

Circle Time



Weather



We begin our circle time each morning with the weather chart. If you do not have a weather chart, you can find the instructions for making the one shown above along with the print outs to make the weather chart on our download page.

To begin our circle time, we discuss with the children the weather outside. We have the children look out the window and then we ask them "what is the weather outside?" We have the children go to the window and look outside and tell us what they see.

If you have a lot of younger children they may not be able to answer correctly, then we give them hints; such as,

Is the sky white or blue? If it's white does anyone know what that means?
(It's cloudy)

Children will answer yes or no.

Is it raining outside? Is it snowing outside? Is it cloudy outside?
Is it windy outside?

After we have looked out the window and the children now all agree what the weather outside is, it could be windy, cloudy and sunny, or it could be raining, or it could be raining and windy.

Have the children, take turns each day, and have one child come up and pick out all the cards that show that's day weather and have them place the cards onto the weather box.

We have a weather chart and each day we have one of the children move the arrow to the correct weather for that day. The weather chart is included in the toddler or preschool

Daily Printed Out Calendars

Next, we focus on the calendar. If you do not have a large calendar you may want to purchase one, or you can make one. Print out our calendar instructions and print outs, all of which can be found on the down load page, it will give you step by step instructions on making the large calendar to use with the children.

First, I will ask the children "Does anyone know what day it is?" If no one knows what day it is, I will tell them, "Today Is Thursday." The children take turns putting up the numbers each day to show that days date.

Once the number for the day is put up, we start at number one, on the calendar and I have the children count with me, (as I point out each number) to the new date that we just placed onto the calendar.

Once we finish with the (big) calendar we sing is the Seven Days of the Week Song to help reinforce learning the calendar.

Seven Days Of The Week Song

There are seven days in the week, seven days in the week. There are seven days in the week. (Hold up 7 fingers)

And I know them all. (Point to self)

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday is the last one. Saturday ends the week. (Teacher will point to each day on the calendar)

Repeat song.

Calendars For Each Child



Print out a calendar for each child, you will find these under "extras" at the bottom of the download page.

We have each child place a number on their calendar each morning. Have them write their names on their calendars and then either tape them to the wall or place them into a file folder to use each day.

You will need some circle stickers; these can be found at Wal-Mart in the office section. Each day write the number that is that day on the circle stickers and have the children place their sticker onto the correct square.

After they put on the circle sticker for that day, have them look at their calendar, teacher will use the large calendar we made above, and have them find the number 1 on their calendar and have them point to the number one and say one, and then the 2, and continue for every circle sticker that is on the calendar that day, repeat this routine each morning.

Songs & Finger Rhymes

Children learn quickly through songs and hands on activities. To help reinforce each week's theme we introduce a few new songs each week that focus on that week's theme. Children really enjoy songs that are interactive, where they can act out the songs with hand or body movements. We make sure to include some of the children's favorites each day, such as:

The Wheels On The Bus
If You're Happy And You Know It
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
ABC Song
Old McDonald Had A Farm

And some finger plays we do are:

The Itsy Bitsy Spider
One Two Buckle My Shoe
5 Little Monkeys Jumping On The Bed
5 Little Monkeys Teasing Mr. Crocodile
Plus others.

Children like repetition so don't be afraid to sing any song the children really like on a daily basis, but try to add a few new ones each week.

You can find a lot of the songs and rhymes that we do with the children each morning on our down load page (circle time songs). These are traditional songs which can be found on the net, if you do not know the tune to any of the songs, just run a quick Google search and you should be able to find the songs on the net where someone is actually singing or acting them out, this way you can view the tune to the songs or the actions to the rhymes.

Story Time

During circle time we read a few books. At least one of the books we read is centered around our weekly theme, each week we take the children for a field trip to the library and we pick out five books for that's week theme and read one each day.

Plus we read a lot of books each day to the children and try to include their favorites such as:

The hungry caterpillar
If You Give A Mouse A Cookie
The Red Ripe Strawberry
Rainbow Fish
The Mitten

Plus many other stories.

We also read stories or poems to the children that we can make interactive with the children, such as five monkeys jumping on the bed and then we encourage the children to act out the story.

We may put a blanket on the floor to be the bed and then have the children jump up and down and have one child pretend to bump his head and then have that child leave the "bed" . We will pick two other children too, one to be the mother and one to be the doctor.

Next, we move on to our circle time activity, just refer to your lesson plans to see what the activity for each day for that week will be.

Printing Out The Lesson Plans

You may find it easiest to print out the lessons out onto hole punched copy paper and to place each month into a 3-prong report folder. You can find the already hole-punched paper at Wal-Mart along with the 3 prong report folders in the office section, or you can find these same items at staples or office max.

Weekly Calendars

You may find it easiest to print out the weekly calendars onto colored copy paper and place them into a plastic sheet protector, you can place these back to back and put two weeks at a time into one plastic sheet protector, at the end of the week just remove and flip it over to show the following week's calendar. At the end of the two weeks remove the calendars and place into a three ring binder and save for next year.

Weekly Posters

You may find it easiest to print out the posters onto white cardstock paper and place them into plastic sheet protectors, you can place these back to

back and put two weeks at a time into one plastic sheet protector, at the end of the week just remove and flip it over to show the following week's calendar. At the end of the two weeks remove the calendars and place into a three ring binder and save for next year.

Storing Printable Games

As you print out the printable games you may find they will keep for years if you cover them with clear contact paper, laminate them or place them into sturdy plastic sheet protectors and then store them away in file folders, and write on the file folder the month and the week and store all the printable pages for each week in one file folder and store these in a cardboard box that you can purchase at Wal-Mart in the office dept. that stores away file folders (bankers boxes).

I hope this booklet helps you with your daily circle time.