

5 Christmas Centers Included

2 math centers

Counting

So Many Presents

Math Center

Counting is a key mathematical idea on which all other number concepts are based. It should be practiced daily and in a variety of meaningful ways.


Objective:

- The students will count sets and make combinations of objects to create each set.

Procedure:

- Print, cut, mat, and laminate the present and number cards. Print, mat, and laminate the elves' wrapping table pages.
- Place the number and present cards in small bags or containers.
- The student picks a number card and lays it on the elves' wrapping table. Then the student counts that many presents and stacks them on the elves' table.

Alternatively, wrap shoe boxes or smaller boxes and have them by the table. The student will roll a die and stack that many boxes on the floor. (As a fine motor activity, have some students help to wrap the shoe boxes.)



Recording Sheet

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Measurement

How long?

Math Center

Developing an understanding of comparison and measurement is an important skill for young learners. Students come by it naturally by using their senses to make direct comparisons for further understanding.


Objective:

- The students will recognize attributes of length by using the terms longer or shorter when comparing two objects.

Procedure:

- Print, cut, mat, and laminate the poem, train strips, and depot half sheets. Cut the openings on the depot half sheets for train to slide through.
- The student will measure a train strip by sliding the strip through the opening on the depot page from under the page to cover the hole. The student counts the cars as they are pulled through the hole.
- Students will say the poem from side the train strip and write counting the cars, including the engine. The student will measure the length of the train in cars by writing the number in the box. When the student is done measuring, they will line the train up shortest to longest.

Alternatively, have a train set out. Cut openings in the side of a shoe box for the train to travel through. Hide the train in the shoe box with the engine car sticking out. Have the students count the cars as they pull the train out of the "depot".



Recording Sheet

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2 literacy centers

Letter Recognition

Decorate the Trees

Literacy Center

Letter knowledge is essential to the start of reading and writing. Success in reading can be seen in connections of understanding the relationship of letters and writing.


Objective:

- The students will recognize letters of the alphabet.

Procedure:

- Print, cut, mat, and laminate the tree and ornament cards.
- Mount the Christmas trees to a bulletin board. Place a small piece of hook and loop tape on the trees and ornaments. Store the ornament cards in an envelope under the trees. The student will pick an ornament and attach it to the matching tree.

Alternatively, use a miniature Christmas tree in the classroom and place plastic ornaments labeled with letters in a basket next to the tree. Have the students decorate the tree and say the letters as they hang the ornaments up.



Recording Sheet

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Christmas Name Strips

Name Cookies

Literacy Center

Matching letters is a great way to continue the concept of alphabetic principles. Continue to keep the alphabet at the child's eye level in the classroom as the school year progresses.

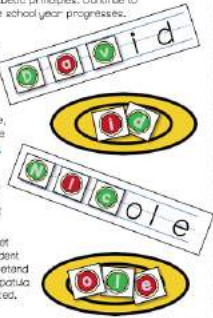
Objectives:

- Students will recognize letters of the alphabet in their name.
- The students will write their own names.

Procedure:

- Write each student's name on a sentence strip. Print a set of cookies with the letters of the student's name. If your student is not ready for lower case letters within their name, it is ok to do all capital letters. Continue to this post for more helpful information: <http://www.playtolearnpreschool.com/2013/04/04/letter-identification-activities/>
- Lay name strips and cookie letters on the table for the students to match. Attach a small pocket or envelope to the back of the sentence strip to store the cookie letters. (It's also a good idea to write the student's initials on the back of each cookie in case they get mixed up.)

Alternatively, cut letters with alphabet cookie cutters in dough. The student glazes them on a cookie sheet to pretend to "bake". The student then uses a spoon to scoop letters after they have baked.



Recording Sheet

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1 fine motor center

Christmas Journaling

Tell us What You Think

Fine Motor Center

Fine Motor refers to the small muscles in our bodies – (fingers 4 hands, toes, lips 4 tongue, and even eyes) Young children's attempts at drawing and scribbling help them to strengthen their grasping skills.


Objectives:

- The students will control the small muscles of their hands.
- The students will draw and imitate the act of writing.

Procedure:

- Print journal pages for the students. Read the prompt to the child and talk about it together.
- Encourage the child to draw a picture. It's okay if it is not yet a recognizable shape or image. Ask the child to describe the picture.
- Repeat what they say and write down the student's dictation on the lines. Be sure to date it!

Alternatively, collect the journal pages and create a class book to show during class time. Send the pages home when the unit is over.



Recording Sheet

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Counting

So Many Presents

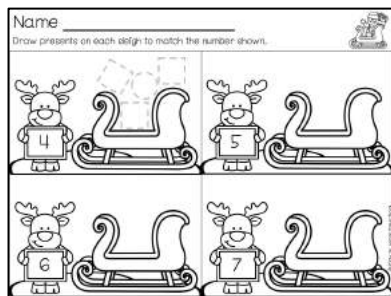
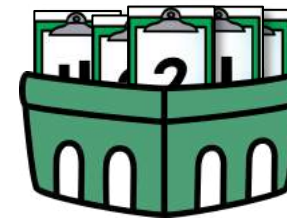
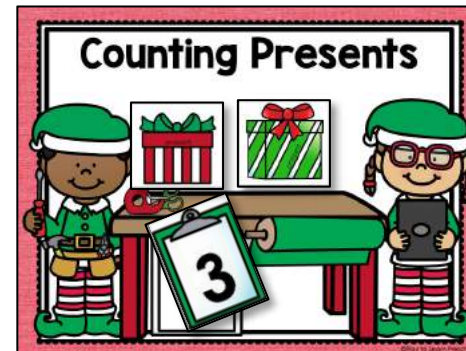
Counting is a key mathematical idea on which all other number concepts are based. It needs to be practiced daily and in a variety of meaningful ways.

Objective:

- The students will count sets and make combinations of objects to create each set.

Procedure:

- Print, cut, mat, and laminate the present and number cards. Print, mat, and laminate the elves' wrapping table pages.
- Place the number and present cards in small bags or containers.
- The student picks a number card and lays out that many presents on the elves' wrapping table. Then the student counts that many presents and stacks them on the elves' table.



Recording Sheet

- Alternatively, wrap shoe boxes or smaller boxes and have them by the table. The student will roll a dice and stack that many boxes on the floor. (As a fine motor activity, have some students help to wrap the shoe boxes.)



Measurement

How long?

Measurement provides children opportunities to strengthen number sense. Meaningful play with non-traditional units of measure is an important part of early mathematic development.

Objective:

- The students will recognize attributes of length by using the terms longer or shorter when comparing two objects.

Procedure:

- Print, cut, mat, and laminate the poem, train strips, and depot half sheets. Cut the openings on the depot half sheets for the train to slide through.
- The student will measure a train strip by sliding the strip through the opening on the depot page from under the page to over the page. The student counts the cars as they are pulled through the hole.
- Students will say the poem then slide the train strip out while counting the cars, including the engine. The student will measure the length of the train in cars by writing the number in the box. When the student is finished measuring, they will line the trains up shortest to longest.

Name _____

Count the number of train cars in each row.
Trace the numbers. Which train is the longest? The shortest?

	How many?	<input type="text"/>
	How many?	<input type="text"/>
	How many?	<input type="text"/>

Recording Sheet

- Alternatively, have a train set out. Cut archways in the side of a shoe box for the train to travel through. Hide the train in the shoe box with the engine car sticking out. Have the students count the cars as they pull the train out of the "depot."



Letter Recognition

Decorate the Trees

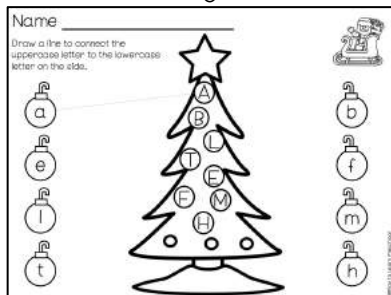
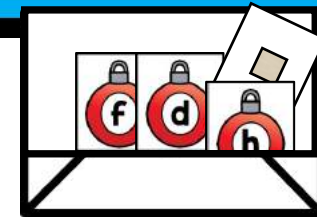
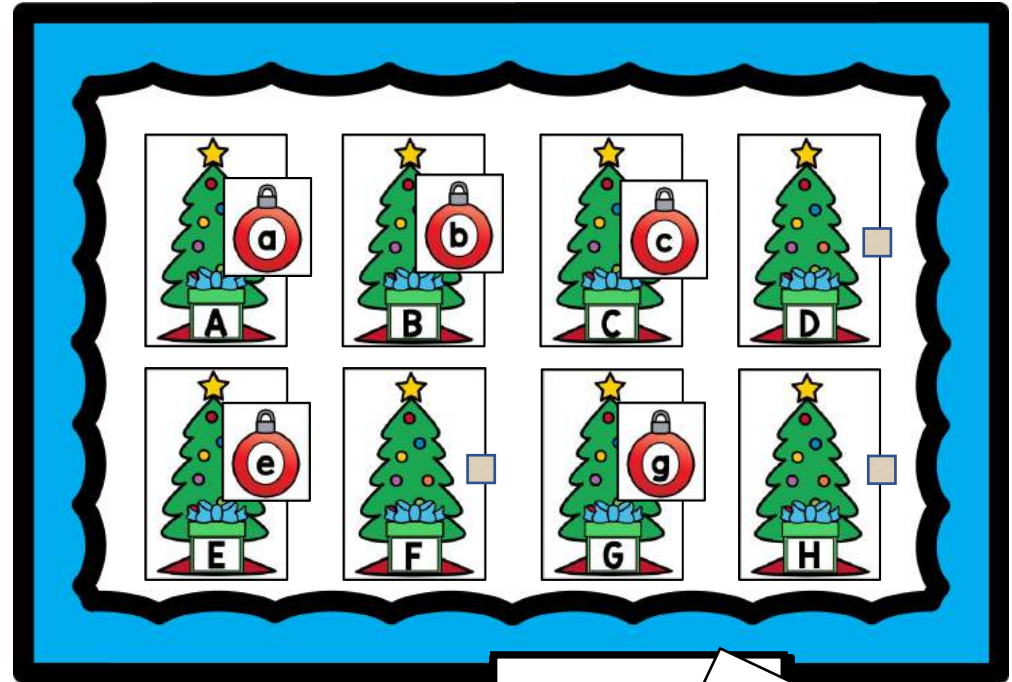
Letter knowledge is essential to the start of reading and writing.

Objective:

- The students will recognize letters of the alphabet.

Procedure:

- Print, cut, mat, and laminate the tree and ornament cards.
- Choose the Christmas trees that correspond to the first letter of the students' names in the class. Place them on a bulletin board with a small piece of hook and loop tape on the trees and ornaments. Store the ornament cards in an envelope under the trees. The student will pick an ornament and attach it to the matching tree.



Recording Sheet

- Alternatively, use a miniature Christmas tree in the classroom and place plastic ornaments labeled with letters in a basket next to the tree. Students decorate the tree and say the letters as they hang the ornaments up.

Christmas Name Strips

Name Cookies

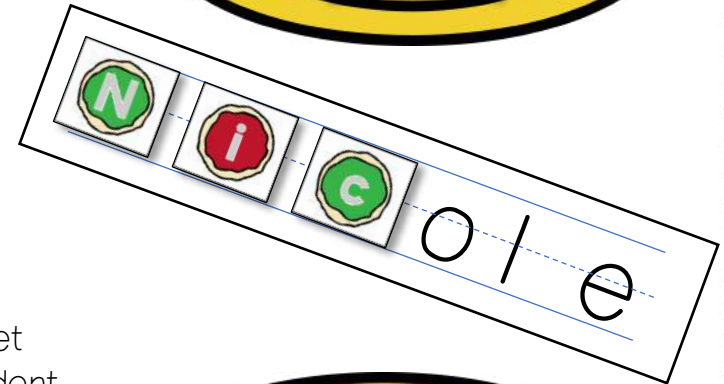
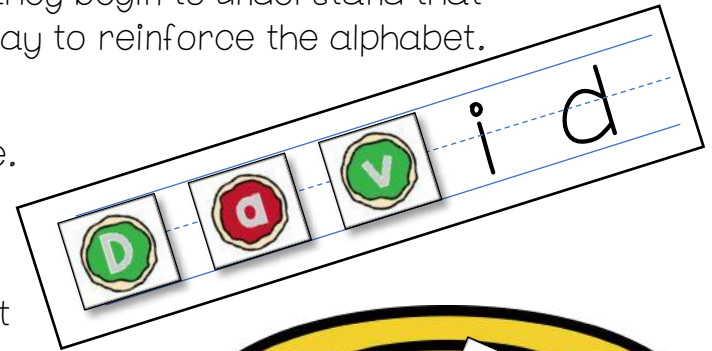
Place the alphabet at the child's eye level in the classroom as they begin to understand that letters connect to printed words. Matching letters is a great way to reinforce the alphabet.

Objectives:

- Students will recognize letters of the alphabet in their name.
- The students will write their own names.

Procedure:

1. Write each student's name on a sentence strip. Print a set of cookies with the letters of the student's name. If your student is not ready for lower case letters within their name, it is ok to do all capital letters. Continue to this post for more helpful information. <https://playtolearnpreschool.us/learning-to-write-2/>
2. Lay name strips and cookie letters on the table for the students to match. Attach a small pocket or envelope to the back of the sentence strip to store the cookie letters. (It's also a good idea to write the student's initials on the back of each cookie in case they get mixed up.)



Name _____

Who does the sleigh belong to?

S	a	n	t	a
---	---	---	---	---

Color and cut out the letters below and glue them onto the name above. Color the sleigh's design.

S	a	n	t	a
---	---	---	---	---

Recording Sheet

- Alternatively, cut letters with alphabet cookie cutters in playdough. The student places them on a cookie sheet to pretend to "bake." The student then uses a spatula to scoop letters after they have baked.

Christmas Journaling

In Your Own Words

Fine Motor
Center

Fine Motor refers to the small muscles in our bodies – fingers & hands, toes, lips & tongue, and even eyes! Young children's attempts at drawing and scribbling help them to strengthen their gripping skills.

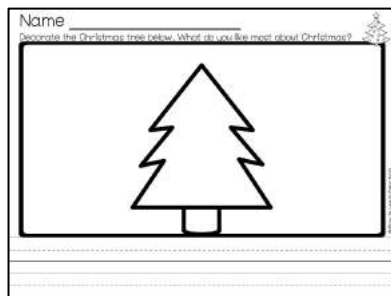
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Recording Sheet

