

Weekly Planner Template

Theme:

Month:

Weekly Focus:

As you use this planner, feel free to repeat high interest activities, try different suggested activities from a previous week or develop additional activities based on children’s interests. Choose materials and develop small group explorations based on what you observed during the previous week: What activities were children most interested in? What types of actions were frequently repeated? What variation might encourage further exploration?

<p>Preparation/ Changes to Environment</p>	
<p>Opening Activities 20-60 minutes</p>	<p>Arrival Activities Pick two or three materials each day that reflect the children in your program as well as their interests and ages. <u>Note</u>: check size of items to avoid a choking hazard. Allow children to explore other materials as desired. Support them in putting materials away before choosing additional materials to reduce clutter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
<p>Morning Meeting Song No more than 5-10 minutes, including transitions</p>	<p>Song</p> <p>Invitations to Explore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow children to move around and provide an alternative activity for those who are not yet ready to participate. • Over the course of the week, highlight different interest areas and show children sample materials from each.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe small group activities for the day and show materials as needed. • Tell children where each member of the teaching team will begin Choice Time. On the visual schedule, attach photos of the Interest Areas that are available or “open” each day. Let children choose where they want to play and accompany them to interest areas. • Infants/toddlers: Invite them to join the meeting and offer a lap to sit on or a space next to a member of the teaching team to support their participation.
<p>AM Choice Time 60 minutes</p> <p>Pick 3 interest areas for AM and 3 different interest areas for PM. Allow children to explore other areas or materials based on their interests or needs.</p> <p>Art/Writing</p> <p>Blocks/Construction</p> <p>Dramatic Play</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Math/Manipulatives</p> <p>Sand/Water/Sensory</p> <p>Science/Discovery</p> <p>AM Small Group Activity <i>Note:</i> Small Group takes place during Choice Time. Individual participation time will vary based on children’s interests.</p>	<p>Choice Time Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose materials that reflect the children in your program as well as their interests and abilities. • Include some materials or activities that support the weekly focus. • See Interest Areas (Appendix) for a list of suggested materials. Rotate materials regularly. <i>Note: check size of items to avoid a choking hazard.</i> • Add photos of the children to different interest areas for children to incorporate into their play. • Give children the opportunity to follow their own interests and explore materials freely. Allow children to explore other materials as desired. • Support them in putting materials away before choosing additional materials to reduce clutter. • Support children’s exploration by sitting alongside them and joining in conversations about what they are doing. Follow children’s lead and share ideas for expanding their play if needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look for opportunities to connect children’s play to the weekly focus and to their own lives. ○ Encourage children to problem-solve as needed. ○ Consider inviting children to think of additional roles to expand play as they act out scenarios. <p>Art/Writing</p> <p>Blocks/Construction Unit blocks, homemade blocks, and/or foam blocks</p> <p>Infant and Toddlers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide infants and toddlers with age appropriate blocks. If the infants and toddlers are more interested in knocking down structures than in building them up, offer them a separate space or time to explore blocks in their own way. Invite older children to create structures for younger children to knock down.

	<p>Dramatic Play</p>
	<p>Library Choose books related to the weekly focus. Offer additional books that reflect the children in your program as well as those based on children’s interests. See Book List for more ideas</p> <p>Examples:</p>
	<p>Math/Manipulatives Select materials so children can explore various math concepts as well as develop fine motor skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
	<p>Sand/Water/Sensory</p>

<p>Blocks/Construction</p> <p>Dramatic Play</p> <p>Library</p>	
<p>Math/Manipulatives</p> <p>Sand/Water/Sensory</p> <p>Science/Discovery</p>	<p>Dramatic Play See AM choice time for ideas.</p>
<p>PM Small Group Exploration</p> <p><u>Note</u>: Small Group takes place during Choice Time. Individual participation time will vary based on children's interests</p>	<p>Library See AM choice time for ideas.</p>
	<p>Math/Manipulatives See AM choice time for ideas.</p>
	<p>Sand/Water/Sensory See AM choice time for ideas.</p>
	<p>Science/Discovery See AM choice time for ideas.</p>

	<p>PM Small Group Exploration Plan hands-on activities related to the weekly focus that allow children to be creative and explore their own ideas. Let children know that they can all have a chance to participate. Allow children to opt out of an activity and offer another opportunity to try it later on. Give children enough time to thoroughly enjoy the experience so that they don't feel rushed. Adapt activities as needed to include infants and toddlers.</p>
<p>PM Music and Movement 10 minutes</p>	<p>Choose songs and activities to build a sense of community and to develop fine and gross motor skills. End with a quiet song, fingerplay or movement activity. Adults can dance with infants/toddlers so they can participate. Suggested Songs: (See Song Cards)</p> <p>Activities (choose based on children's interests):</p>

Reflection On Weekly Planner

Success

Challenge

Next Steps