ask the children questions about winter. For example do you feel? Is it hot or cold? What kind of clothes do you wear?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- 1 sheet light blue construction paper
- 1 sheet white copy paper
- Brown acrylic craft paint
- Glue stick
- Scissors

Directions:

- Children will lay white paper vertically. They will cut out half a sheet of blue paper for the sky background (children will practice fine motor skills) by cutting a wavy line for the sky. They will then glue it on the white paper.
- Paint child's palm and fingers with brown paint. Have each child spread out his/her fingers then press his/her palm and fingers down onto the paper. Wash off child's hand.
- Each child will use finger to paint on a "tree trunk" under the palm print.
- The children will put dots of glue and then will glue cotton balls to represent snow.

Talk about it:

- Ask the Children
- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Discuss the winter theme.
- Ask, Were your predictions correct?

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible take a trip to the snow. Children will have so much fun feeling their world around them. Parents can also talk to their children about the different seasons and how each ones changes the weather. They can also do an experiment with ice so the children can feel the coldness and make comparisons to the real snow.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: My Garden	Author: Kevin Henkes
Illustrator: Kevin Henkes	Language: English
Activity: Plant a flower seed	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Plants

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess it's about plants and flowers.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen a garden before and if so ask what kind of things are seen in a garden.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Styrofoam cups
- Flower seeds
- Soil
- Color crayons
- Scoop
- Water

Directions:

- Each child will receive a Styrofoam cup that they will decorate using color crayons.
- The children will then put soil in their cups,
- Next the children will make a hole in the middle of the soil and plant the flower seed.
- Finally the children will water their plant.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to the children how rainbows are created. Ask the children if they have ever seen a rainbow?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parent and child will care for the plant by watering it and letting the plant receive sunlight. Parent and child can draw a picture of what they think the flower is going to look like.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Old MacDonald had a Woodshop	Author: Lisa Shulman
Illustrator: Ashley Wolff	Language: English
Activity: Cotton ball sheep	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Farm Animals

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, making predictions

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess it's about a sheep and tools.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have been to a farm and if so, what things did they see.
- Lead the class into a discussion about farm animals and describe each one.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Cardstock sheep head
- Black construction paper noses
- Cotton balls
- Googly eyes
- Pink Crayons
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a white sheep face and a black construction paper nose.
- They will cut out the face and nose.
- Next they will color the sheep face and ears pink.
- Then the children will glue on the cotton balls on the upper part of the head.
- Finally they will then glue on the googly eyes and nose.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to children that there are many different animals that live in the farm and that within the farm they have different types of home/houses.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parent and child can visit a farm and look at the different animals. Parent and child can sing "Old MacDonald had a farm."



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: One fish, Two fish, Red fish, Blue Fish	Author: Dr. Seuss
Illustrator: Dr. Seuss	Language: English
Activity: Tissue paper fish	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Fish

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, predicting

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess it's about fish.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen a fish before and if so what color were they? Are all the fish the same color? What color are they?
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Cardstock fish
- Red, blue, black, green tissue paper squares
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a white cardstock paper fish.
- Then the children will cut out the fish.
- Next the children will glue tissue paper squares to the fish to give its' color.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- What kinds of fish were in the book?
- Which fish did the children see first, second, ...?
- Which fish did you like the best?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible parents can take their child to Monterey Bay Aquarium where they will be able to observe a large variety of fish. Make an ocean collage using paper, crayons, paintbrush and watercolors. Parents can draw different types of fish using different crayons and the child can paint over the fish. This will give the collage an underwater effect.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Planting the Rainbow	Author: Lois Ehlert
Illustrator: Lois Ehlert	Language: English
Activity: Water colors	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Plants

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess flowers, plants or a rainbow.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Ask the children if they like flowers and if so why?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- White paper (1 sheet per child)
- Water colors(1 set per child)
- Small aprons(1 per child)
- Paper towels (1 per child)

Directions:

- Each child will receive a sheet of paper and one set of water colors.
- The children will be asked to paint a flower garden.
- Teachers should encourage children to use all the colors of the rainbow.
- The paper towels can be used to dry of paint brushes and remove excess water.
- Once the children are finished the paintings should be set to dry.
- Teachers can display the final work in the classroom for parents to see.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to the children how rainbows are created. Ask the children if they have ever seen a rainbow?

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible pick different flowers from your garden to make a collage. You can take the flowers apart by separating the petals. Then when you have mixed up all the different petals you can make a petal collage. Your child will love this fragrant piece of art.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Planting the Rainbow	Author: Lois Ehlert
Illustrator: Lois Ehlert	Language: English
Activity: Tissue Flower	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Spring

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess flowers, plants or a rainbow.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Ask the children if they like flowers and if so why?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Small paper plates (one for each child)
- Multiple colors of tissue paper (cut in small)
- Jumbo popsicle sticks
- Seeds
- Green markers
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a small paper plate and approximately 20 squares of tissue paper.
- The children will then glue the tissue paper to the paper plate until it is covered completely.
- Next the children will glue the seeds in the center of the plate (to resemble the stigma).
- Then the children will glue the jumbo popsicle sticks to the back of the plates.
- The children will then color the jumbo popsicle stick with a green marker

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to the children how rainbows are created. Ask the children if they have ever seen a rainbow?

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible pick different flowers from your garden to make a collage. You can take the flowers apart by separating the petals. Then when you have mixed up all the different petals you can make a petal collage. Your child will love this fragrant piece of art.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Planting the Rainbow	Author: Lois Ehlert
Illustrator: Lois Ehlert	Language: English
Activity: Planting flowers	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Garden

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, life cycle of plants, responsibility, science, color recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book(front cover, back cover, spine)
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess flowers, plants or a rainbow.
- Have a discussion about planting flowers. What do they need to grow? How can they take care of a garden?
- Make a poster that illustrates what plants need to grow(this can be done together as a group before reading the story)
- Discuss the different types of flowers that they will see as you read the story
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large clear plastic cups (1 per child)
- 1 large bag of potting soil
- Flower seeds
- Water
- Large plastic container and scoop

Directions:

- Each child will receive a plastic cup.
- Each child will place two small scoops of soil into their cup.
- Next they will make a small hole in the soil using their fingers.
- They will place the seed/s in the whole and cover up with one more scoop of soil.
- Finally they will pour a small amount of water just enough to dampen the soil.
- **Optional:** Teachers can use Styrofoam cups instead of plastic, have students draw and decorate their cup.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- Students keep can a small journal where they will keep track of the changes they notice as their plant grows. They can draw what they see, dictate and teacher can write down dictation.
- Explain to the children how they will need to care for their flowers at home. Water and sunlight are important.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible plant a flower garden or vegetable garden. The items you will need to get started are few and inexpensive. Seeds, potting soil, basic gardening tools, and water.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?	Author: Bill Martin Jr./ Eric Carle
Illustrator: Eric Carle	Language: English
Activity: Animal Masks	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Zoo Animals

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Animal Traits, Colors, Sequence of events.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should predict bears, animals
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Have discussion about the different animals in the story.
- While reading story ask questions and allow children to make predictions, this will help engage children in story.
- Be sure to stop at every teaching opportunity to teach kids and discuss useful information.
- Talk about the different colors there are in the pictures
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large paper plates
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons gray and pink
- Bear and elephant print out

Directions:

- Have classroom discussion about the animal characteristics
- Introduce materials to children
- Each child will receive a paper plate and the animal of their choice (bear/elephant)
- Give each child scissors so that they can cut their animal faces
- They will color their animal
- The glue will be used to glue the animal face to their plate

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Ask the children about the sequence of the story. For example: what animal was first, second etc....

Take it further (PARENTS):

At home parents can continue talking about the story. Ask your kids questions about the activity and the book they just read. They can take a trip to the zoo and relate the animals to the story.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Pumpkin Harvest	Author: Calvin Harris
Illustrator: Calvin Harris	Language: English
Activity: Pumpkin Tambourine	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Harvest

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, weather changes, learn of the different seasons (fall)

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about pumpkins, leaves.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen pumpkins?
- Lead the class into a discussion about fall, pumpkins and leaves.
- Talk about the different signs of fall, the leaves changing color and the harvest of pumpkins.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Small paper plates
- Orange and yellow tissue squares
- Glue
- Paint brushes
- Small beads / brown pipe cleaner / green leaf cutout

Directions:

- Teacher will staple two plates together for each child. (Make sure to put beads inside plate before Stapling)
- Give each student a plate
- Set out the tissue paper and glue
- Give each student a brush
- The brush will be use to spread the glue on the paper plates

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the story?
- Ask the children questions about signs of fall.
- Ask questions about the size of the pumpkins.
- Review the words they have learned, harvest, patch, ripe, scarecrow, and vine.

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible parents can purchase a pumpkin for their children. Have children scoop out the seeds, talk about the way it feels and the smell.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Radio Man	Author: Arthur Dorros
Illustrator: Arthur Dorros	Language: English / Spanish
Activity: Fruit & Veggie Stamp Friends	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Crops

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling the story, culture awareness

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about vegetables, fields, and people.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they know where fruits and vegetables grow?
- Lead the class into a discussion about what fruits and vegetables they like to eat.
- Ask the children to name the fruits and vegetables they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Carrots, apples, and yellow squash
- Paint: red, yellow, orange, light blue, green and white
- Paintbrush
- Black marker
- Art paper

Directions:

- Have an adult slice the vegetables and fruits in half lengthwise. Dry off the cut sides by blotting them with a paper towel ([see image](#)). Paint each cut side with a generous amount of paint. Press painted side on to paper and remove ([see image](#)). Do this for as many veggie and fruit stamps you want. Draw eyes, mouths, arms and legs with black marker. Dip a dry paintbrush in green paint, dab off excess on paper towels. Paint grass on paper. Use same dry brush method when using the light blue paint for the sky. Dip a clean paint brush into white paint, but don't dry off on paper towel. Lightly dab the paintbrush onto the paper to create clouds.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about different types of fruits and vegetables. If you are a migrant farm worker you can have a conversation with your child of what you do.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Rosie's Walk	Author: Pat Hutchins
Illustrator: Pat Hutchins	Language: English
Activity: Popsicle stick hen puppet and farm map	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Insects

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, farm animals and their habitat, identify the main idea, predicting, prepositions

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about.
- Based on the cover children can predict that the book will be about a hen/chicken and a fox.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have been to a farm and if so what things did they see.
- Lead the conversation in the discussion about farm animals. Encourage the children to discuss animal behavior and their physical characteristics.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Paper farm map
- Paper hen
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue
- Crayons

Directions:

- Each child will receive a paper farm and hen.
- Then they will color the hen and the farm.
- Next they will cut out the hen and glue it on the popsicle stick.
- Finally they will role play being the hen and going to different parts on the farm.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to the children that hens live in the farm.
- What happened first, second, ...?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible take your child to a farm. Explain to your child that there are many other animals that can live in the farm.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Sheep Out To Eat	Author: Nancy Shaw
Illustrator: Margot Apple	Language: English
Activity: My Favorite Food Book	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sheep

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess animals, llama
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children if they know what a llama is? Have they seen a llama?
- Have discussion about other animals, what they eat and where they live.
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Premade matching game with different animals
- Glue
- Colors
- Scissors

Directions:

- Give each child the whole sheet with different animals
- Give them a second sheet with the matching animals as the first
- This sheet the children can color and they will cut the animals
- Have the kids match and glue the animals they cut on the first sheet

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can talk to their children about different animals in the story. What was different? Where did they live? What do you think they eat? Discuss the different sound they make and the colors they are.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Sheep Out To Eat	Author: Nancy Shaw
Illustrator: Margot Apple	Language: English
Activity: Sorting Game	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Healthy Food

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess sheep, friends
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Talk about sheep; ask children about the food sheep eat, what they might feel like and where they live.
- While reading the story ask children about what is going on in the story, what can they tell by looking at the pictures.

Materials:

- Healthy food coloring pages
- Food pyramid poster
- Variety of plastic food
- Food baskets

Directions:

- Talk about the food pyramid, which foods are good to eat and what foods we shouldn't eat much of
- Do a demonstration on how the sorting will take place
- Dairy, Meats/ Poultry, Grains, ect..
- Have children take turns placing the food in the correct basket
- Also have baskets labeled according to food groups

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Talk to parents about taking a trip to the grocery store and buying a few healthy fruits and vegetables that their kids can eat. Parents can talk about eating healthy, the different colors, and shapes of the fruits and vegetables.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Ten Black dots	Author: Donald Crews
Illustrator: Donald Crews	Language: English
Activity: Number book	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Counting

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, number recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess numbers or dots.
- Ask the children to count to ten with you.
- Ask the children if they can count further than the number ten.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- 1 small book (1 per child) premade
- Numbers 1-10 template (see attachment)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Colors
- Stapler
- Colored daubers

Directions:

- Teachers will make small books with ten pages each. These can be made with colored construction paper for the front and back cover. The pages for the inside of the book can be white. The book will be stapled together.
- The children will color the numbers 1-10.
- Then children will cut out the numbers 1-10 from the template given to them.
- The children will glue the numbers onto the inside of the book in order. First the number 1, then the number 2 and so on.
- Finally they will take the dauber and put one dot on the page with the number 1. Two dots on the page with the number 2 and so on.
- Now the children can use their book to practice saying the numbers and counting the number of dots on the page.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- To practice counting objects in their classroom. Ask them to count chairs, books, children etc.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible play a counting game with your child. For example a visit to the grocery store. How many gallons of milk are in our kart? How many apples did we buy? Count out loud this will help your child remember the numbers.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Ten Red Apples	Author: Pat Hutchins
Illustrator: Pat Hutchins	Language: English
Activity: Apple Collage	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Counting Apples

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, counting, listening skills, concept of sharing

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about apples.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have seen an apple tree? What color are apples? Where do they grow? What do the trees need so they can grow apples?
- Lead the class into a discussion about what apples trees need so they can grow apples? Where do we get our apples?
- Talk about the season apples grow? (Fall)
- Ask the children to count the apples they see on each page.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Apple cut out
- Red, green , yellow construction paper pieces
- Green paint / brown
- Glue

Directions:

- Give each student an apple cut out
- Have them choose the color of their choice to glue on their apple
- Students will then put one hand in the green or brown paint and stamp the top of their apple. Their handprint will be the stem

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?
- Have children tell you what the story was about.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents at home can give an apple to their child. Cut the apple in half and have your child look at the center of the apple. Talk about what they see, they can also count the pieces and seeds.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Ten, Nine, Eight	Author: Molly Bang
Illustrator: Molly Bang	Language: English
Activity: Counting: One to One Correspondence	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Numbers

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events, making predictions, number recognition, one to one correspondence

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should predict that the book will be about a little boy and numbers.
- Lead the class into a discussion about numbers. Ask if the children, "What are some things that we can count?"
- Teacher and children will count the children that are present that day.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- White cardstock with circles
- Beads (different colors)
- Pom poms
- Pasta
- Cotton balls
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a piece of cardstock with five circles, 1 popsicle stick, 2 cotton balls, 3 pom poms, 4 beads and 5 pasta shells.
- The children will then trace the number 1 and glue 1 popsicle stick inside the circle.
- Then they will trace number 2 and glue 2 cotton balls.
- Next they will trace number 3 and glue 3 pom poms.
- Then they will trace number 4 and glue 4 beads.
- Finally they will trace number 5 and glue 5 pasta shells inside the circle.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children:

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- Who were the main characters in the book?
- What did the little boy count?
- Who was the little boy counting with?

Take it further (PARENTS):

Parents can count with their children in their home. For example they can count the cans, cups or plates in the cupboard. Parents can also go out in their yard and count the flowers, birds or other things.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: The Little Scarecrow Boy	Author: Margaret Wise Brown
Illustrator: David Diaz	Language: English
Activity: Scarecrow Puppet	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Scarecrows

Skills Development: Fine motor, Social emotional, Creativity, Oral language, Shape recognition

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Have a discussion about scarecrows/ crops.
- Ask the children if they know what scarecrows are for?
- Ask open ended questions so children can become engaged. Where are scarecrows found? How do they scare birds away? Ask kids to make faces of their own to scare birds.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Brown lunch bags, precut hats for scarecrow
- Precut shapes, squares, rectangles
- Crinkle paper pieces, glue, scissors
- Google eyes, news paper, ribbon, lg. popsicle sticks

Directions:

- Provide children with materials
- Please note that the bag should be used upside down
- Give each child a paper bag
- Glue precut squares, circles, and rectangles to make face
- Allow children to glue crinkle paper to the bottom of the bag so it can appear as hair
- Stuff bag w/ news paper, put popsicle stick in and make a knot w/ ribbon to hold together

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Relate the book to your child. Talk to your kids about always doing their best and not giving up. Also talk about him running away and explain to your child why that isn't safe. Pay close attention to the story and see what you can teach your child from the story.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: The Little Scarecrow Boy	Author: Margaret Wise Brown
Illustrator: David Diaz	Language: English
Activity: Scarecrow Puppet	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Feelings

Skills Development: Self awareness, Communication, Print awareness, Language development

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Have a discussion about scarecrows/ crops.
- Ask the children if they know what scarecrows are for?
- Ask open ended questions so children can become engaged. Where are scarecrows found? How do they scare birds away? Ask kids to make faces of their own to scare birds.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.
- When reading ask kids questions about how the little scarecrow boy feels?
- Talk to the children about feelings and ask what they do when they feel when they are angry, sad, mad etc...

Materials:

- White construction paper
- Colors/ Markers
- Each paper should have written on it.....When I Feel.....I.....
- Allow each child to tell you the feeling and what they do when they feel this way

Directions:

- Give each child a sheet of construction paper
- You will ask the child how they feel and you will write it on the paper
- Have children draw a face of how they feel
- Ask children to share with the class

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- When doing this activity discuss feelings with children
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

Talk to your children about feelings; is it ok to feel this way? What can your child do when they feel this way? Relate the book to your child. Talk to your kids about always doing their best and not giving up. Also talk about him running away and explain to your child why that isn't safe. Pay close attention to the story and see what you can teach your child from the story.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: The Snowman	Author: Raymond Briggs
Illustrator: Raymond Briggs	Language: English
Activity: Snow globes	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Winter

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color awareness, sensory awareness, seasons of the year

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess snowmen or snow?
- Ask the children about their experience if any with snow or snowmen.
- Look through the first few pages of the book and see if the children notice that there are no words.
- Explain to the children that this book is called a picture book and they will have to help create the story along the way.
- First the children will need to give the snowman a name. Next let their imagination run wild.

Materials:

- Baby food jars (empty) one per child
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks (only for adult use)
- Snow, silver glitter (fake snow can be bought at any craft store such as Michaels)
- Small figures (small enough to fit on the lid and inside the jar)
- A few pie tins and spoons

Directions:

- Each child will receive an empty jar with the label already removed.
- Each child will choose a small figure to go inside the snow globe. The figures can be small animals or Christmas figures such as Santa or a Christmas tree.
- Once the child has chosen his/her figure the teacher will hot glue it to the inside middle part of the lid.
- Next the children will choose what will go inside the jar. They can choose a spoonful of glitter or snow. They can do both if they wish. The teacher can put out a variety of glitters if possible.
- Finally the children will fill their jar with water. (not to the very top)
- Next the teacher will put some hot glue around the inside rim of the lid and place the lid on the jar. Make sure the lid is on tight. Once the glue has dried the children can shake their new snow globes.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- To share their snow globe with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible visit a local National park during the winter season. A winter wonder land awaits you. Visit this website for more info. www.visitsequoia.com



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: The Snowman	Author: Raymond Briggs
Illustrator: Raymond Briggs	Language: English
Activity: Making a snowman	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Winter

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color awareness, sensory awareness, seasons of the year

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book(front cover, back cover, spine)
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess snowmen, winter or snow?
- Ask the children if they have been to the snow? Where does it snow? What season is it when it snows?
- Look through the first few pages of the book and see if the children notice that there are no words.
- Explain to students that this book is called a picture book and they will have to help create the story along the way.
- First the children will need to give the snowman a name. Ask open ended questions so students can come up with ideas about the story.
- Teacher can write down ideas on a poster paper, then the story can be read again with this ideas.

Materials:

- White tempera paint
- Blue construction paper
- Googly eyes, ribbon or yarn for scarf, buttons
- Glue

Directions:

- Materials can be set out on the tables
- Students will use their fingers to paint a snowman
- The other materials can be used if students choose to use them

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- Have students retell the story in sequence, what happened first, second, last?
- Teacher can students to explain what is going on in their picture, write down dictation on students paper.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible visit your local library and check out another fun book about snow. "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. Your children will enjoy reading all about Peter's snowy day adventures.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Author: Eric Carle
Illustrator: Eric Carle	Language: English
Activity: Water Color Butterflies	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Life Cycle of the Butterfly

Skills Development: Cognitive development, Word recognition, Color awareness, Story sequence,

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should predict that it will be about a caterpillar
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Have discussion about the life cycle, how will it become a butterfly?
- While reading story ask questions and predictions, this will help engage children in story.
- Be sure to stop at every teaching opportunity to teach kids and discuss useful information.
- Talk about the different colors there are in the pictures
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- ½ black chenille stem
- Paper coffee filter
- Water color paints
- Paint brush
- Water

Directions:

- Flatten the coffee filter and place it on a plate or newspaper, the paint and water will soak through. Set aside on paper towels to dry.
- Fold the chenille stem in half. Remember, you are only using half of a chenille stem to begin with.
- Fold the coffee filter accordion style, in about ½" pleats.
- Position the pleated coffee filter into the bent end of the chenille stem. Center the filter at the bend.
- Twist the chenille stem around the filter to secure it in place.
- Bend the tips of the chenille stems over about ¼" to create the antennae.
- Fan out the butterfly wings.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Have children retell the story, the beginning, middle and end of story.

Take it further (PARENTS):

At home parents can talk to their kids about the life cycle of the butterfly. If possible spend some time outside looking for different types of butterflies.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: There's a Cow in the Cabbage Patch	Author: Clare Beaton
Illustrator: Clare Beaton	Language: English
Activity: TP Cow	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Farm Animals

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess it's about a cow.
- Activate prior knowledge by asking the children if they have been to a farm and if so what things did they see.
- Lead the conversation in the discussion about farm animals and what sounds they make.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- TP rolls
- Cow's Cardstock paper head, legs, tail and spots
- Googly eyes
- Black and pink crayons
- Glue

Directions:

- Each child will receive a TP roll and cow's cardstock paper head, legs, tail and spots.
- Next they will color the cow using black and pink crayons.
- Then they will cut out the head, legs, tail and spots and will glue them on the TP roll.
- Finally will then glue googly eyes to the cow.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Explain to the children that cows live in the farm.
- What happened first, second, ...?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible take your child to a farm. Explain to your child that there are many other animals that can live in the farm.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Who Ever You Are	Author: Mem Fox
Illustrator: Leslie Staub	Language: English
Activity: Self Portrait	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Self Awareness

Skills Development: Fine motor, Cognitive, Print, Color/Number, Language Dev.

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should guess moon, night
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children to tell you what they see is going on in the front cover.
- Have discussion about the moon and the stars
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Talk about the different colors there are in the pictures
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Cut outs of stars and moons
- Yarn
- Scissors, Glue, Hole Puncher
- Crayons
- Paper plates

Directions:

- Introduce materials to children
- Talk to them about the concept of time and what we do during the day and what we do at night
- Give each child a paper plate, moon and stars
- Also give them glue and yarn
- Stars and moons should have a hole for lacing
- Paper plates should also have hole punches all around for lacing
- Child will lace the yarn through the moon and stars.
- They will lace the yarn with stars and moons through each hole on their plate so that they will hang

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When parents have a chance take your kids outside during the day and talk about what you see. Then do the same thing at night and talk about what you see, compare the two what is different?



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Who Ever You Are	Author: Mem Fox
Illustrator: Leslie Staub	Language: English
Activity: Self Portrait	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Self Awareness

Skills Development: Fine motor, cognitive, print, language development, self awareness, Children will learn of different cultures

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover they should predict earth, kids, the world
- Have conversation about the front cover ask the children what they see?
- Ask children to tell you what they see is going on in the front cover.
- Have discussion about planet earth, and tell kids that this is where we live.
- While reading story ask questions and predictions this will help engage children in story.
- Be sure to stop at every teaching opportunity to teach kids and discuss useful information.
- Talk about the different colors there are in the pictures
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Large people cuts outs from lake shore
- Glue, yarn, scissors, googly eyes
- Different color felt
- Colored macaroni
- Markers, ribbon
- Buttons

Directions:

- Introduce materials to children
- Have classroom discussion about the differences between the children in the classroom
- Each child will get a large person that matches their skin color
- Have them choose the color felt the like best
- With the felt they will dress their doll
- Children will use the yarn for hair
- They can also use all the other collage materials available to decorate their doll

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Allow children to show and talk about their art project with the class.

Take it further (PARENTS):

At home parents can continue talking about the story. Ask your kids questions about the activity and the book they just read. If there are other siblings have your child point out the differences between them. Remind your child that everyone is different and unique.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Waiting for Wings	Author: Lois Ehlert
Illustrator: Lois Ehlert	Language: English
Activity: Cocoon and Butterfly	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Insects

Skills Development: Language and literacy, fine motor, color recognition, retelling, sequence of events

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can predict what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess it's about butterflies and flowers.
- Ask the children to name the colors they see.
- Ask the children if they have seen a butterfly before and if so what color were they?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Cardstock butterfly and cocoon.
- Tempera paints
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaners

Directions:

- Each child will receive a white cardstock butterfly and a cocoon.
- Then the children will cut out the butterfly.
- Next the children will then use tempura paints to finger paint the butterfly and cocoon.
- Finally the children will put a pipe cleaner through the butterfly's head (antennae).

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What was their favorite part of the book?
- What happened to the caterpillar?
- What happened first, second, ...?

Take it further (PARENTS):

If possible plant a flower garden. This will attract many types of creatures such as insects and birds. Talk about all the features of these creatures including shapes, colors and smell.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Where is the Green Sheep	Author: Mem Fox
Illustrator: Judy Horacek	Language: English
Activity: Paper bag sheep puppet	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Insects

Skills Development: Lang. and literacy, fine motor, color & number recognition, sensory awareness

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess the book is about sheep or animals.
- Ask the children to count the sheep and identify what colors the sheep are on the front cover.
- Ask the children questions about sheep. For example: where do sheep live, what noise does a sheep make?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Brown paper lunch bags
- Cotton balls
- Glue, colors, scissors
- Sheep print out 1 per child

Directions:

- Each child will receive a lunch bag and sheep print out.
- The children can color the template and then cut it out.
- Next they will glue the face on the top folding flap. Then they will glue the ears directly above the face so that the entire flap is covered by the face and ears.
- Next they will glue the sheep's tummy, arms and legs.
- Finally they can glue some cotton balls on the tummy and in between the ears.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Discuss the purpose of the sheep's coat and what it is used for.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible visit your local library. Check out another really fun book about sheep. "Sheep Out to Eat" by Nancy Shaw. Your children will enjoy this funny story.



Raising A Reader Lesson Plan

Title of Book: Where is the Green Sheep	Author: Mem Fox
Illustrator: Judy Horacek	Language: English
Activity: Cotton ball sheep	Target Age: 3-5

Subject: Sheep

Skills Development: Lang. and literacy, fine motor, color & number recognition, sensory awareness

Introduction:

- After the children sit down in a circle, introduce the book by saying its title.
- Explain to the children who the author and illustrator are and what their role is. Discuss the parts of the book.
- Ask the children if they can guess what the book will be about?
- Based on the cover children should guess the book is about sheep or animals.
- Ask the children to count the sheep and identify what colors the sheep are on the front cover.
- Ask the children questions about sheep. For example: where do sheep live, what noise does a sheep make?
- Finally read the book to the children and discuss any new and unfamiliar words during the story.

Materials:

- Sheep cut out (card stock works best)
- Glue
- Cotton balls, (cotton can be died prior to allow children to make sheep in different colors other than white.)
- Large googly eyes

Directions:

- Each child will receive a sheep cut out.
- The children will also get a hand full of cotton balls.
- Next they will slightly pull apart the cotton balls to cover the sheep's body.
- The children will use the glue to attach the cotton. They can cover the entire sheep's body with cotton.
- Finally they can glue on the googly eyes or draw eyes for their sheep.

Talk about it:

Ask the Children

- What their favorite part of the book or activity was?
- Discuss the purpose of the sheep's coat and what it is used for.

Take it further (PARENTS):

When possible take a trip to the zoo. Most zoos have a farm animal exhibit which includes sheep. Your child will have so much fun playing with the animals and learning at the same time. When possible check your clothes labels for materials used. If you have any items made from wool let your child feel how soft it is. Explain to them that it was made from a sheep's soft coat.