

Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 1 Introduction - Outer Space

Introduce the new unit: **Outer Space**. Talk about outer space. Sort pictures and sing a space song.

Outer Space
Activate Background Knowledge

The Solar System is made up of planets, moons, stars, and the sun. Planets, asteroids, and other objects orbit the sun.

Objectives:

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will play with words and sounds.

Activities:

- Sort pictures into two groups: Things that are in space or things that are not in space.
- Sing the S-P-A-C-E song in the tune of "Rings."
- Display the letters S-P-A-C-E and sing the song. After singing the song for the first time, cover up the letter **S** with a picture of the star. Sing the second verse as "Whoosh, P-A-C-E."

Extension Idea:
Moon dough: Use flour and vegetable oil to make moon dough. Mix 2 cups of flour with 1/4 cup of vegetable oil. Mix it well.

Day 1 lesson plans

Day 2 Stars

Look at the constellation pictures. Recite "Twinkle, Twinkle" and play a word replacement game.

Stars
Thinking in the night sky

Stars are huge balls of gas in space, far away from Earth. They are always out, but we can only see them at night.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show the photograph posters of star constellations and ask questions. Have you ever seen the stars at night? What happens to the stars during the day? Explain that different patterns of stars make pictures called constellations.
- Read the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."
- Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Add the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line. Different picture cards to play a word card Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and change the

Extension Idea:
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star: Cut out the stars and glue them to a piece of paper. Write the words of the nursery rhyme on a separate piece of paper. Use the stars to make a picture of the night sky. Use the words to make a story about the stars.

Day 2 lesson plans

Day 3 The Moon

Look at the photos of the moon. Play an alien hide & seek carpet game.

The Moon
Travels around the Earth

The moon orbits the Earth, reflecting sunlight and lighting up the night sky. The moon is made of rock-covered rocks that reflect the sunlight.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will identify objects.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Examine the real pictures of the moon. Discuss how the moon looks differently depending on how much light is reflecting on it.
- Sing the song "Climb Aboard the Spaceship." Act out the motions in the song.
- Play the shape identification game called "Silly Alien."

Extension Idea:
Climb Aboard the Spaceship: Write the words of the song on a piece of paper. Cut out the words and glue them to a piece of paper. Use the words to make a story about the moon.

Day 3 lesson plans

Day 4 The Sun

Look at the picture of the sun and discuss. Sort the pictures into 2 groups.

The Sun
The center of the Solar System

The sun is a HUGE star that gives light and warmth to the Solar System! The sun is made up of gasses that are extremely hot.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will notice similarities and differences between two groups of pictures.
- The students will respect the lines of a song to develop oral language skills.

Activities:

- Examine the real picture of the sun. Engage in discussion questions. Does the sun look hot? How do you know it is hot? What color is the sun? (Never look directly at the sun.)
- Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Things that are yellow, things that are not

Extension Idea:
Mr. Sun: Write the words of the song on a piece of paper. Cut out the words and glue them to a piece of paper. Use the words to make a story about the sun.

Day 4 lesson plans

Day 5 Earth

Look at pictures of Earth. Sing a song about Earth. Take a poll about taking care of the planet.

Earth
Our home

Earth is the 3rd planet from the sun and our home. The Earth is made up of oceans and land. There are the blue and green areas seen on a globe on a picture of the Earth. It is important to take care of our beautiful planet.

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will express themselves in words and sentences.

Activities:

- Look at the real picture of Earth and ask questions. Can you see the oceans? Can you see the land? What are the white parts?
- Sing the song "The Earth". Students can pretend to be the Earth and spin like the planet.
- Take a poll "What have you done to help the Earth?" Students use some points or post-it notes to show their answer on a bar graph. Alternatively, they can make a physical graph by lining up behind the different headings.

Extension Idea:
Sing Earth Science: Fill each section of a multi-bin with loading cards. Fill 2 small containers with white vinegar. Add some blue food coloring or liquid water color to 1 container and green to the other. Use a pipette to squeeze the colored vinegar onto the loading cards. The blue and green will look like the ocean and land.

Day 5 lesson plans

Outer Space

Activate Background Knowledge

Day 1
lesson
plans

The solar system is made up of planets, moons, stars, and the sun. Planets, asteroids, and other objects orbit the sun.

Objectives:

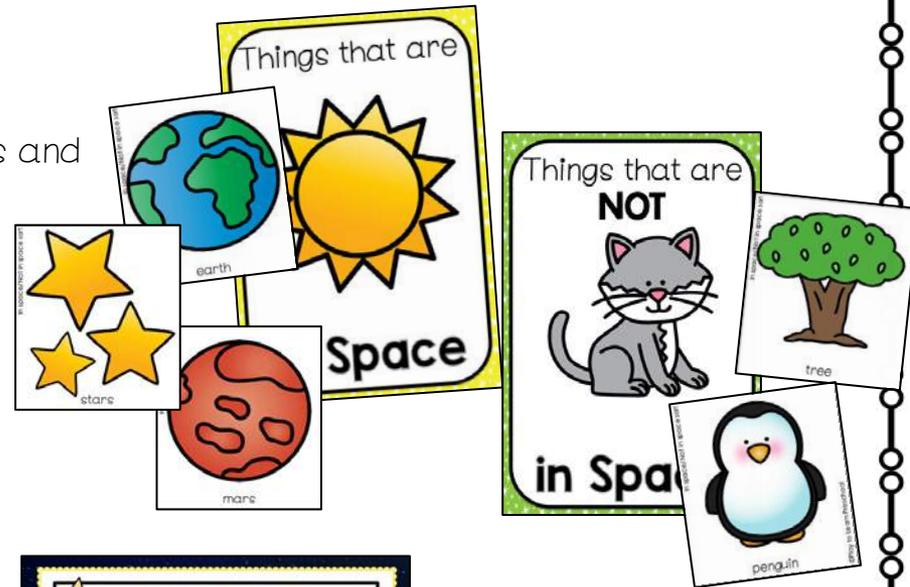
- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will play with words and sounds.

Activities:

1. Sort pictures into two groups: Things that are in space or things that are not in space.
2. Sing the S-P-A-C-E song in the tune of "Bingo." Display the letters S-P-A-C-E and sing the song. After singing the song for the first time, cover up the letter S with a picture of the star. Sing the second verse as "whoosh, P-A-C-E."

Extension Idea:

Make moon dough.
Use flour and vegetable oil to make moon dough! Mix 2 cups of flour with 1/4 cup of vegetable oil. Mix it well!



Stars

Twinkling in the night sky

Day 2
lesson
plans

Stars are huge balls of gas in space, far away from Earth! They are always out, but we can only see them at night.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show the photograph posters of star constellations and ask questions. Have you ever seen the stars at night? What happens to the stars during the day? Explain that different patterns of stars make pictures called constellations.
2. Read the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."
3. Add each of the sentences to the pocket chart. Add the picture cards to help emergent readers remember each line.
4. Students can use the different picture cards to play a word replacement game. Read Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and change the word "diamond."



Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| Twinkle, twinkle | little star. | ★ |
| How I wonder | what you are. | 👤 |
| Up above the | world so high. | 🌍 |
| Like a diamond | in the sky. | 💎 |

Twinkle, Twinkle

Twinkle, twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high.
Like a  in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.





Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high.
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.





Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **star**.



The Moon

Travels around Earth

Day 3
lesson
plans

The moon orbits Earth, reflecting sunlight and lighting up the night sky! The moon is made of pale-colored rocks that reflect the sunlight.

Objectives:

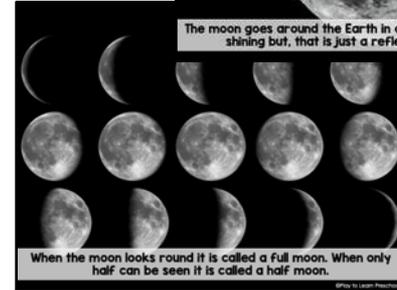
- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will identify shapes.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Examine the real pictures of the moon. Discuss how the moon looks differently depending on how much light is reflecting on it.
2. Sing the song, "Climb Aboard the Spaceship." Act out the motions in the song.
3. Play the shape identification game called "Silly Alien."



The moon goes around the Earth in one month. It looks like it is shining but, that is just a reflection from the sun.



When the moon looks round it is called a full moon. When only half can be seen it is called a half moon.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL sign for **moon**.



Climb Aboard The Spaceship

Climb aboard the spaceship
We're going to the moon,
Hurry and get ready.
We're going to blast off soon.
Put on your helmets
And buckle up real tight.
Here comes the countdown,
Let's count with all our might.
10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1
Blast off!

Silly Alien

Silly little alien,
Where can he be?
Pick a shape.

The Sun

Center of the solar system

Day 4
lesson
plans

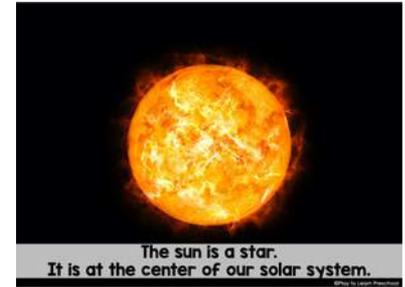
The sun is a star that gives light and warmth to the solar system! The sun is made up of gasses that are extremely hot.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will notice similarities and differences between two groups of pictures.
- The students will repeat the lines of a song to develop oral language skills.

Activities:

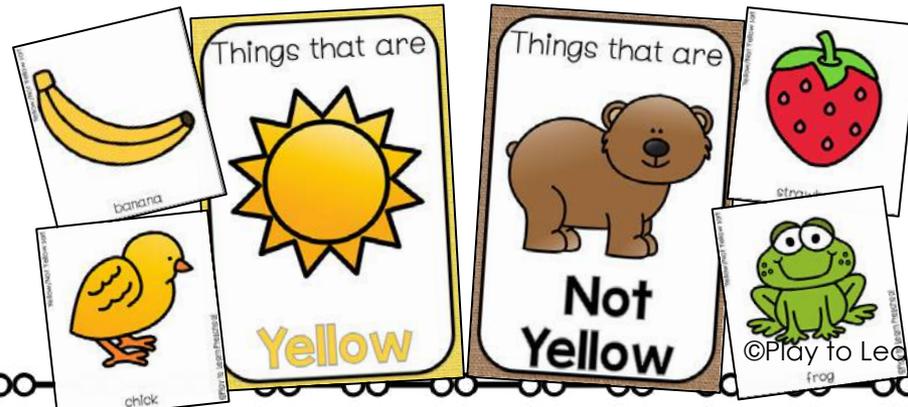
1. Examine the real picture of the sun. Engage in discussion questions. Does the sun look hot? How do you know it is hot? What color is the sun? (Never look directly at the sun.)
2. Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Things that are yellow, things that are not yellow.
3. Sing the song "Mr. Sun" with students. Print the attached sun cards and distribute a sun to each student. Students can hold the sun while singing the song.



Mr. Sun

Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,
please shine down on me.
Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,
hiding behind the tree.
These little children are asking you
to please come out
so we can play with you.
Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun,
Please shine down on me.

Extension Idea:
Teach the ASL
sign for **sun**.



Earth

Our home

Day 5
lesson
plans

Earth is the 3rd planet from the sun and our home. Earth is made up of oceans and land. These are the blue and green areas seen on a globe or a picture of Earth. It is important to take care of our beautiful planet.

Objectives:

- The students will answer questions.
- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will express themselves in words and sentences.

Activities:

1. Look at the real picture of Earth and ask questions. Can you see the oceans? Can you see the land? What are the white parts?
2. Sing the song "Earth." Students can pretend to be Earth and spin like the planet.
3. Take a poll "What have you done to help Earth?" Students use name cards or post-it notes to show their answer on a bar graph. Alternatively, they can make a physical graph by lining up behind the different headings.



Earth
To the tune of "London Bridge"

Earth is spinning round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
Earth is spinning round and round
On its axis.



The moon is spinning round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The moon is spinning round and round
It goes around Earth.



Earth is going round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
Earth is going round and round.
It moves around the sun.



Extension Idea:

Fizzy Earth Science: Fill each section of a muffin pan with baking soda. Fill 2 separate containers with white vinegar. Add some blue food coloring or liquid water color to 1 container and green in the other. Use a pipette to squeeze the colored vinegar onto the baking soda. The blue and green will look like the ocean and land.



What do you do to help Earth?



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  I plant flowers. |  I help with recycling. |  I ride a bike. |  I pick up trash. |
| Charles | Catherine | Elizabeth | Harry |
| Meghan | | William | |
| Phillip | | | |

Mars

The red planet

Day 6
lesson
plans

Mars is the 4th planet from the sun. It looks red because of the rusty-red soil. The surface of Mars is very rocky; it has volcanoes, craters, and canyons.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills.
- The students will sort objects by property (color)



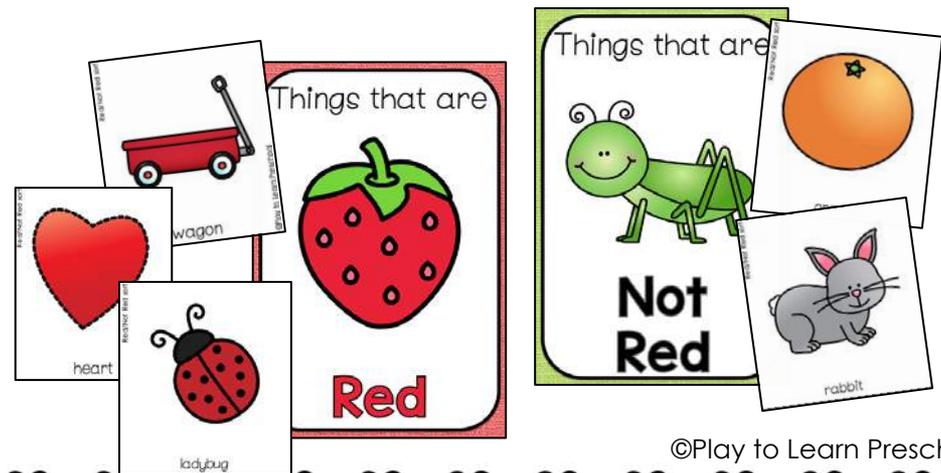
Activities:

1. Show the photograph poster of Mars and ask questions. What can you see on the surface of Mars? Could people live on Mars? Why or why not?
2. Sing the song called "Adventure to Mars." Perform the actions in the song.
3. Sort the pictures into 2 groups: Things that are red, things that are not red.



Extension Idea:

Make your own craters. Fill a deep bowl halfway with sand or salt. Drop different stones or marbles into the bowl. Examine the different sizes of your craters.



Other Planets

In the Solar System

Day 7
lesson
plans

Our solar system has 8 planets that orbit the sun. Most planets have their own moons! The planets are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

Objective:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will identify the numbers 1-14.
- The students develop oral language skills.

Activity:

1. Look at the real picture of the solar system. Engage in discussion questions. How many planets are there? What is different/same about the planets?
2. Play the number and object identification game called "Blast Off."
3. Sing the song "Planets." Use the planet prop cards for planet identification.

To Play the Game:

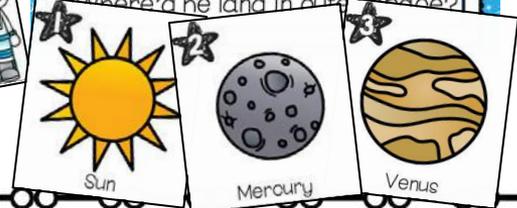
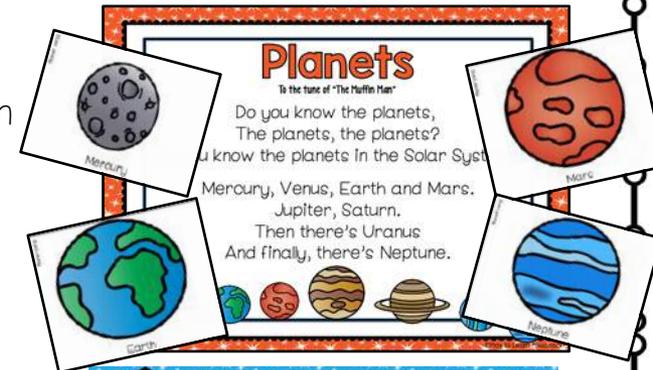
- Line up the pictures of the planets. (Numbers 1-14 are included. Pick the right number of cards for your students.) Identify the numbers and item together.
- Hide the astronaut under one of the space objects and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the astronaut is hiding by identifying the number or the item.

Extension Idea:

Coffee filter planets: Color a coffee filter with washable markers. Lightly spray the coffee filter with water until the colors spread. Hang your planet in a window when it has dried.



The solar system has 8 planets and a sun.



Astronauts

Space scientists

Day 8
lesson
plans

Astronauts are scientists that go into outer space to help us learn more about our solar system.

Objectives:

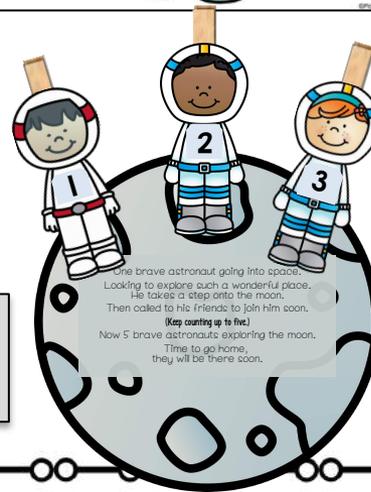
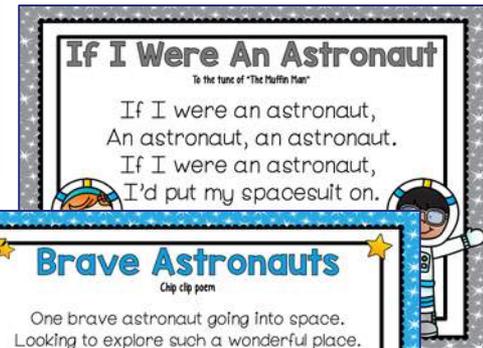
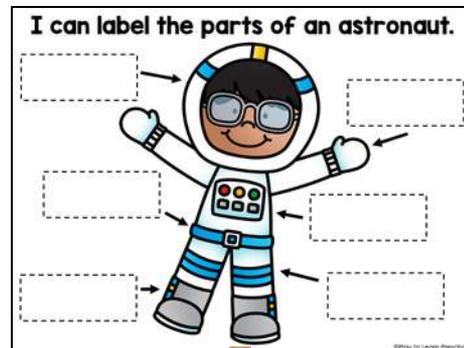
- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will demonstrate understanding of print concepts.
- The students will demonstrate basic locomotor skills.
- The students will count from 1-5 and manipulate objects with their hands.

Activities:

1. Look at the real pictures of the astronaut and shuttle. Ask the students what they already know about astronauts and space travel.
2. Label the different parts of the astronaut. Discuss why each item is important to an astronaut.
3. Sing the song "If I were an Astronaut." Perform the actions in the song.
4. Recite the chip clip poem, "Brave Astronauts." Add an astronaut to the moon as the poem counts up.

Extension Idea:

Astronauts need a shuttle to go into space. Build a shuttle/rocket out of blocks.



Telescopes

Looking into space

Day 9
lesson
plans

Telescopes make things look bigger. Items that are far away are easier to see when using a telescope. Scientists have used telescopes for a long time to find out more about space.

Objectives:

- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.
- The students will answer questions.

Activities:

1. Look at the pictures of the telescopes. Discuss with students why using a telescope is a good tool to use to see items in space.
2. Play "I Spy." Students can pretend to use a telescope (use hands to mimic holding a telescope.) Say the rhyme and hold up a prop card. Students can say what they see through their "telescope."
3. Play the space grid game.

Extension Idea:

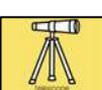
Teach the ASL sign for **sky**.



To Play:

- Copy page 75 onto different color paper.
- Create a grid where each column has the same letter, and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
- Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
- Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.

Which one is missing?

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|---|--|---|---|
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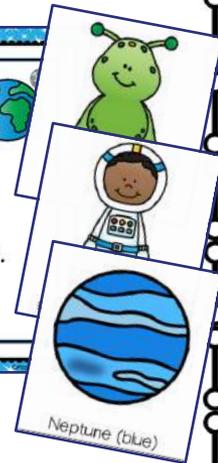


I Spy!

I spy with my little eye,
Something that is red.

I spy with my little eye,
Something that is brown.

Continue with yellow, blue, gray, white, green.



Conclusion

Unit Conclusion

Day 10
lesson
plans

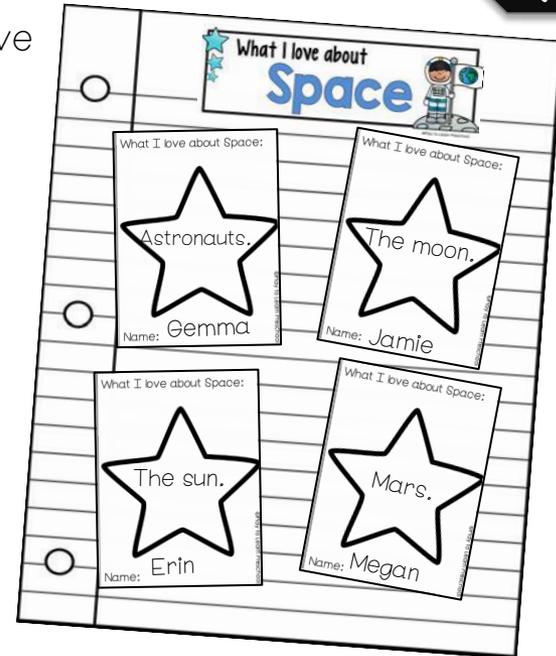
To conclude the unit, ask the students to describe what they have learned about outer space.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will understand the purpose of writing.
- The students will interact and participate in circle time.

Activities:

1. Create riddle bags. Place small plastic toys inside each bag and attach the riddle. (As an alternative, you can print the space pictures and put them inside the bags.)
2. Read the riddle while the students practice their active listening skills. They guess a space object, then check inside!
3. Invite students to list the things they have learned about space. Write the ideas on index cards or on the star shapes provided.



Center Activities

Centers

- Cutting Practice
- Line Tracing
- Beginning Sound Sort
- Count & Clip Cards
- Concentration
- Space Patterns
- Visual Discrimination
- Initial Sounds
- Shape Sorting
- Journaling
- Book List (recommendations)

Cutting Practice

Fine Motor Center

Objective: The students coordinate eye-hand movement and control the small muscles in their hands.

Preparation: Print a cutting page for each student. Demonstrate proper scissors usage and guide students out along the lines from the bottom to the top.

Procedure: The students will cut along the dotted line.

Line Tracing

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.

Preparation: Print and laminate these tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom onto the lid of the marker for the students to use as an eraser.)

Beginning Sound Sort

Literacy Center

File Folder Game

Objectives: The students will identify the beginning sound of each word.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the cover on the front, and the sorting mats on the inside. Cut and laminate the smaller pieces.

Procedure: Students sort the pictures by their beginning sound.

Count and Clip Cards

Math Center

Objective: Students will practice one-to-one correspondence and number recognition to 12.

Preparation: Print the cards, mat, laminate and cut apart.

Procedure: Students count the pictures on each card and mark the correct answer with a clothes pin.

Helpful Hint: For easy self-checking, put a sticker on the back that will match the clothes pin if the answer is correct.

Concentration

Working memory

Objectives: The students will use visual discrimination (matching) skills to identify two identical objects.

Preparation: Print the picture cards. Mat onto cardstock and/or laminate as desired. Cut apart.

Procedure: Place cards facing down. Students take turns flipping over 2 cards at a time. If the cards match, the student gets to keep the pair. If they don't match, they return them to the face-down position.

Space Patterns

Math Center

Objective: The students will identify and extend simple patterns.

Preparation: Print the pattern cards and pieces, mat, laminate and cut apart.

Procedure: Students identify the pattern and extend it by placing the next correct piece.

Visual Discrimination

Literacy Center

File Folder Game

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the items.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the large pictures (first 2 pages) inside a file folder. Cut and laminate the smaller pictures.

Procedure: Students place matching pictures together.

Initial sounds

Literacy Center

Writing Practice

Objective: The students will draw and imitate the act of writing.

Preparation: Copy each page and place into a plastic sleeve.

Procedure: Students use a dry erase marker to trace the first letter of each word.

Shape Sorting

Math Center

Objective: The students will sort objects by property.

Preparation: Print, laminate and cut all pieces.

Procedure: Students choose a moon and identify the shape. They are responding Earth.

Journaling

Literacy Center

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.

Procedure: Print the journal sheets. Students can use the journal prompts to write and draw a picture. The words can also be written for the student if necessary.