

A Bear's Lunch

Focus— Animals eat different foods.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Bears like berries (pick berries low)

Bears like meat (chew)

Bears like insects (flutter hands)

Bears like to eat! (clap)

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Collect Bear Food Cards, from Growing Up WILD, in paper bag “stomachs”.
- Pretend to be a bear sleeping in a cardboard carton box.
- Play with toy bears, bear books, plastic bears.

Learning

Prepare a bear food tray—toy insects, meats, berries—examine the different bear foods and talk about which are meat, bugs, or plants. Animals eat different ways. Some eat meat, some eat plants and some eat bugs, and some eat every kind of food. *We call the ones that eat meat—carnivores, the ones that eat plants--herbivores, the ones that eat insects—insectivores, and the ones that eat all kinds of foods –omnivores.* Read Brown Bear Brown Bear, by Eric Carle, with paper animal puppets to act out the different animals.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Find things bears could eat in the forest.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Make bear paw prints on a roll of brown paper by dipping fists in paint.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Dip Teddy Grahams in yogurt and eat “bear” foods like berries.

Closing— Make bear prints with stampers on a forest picture. Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes A Bear's Lunch

Targets

- Animals eat different kinds of foods.
- Some animals eat meat, some plants, and some insects.
- Bears eat all kinds of foods.

Extensions

- We call animals that eat meat "*carnivores*".
- We call animals that eat plants "*herbivores*".
- We call animals that eat insects "*insectivores*".
- We call animals that eat all kinds of foods "*omnivores*".

Thinking about outcomes: A Bear's Lunch

Vocabulary Bear, meat, plant, insect, <i>carnivore, herbivore,</i> <i>insectivore, omnivore</i>	Concepts Different animals eat different kinds of food. We have special names for animals depending on what they eat.	Skills Examining foods
Music and Story Attend to <u>Brown Bear,</u> <u>Brown, Bear</u> , act out the fingerplay and song, walk like a bear.	Art/Snack Press fists with paint on bear trail. Dip Teddy Bears and choose bear foods.	Walk/Explore Observe nature using all the senses.

Batty Bats

Focus— bat habitat, anatomy, and activity

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Bats have wings (arms to side)

And bats can fly (flap)

Out at night (stretch)

Up in the sky! (up)

• **First 15 minutes— Gathering:**

- Read bat books, color bat pictures, compare bat wings to hands.
- Try on paper bag bat wings.
- Do the bat songs and fingerplays.
- Have bats on straws to act out 5 little bats.
- Have a large carton for a cave that the children can crawl into. Hang bats from the top.

Learning

Bats live in colonies. A colony has lots of bats. Colonies can be in caves or under bridges. Nursery colonies have mommies and babies. Bachelor colonies have daddies.

Bats wings are like hands. Bats sleep during the day. They fly at night. They use sound and echoes to know where to go.

Bats catch insects and help us by eating bad insects.

Read Biggety Bat: Hot Diggety , It's Biggety! by Ann Ingalls.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Hang bats in the trees for children to find.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Let the children glue black bats and insects on black paper.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make a pretzel bat with two pretzels wings and a chocolate kiss or mini TWIX bar for the body, and two white chips for eyes.

Closing

Tape bat stickers on a paper “cavern”, Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Batty Bats

Targets

- Bats are mammals.
- Bats have wings and can fly.
- Bats sleep during the day.
- Bats help us by eating harmful insects.

Extensions

- Bat wings have bones like hands.
- Bats live in caverns.
- Mommy and baby bats live in nursery colonies.
- Boy bats live in bachelor colonies.

Thinking about outcomes: Batty Bats

Vocabulary Bat, wing, fly, colony, cavern	Concepts Bats are mammals, fly at night and sleep during the day, live in colonies, eat insects	Skills Assembling bat art, imitating motions in the fingerplay, participating in bat song
Music and Story Act out actions in the bat songs, and attend to bat poem	Art/Snack Attach bat wings to bat body, attach pretzels or licorice wings to candy body	Walk/Explore Find toy bats in trees on the walk

Bloomin' Blossoms

Focus— flower parts and growth

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Stems (stand tall) and leaves
(elbows out)

And petals (flutter fingers
around face) too,

All the flowers, red, yellow,
blue! (pat three times across)

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Look for flowers.
- Water flowers in pots.
- Read Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert.
- Sing some of the flower songs.

Learning

Learning-- Flowers grow from seeds. Flowers have stems to hold them up and leaves to make energy and roots to bring food and petals to attract insects and birds. Flowers need soil and sun and water to grow. Flowers come in different shapes and colors and sizes. Plants have flowers—grass and trees and cacti have flowers, too. Flowers make more seeds for new flowers.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Find flowers on the trail.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Plant flower seeds in a cup. Squeeze glue on green paper and drop sand or soil and Easter grass on the glue to make a pattern—give each child a flower sticker to pat on. Tape a half cup to a paper. Place a green half straw or pipecleaner inside. The child uses a dot marker to put petals on the flower.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make flowers from strawberry, banana and orange slices with celery stems.

Closing—

Review the song, story and fingerplay, tape cut-out flowers to a garden poster, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Bloomin' Blossoms

Targets

- Flowers grow from seeds.
Flowers have stems to hold them up, leaves to make energy and food, and petals to attract insects and birds.
- Flowers need earth and sun and water to grow.

Extensions

- Flowers come in many different sizes, colors, and shapes
- All plants have flowers which make fruits which have seeds

Thinking about outcomes: Bloomin' Blossoms

Vocabulary Flower, seed, leaves, stem, blossom, bloom, petals.	Concepts Growth, seeds, why flowers look pretty	Skills Look at flowers Find the stem, leaves and petals.
Music and Story Act out the flower song and fingerplay. Attend to the rainbow planting story.	Art/Snack Plant flower seeds by poking them into soil. Make a flower using fruit for petals.	Walk/Explore Find flowers on the trail. Observe using sight and smell and touch.

Breakfast for a Bird

Focus— different beaks adapted for different foods

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Some birds flap wings (flap arms to sides)

And some dive down (dive)

Some back and forth (move back and forth)

Some turn around! (turn around)

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Let the children experiment with the “beaks” and foods.
- Examine feathers.
- Look at bird books.
- Sit in pretend nests.
- Place toy birds in pretend nests.

Learning

Beaks are adapted for eating different foods, just like different utensils

Explore the bird foods—what would we need to eat them? Have toy fish, insects, small mammals, seeds, fruit nectar, dry fruit, rubber seaweed, gummy or lure worms.

Simulate bird beaks with different utensils—cup, scoop, baster, eye dropper, tongs, tweezers, scissors, chopsticks, nutcracker, strainer, hair clip

Eat like a bird—give each child a food and utensil to try .

Read Little Green or Birds by Kevin Henkes, with puppet and actions.

Move like a bird (avian antics).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15lXZoNcIXM>

Transition, using avian antic motions, outside.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Find birds, bird nests, bird foods and collect cotton ball “mice” and fishing lure “worms” in a paper bag “bird stomach”. Have tissue paper binoculars made for looking.

Third 15 minutes--Make and take

Paint with feathers.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Have a bird food buffet. Put out 3 bowls, one with cereal with tongs, raisins with a small fork/or corn puffs with a funnel, and goldfish with a ladle, and let the children fill bird stomachs (cups) using the “beaks”.

Closing—Let the children build and roost in nests, Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes: Breakfast for a Bird

Targets

- Birds eat different kinds of foods.
- Bird beaks are different depending on the food the bird eats.

Extensions

- Birds have feathers
- Birds build nests.
- Birds fly.
- Birds lay eggs.

Thinking about outcomes: Breakfast for a Bird

Vocabulary Bird, beak, feather, nest, eggs, fly, <i>roost</i>	Concepts Birds eat different foods. Beaks are <i>adapted</i> for the foods the bird eats.	Skills Move like a bird. Eat like a bird.
Music and Story Attend to <u>Little Green</u> and do the actions Imitate the actions in the fingerplay and songs	Art/Snack Use feathers to dip and paint. Use analog bird beak to get bird foods.	Walk/Explore Listen for birds. Look for birds, nests and bird foods, as well as “mice” and “worms”. Observe birds.

Busy As a Bee

Focus— bee anatomy and roles

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Here is the honeybee (pincer finger thumb)

Here is the hive (tent hands)

Working together (mesh fingers)

To keep bees alive (clap)!

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering: :**
- Have bee books, and honeycomb and beekeeper clothing and equipment (if available) out to explore.
- Have a paper poster hive and flower pots with flowers. Let the children pick up pollen (baggies with yellow sand inside) and take the pollen to the hive.
- Act out bee roles.
- Act out bee dances.

Learning

Sing *Head, Thorax, Abdomen (Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes)*, from Growing Up WILD.

Explain bee anatomy with analogs—pollen baskets (brushes), honey tummy (sticky honey), antennae (touch fingers). Pass compound eyes around. Teach (oh, oh, big word!) exoskeleton and have the children find their skeletons by tapping knees, elbows and skulls.

Explain bee roles by comparing them to familiar roles—workers>house cleaner, nurse, *forager* (searching for pollen), guard, robber, queen=mommy, *drone*=daddy.—and giving each a bee role card.

Explain bee dances with moving in a circle and figure 8.

Read Bee and Me by Elle McGuinness.

Transition with dancing out to take a walk and look for bees.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Look for bees, hives, and flowers that bees might like.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Let children pat hexagonal cereal on contact paper to make honey combs.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Spread honey on crackers, or make Krimpet bee snacks.

Closing

Stamp bees on a large brown paper hive. Read Bumble Bee by Margaret Wise Brown. Review the song, and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Busy As a Bee

Targets

- Bees have three body parts, 2 pair of wings, antennae and 6 legs.
- Bees live in hives.
- Some bees make honey.
- Bees have different jobs in the hive.

Extensions

- Bees dance to *communicate* (talk) to each other.
- There is one queen bee—she makes the babies.
- Some of the different jobs are: making babies, taking care of babies, cleaning the hive, finding food and protecting the hive.

Thinking about outcomes: Busy As a Bee

<p>Vocabulary Bee, queen, <i>drone</i> (daddy), worker, <i>forage</i> (hunt for food), protect, guard, clean, <i>abdomen</i> (tummy), <i>thorax</i> (chest), <i>exoskeleton</i>, <i>antennae</i>, <i>hive</i></p>	<p>Concepts Parts of bee bodies, bee jobs, honeybees make honey, bees live in a hive, bees <i>cooperate</i> (work together)</p>	<p>Skills Finding parts of the body that are like a bee's, pretending to communicate with antennae and dances, acting out bee jobs</p>
<p>Music and Story Touch body parts with the <i>Head, Thorax, Abdomen</i> song. Attend to <u>Bee and Me</u>.</p>	<p>Art/Snack Pat hexagonal cereal on contact paper to make honey combs. Spread honey on the cracker or insert the pretzel sticks in the Krimpet bee.</p>	<p>Walk/Explore Look for flowers and bees. Observe bees.</p>

Clever Spiders

Focus— spider anatomy and webs

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

“Itsy Bitsy Spider” fingerplay with “spider sticks” and tissue rolls

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Read The Very Busy Spider, by Eric Carle with puppets.
- Have *Spin, Spider, Spin*, by Marcia Berman and Patty Zeitlin, with silver ribbons, for spinning.
- Have specimens, books, and webs made of yarn or sticky tape.
- Finger-walk the tape web.
- String webs of yarn between chairs or tables or trees.
- Walk the masking tape web.
- Act out Anansi the Spider by Gerald McDermott, with popsicle puppets.

Learning

Choose spider songs to sing. Spiders are mainly helpful. Insects have 3 (hold up 3 fingers) body parts, and 6 (hold up three fingers on both hands) legs, and 2 antennae (hold up 1 finger in each hand); spiders have 2 (hold up 2 fists and put them together) body parts, and 8 legs (hold up 4 fingers on both hands,) and no antennae. They both have their skeletons--their hard parts--outside and they both have bodies in parts.

Have children gently knock on head, elbow, knee—feel the bones—that’s our skeleton, it’s inside/under our skin—slide hands on skin. Spiders have—oh oh, big word—*exoskeleton*—their skeletons are outside their bodies.

Spiders weave webs —they catch food, insects and small animals, in their webs. They can feel the insects walking on the webs (Hold ribbon and place vibrator on the ribbon). The webs are sticky (Have 2 sided tape on tray for them to feel.) Spiders have bristly feet so they won’t stick to the web (Pass out selection of brushes to feel.) They have—big word!—*spinnerets* that make silky threads to make the webs (Have embroidery floss pieces to feel.)

Read [The Very Busy Spider](#).

Transition—children hold silky “web” string and play [fuzzy-felt FOLK](#) “Spin, Spider, Spin” by Marcia Berman and Patty Zeitlin, to walk outside.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Walk to find spiders, places spiders might make webs, and insects. Place rubber or plastic webs and spiders along the trail with large foam spiders at the end to find.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Make a Model Magic and pipe cleaner spider encouraging the children to really play with the Model Magic. Make a web painting by dipping string in paint.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make ranch dressing webs and sprinkle raisins for insects on them.
Transition by dancing in with *Spin, Spider, Spin*.

Closing

The children get insect stickers to put on the large web in the front of the room. Review the song ,story, and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Clever Spiders

Targets

- Spiders have two body parts, 8 legs and *spinnerets* to make silk.
- Spiders have an *exoskeleton*. That means their hard parts like your bones, are on the outside.
- Spiders spin webs to catch food.
- There are different kinds of webs.

Extensions

- Webs can be *orb* (circle), triangle, sheet (flat) or tangle (cobweb).
- Spiders have to shed= *molt* their *exoskeletons*=outsides, to grow.

Thinking about outcomes: Clever Spiders

Vocabulary Spider, <i>abdomen</i> =tummy, <i>cephalothorax</i> =chest and head, <i>exoskeleton</i> , legs, web, spin, silk, <i>spinnerets</i> , <i>molt</i> , <i>sticky</i> , <i>bristles</i>	Concepts Parts of spiders' bodies, web types, spinning webs from silk, webs are sticky, spiders have bristles on their legs so they can walk on the web, spiders feel vibrations	Skills Inserting pieces to be legs, spinning around, stamping, finger extension for stickers
Music and Story Act out spider body parts and spinning webs. Making the sound of different animals. Attend to the story.	Art/Snack Stamp. Assemble spider. Squeeze ranch dressing to reinforce web. Pincer to place raisin bugs on web.	Walk/Explore Look for webs and spiders.

Deer, Oh Deer

Focus—what deer need

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

- Deer need water (slurp) and a sheltering place (hands make roof over head)
- Deer need food (chew) and deer need space (wave arms out).

• **First 15 minutes— Gathering:**

- Get a deer bag and go to corners of the room and collect food, water, shelter pictures in a deer bag.
- Read *A House Is a House for Me* by Mary Ann Hoberman and Betty Fraser.

Learning

Deer and animals need **FOOD, WATER, SHELTER** to stay alive. They need to eat to grow and have energy. They need water to stay healthy. They need a place to live where they can hide and move around. There must be enough space so all the deer can eat and drink and hide. Let's make a roof (hands together over head) to be the "house" for the deer. Let's make some food (rub tummy yummy) to feed the deer. Let's make some water (cupped hand to mouth) so the deer can drink.

Deer can live in forests, or deserts or farmlands and sometimes in parts of cities. Deer prance and grunt and kick the ground to tell how they feel. You can be a deer and prance like deer, grunt like a deer, and kick your hoof (feet) like a deer. You can pretend to give a warning and lift up your tail and run and jump.

Daddy deer are called stags. They have antlers on their heads. The stags have contests with each other. Baby deer are called "fawns". They have spots to hide in the light and shadow in the forest. Mommy deer are called "does" / They take care of the babies.

Deer have hooves which are like big strong nails on the end of their legs.

Read Dotty by Paola Opal, and act out the motions with deer sticks. Transition by prancing like deer to the porch.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Find good places for deer to hide and find food.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Make a paper bag fawn puppet by adding handprint antlers and dot marker spots.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make a deer treat—triangle bread slice spread with cream cheese, with pretzel stick antlers and raisin eyes and nose.

Closing

Make hoof prints, with sponges and inkpads, on a large forest cutout, review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Deer, Oh Deer

Targets

- Deer need food, water and a place to live.
- We have special names for mommy, daddy and baby deer.
- Deer have *antlers* and *hooves*.

Extensions

- We call daddy deer “stags”, mommy deer “does” and baby deer “fawns”.
- Deer show how they feel by prancing or bouncing around, kicking and *pawing* or stomping with their hooves.

Thinking about outcomes: Deer, Oh Deer

Vocabulary <i>Deer, stag, doe, fawn, shelter, hoof, antler</i>	Concepts Deer need food, water and shelter. We have words to describe deer. Deer have antlers and hooves.	Skills Imitating deer sound and movement Using movement to represent food, water and shelter
Music and Story Do the actions for <i>Did You Ever See a Forest</i> and <u>Dotty</u> .	Art/Snack Use the dot marker to tap dots on the deer puppet. Poke pretzels and raisins on the deer snack.	Walk/Explore Look for good places for deer to hide, sleep and eat.

Green Grows the Grass

Focus— grass foods we eat, grasshopper movement

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Grasshopper, grasshopper on the hill,

Grasshopper, grasshopper stay so still. (freeze)

Grasshopper, grasshopper jump so high

Grasshopper, grasshopper in the sky! (reach up high)

From *Growing Up WILD*

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Find toy grasshoppers, bugs, reptiles in Easter grass. Look at grasshopper models
- Read In the Tall, Tall, Grass, by Denise, Fleming. Are You a Grasshopper , by Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries

Sing Head, Thorax Abdomen.

From *Growing Up WILD*

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Learning

Learning—Ask “Who ate grass today?” Explain that grains are part of grasses and look at grain foods and grain. Grass grows from seed. We eat lots of grass foods. Insects and reptiles live in grass.

Grasshoppers have three body parts, 6 legs and two antennae.

Grasshoppers have to molt to grow.

Transition by jumping like a grasshopper.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Observe the different sizes, shapes, colors and textures of grasses.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Plant grass seeds in a cup. Make a collage of soil, Easter grass and grains on contact paper sticky side.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Eat a selection of grass foods—cereal, crackers, corn puffs.

Closing— Stamp grasshoppers on a poster of grass and stick grass on two-sided tape on top. Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Green Grows the Grass

Targets

- Grass is a plant.
- Lots of animals eat grass.
- We eat grass foods.
- Grasshoppers are an insect that live in the grass.

Extensions

- Grasses come in different sizes, shapes, colors and textures.
- Grasses have stems (culm/sheath) and leaves (blades) and flowers (inflorescence) and seeds .
- Grasses are used to make clothes, baskets, fuel and houses.

Thinking about outcomes: Green Grows the Grass

Vocabulary

Grass, stem (*culm, sheath*), leaf (*blade*), flower (*inflorescence*), seed, grasshopper, head, *thorax*, *abdomen*, soil, sun, rain, grain

Concepts

Grass is a plant. Grasses come in different sizes, shapes, colors and textures. Grasses have stems (culm/sheath) and leaves (blades) and flowers (inflorescence) and seeds . Lots of animals eat grass.
We eat grass foods.
Grasshoppers are an insect that live in the grass.

Skills

Observing grass.
Describing grass.

Music and Story

Act out the grass songs and grasshopper fingerplay.
Attend to the grass and grasshopper books.

Art/Snack

grass seed in the soil.
Sample grass foods.

Walk/Explore

Find grasses.
Observe differences in grasses.
Look for grasshoppers.

Grow, Grow, Grow

Focus— life cycles

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Eggs hatch to caterpillars,
caterpillars grow (scrunch
down and puff up),

Then spin a chrysalis (turn)
and butterfly (flap wings) just
so!

- **First 15 minutes—Gathering:**
- Read The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle with stick puppets. Have socks with eyes the children can put on their arms
- Act out *Caterpillar 1,2,3* from Incy Wincy Spider by the little 'uns
- Have zipper bags with laminated *Grow As We Grow* Card sets from Growing Up WILD.
- Act out changing from being an egg to a butterfly or a frog.
- Sing the *Frog Song* from Growing Up WILD.

Learning

Use terms like grown up, baby, pair scientific terms—adult, juvenile, larva, pupa, nymph—to explain the life cycle. Compare creature growth to child growth finding and comparing parts of the body on children and adults. Use doll figures to demonstrate age changes. Sing *Growing Kids* song with actions, from Growing Up WILD.

Second 15 minutes— Walk

Walk to find living things that grow and change. Look for caterpillars, butterflies and toy frogs placed along the trail.

Third 15 minutes— Make and take

Take a paper cup chrysalis and make a coffee filter and clothespin butterfly (with watercolors and medicine droppers) to put inside.

Fourth 15 minutes— Snack

Make fruit and cheese hungry caterpillar kabobs.

Closing

Stamp frogs on a lily pad poster and butterflies on a flower poster. Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Grow, Grow, Grow

Targets

- We grow bigger
- Some animals change as they grow
- Caterpillars grow into butterflies
- Tadpoles grow into frogs

Extensions

- Butterflies start as eggs and become *larva*/caterpillar, then *pupa/chrysalis/cocoon*, then butterflies
- Tadpoles start as eggs and become *froglets*, baby frogs and grown up frogs

Thinking about outcomes: Grow, Grow, Grow

Vocabulary Butterfly, egg, caterpillar, (<i>larva, pupa, cocoon</i>), frog, tadpole, (<i>froglet</i>), change, grow (<i>metamorphosis</i>)	Concepts Relate growth to baby, child, grown-up	Skills Imitating actions for caterpillar fingerplay and frog song Examining butterfly and frog materials
Music and Story Act out a changing caterpillar and frog Attend to the <u>Very Hungry Caterpillar</u> March to <i>1, 2, 3, The Caterpillar's Up the Tree</i>	Art/Snack Drop colored water on the filter Stuff the “caterpillar” into the cup Choose foods and spearing them on the food kabob	Walk/Explore Participate on the walk to find places caterpillars might eat or live If available, observe caterpillars or tadpoles

How's the Weather

Focus— kinds of weather

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

The Playful Wind

The wind came out to play today (sweep hands)

It blew the clouds out of its way (blow)

It blew the leaves, and away they flew (flutter hands high)

The trees bent low, and their branches did too - (bend low)

<http://childfun.com/index.php/activity-themes/seasonal/245-weather-activity-theme.html#sthash.gT2eDEV8.dpuf>

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Dress up in weather clothes, raincoats, boots, umbrellas, sun hat, sunglasses, swim cap, mittens, scarf, hat.
- Read Spot Looks at the Weather by Catherine Farwell.
- Sing *The Whistling Wind*, *The Sun is Shining* and *What's the Weather*

Learning

Weather changes. Rain comes from clouds. Rain and sun makes a rainbow. We feel the winds. Sometimes we see lightning and hear thunder in s storm. The sun makes us hot. In very cold weather we may have snow, ice, sleet and freezing rain. Water from the ground goes up to make clouds. Water in clouds comes down as rain.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Observe weather, notice the difference in sunny and shady places, and fly kites.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Glue cotton balls on blue paper to make a cloud collage, or paint with a cloud of cotton ball

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Add pretzel rays to a cheese circle sun. Transition by running like the wind.

Closing

Make a cloud and sky poster and let the children stamp fingerprint raindrops coming down. Review the song, story, and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes How's the Weather

Targets

- Weather changes.
- Rain comes from clouds.
- We feel the winds.
- Sometimes we see lightning and hear thunder in a storm.
- The sun makes us hot.

Extensions

- Rain and sun makes a rainbow.
- When it gets cold we can get snow and ice.
- Sometimes when the air is cold we get sleet and hail—they feel like hard balls.

Thinking about outcomes: How's the Weather

Vocabulary Sun, wind, rain, clouds, rainbow, thunder, lightning, hot cold, wet dry	Concepts There are different kinds of weather. Weather comes from things in the sky	Skills Observe the sky and wind. Observe the weather. Observe sun and shade.
Music and Story Do the actions with the weather and wind songs. Attend to the story about Spot and the weather.	Art/Snack Pat cotton balls on 2 sided tape to make a collage. Paint with cotton balls. Stick pretzel sticks in a cheese sun for rays.	Walk/Explore Look at the sky. Feel the wind. Feel the temperature in full sun and shade.

Leapin' Lizards

Focus— kinds and characteristics of reptiles

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

I see a lizard in the tree (reach up)

Looking down so carefully (reach down).

It can change it's color too (hands pass from head to feet)

To hide itself from me and you! (cover eyes with hands)

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Look at reptile models, and place scales on two-sided tape on a large paper lizard.
- Put on paper bag 2-color costumes for changing colors.
- Read Lizard's Home by George Shannon.
- Sing *Did You Ever See a Lizard* from Growing Up WILD.

Learning

Lizards are reptiles. Other reptiles are turtles, alligators, and snakes. Reptiles are cold blooded—their temperature is close to the temperature outside. Reptiles lay, generally soft, eggs. Reptiles have skeletons and dry scaly skins or plates. Reptiles are cold blooded—when it's hot they're hot and when it's cold, they're cold. Some reptiles have sticky feet to cling. Some lizards change colors to match their environments and hide. Lizards have long tongues to catch insects Reptiles lay eggs. Reptiles have scales. Turtles, alligators, and lizards have 4 legs.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Walk to look for lizards in trees.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Art—wrap green pipe cleaner legs around green tongue depressor and add 2 circle sticker eye.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Stick Cheerios on a banana half and add pretzel legs and tail.

Closing

Stamp alligator, lizard, turtle and snake stamps on a swamp picture, and Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Leapin' Lizards

Targets

- Lizards are reptiles. Other reptiles are turtles, alligators, and snakes.
- Lizards have 4 legs, a head and a tail.
- Reptiles have skeletons and dry scaly skins or plates.
- Fingerplay
- Reptiles have backbones, dry skin and 4 legs (pat back, skin and legs)
- They're cold blooded and reptiles lay eggs! (shiver and make an egg shape with hands)

Extensions

- Reptiles are cold blooded—their temperature is close to the temperature outside.
- Reptiles lay, generally soft, eggs
- Some reptiles have sticky feet to cling.
- Some lizards change colors to match their environments and hide.
- Lizards have long tongues to catch insects

Thinking about outcomes: Leapin' Lizards

Vocabulary Reptiles, lizards, snakes, alligators, turtles, scaly, <i>plates, cold blooded,</i> tongue, sticky, change color, eggs, skeleton	Concepts Lizards are reptiles. Other reptiles are turtles, alligators, and snakes. Lizards have 4 legs, a head and a tail. Reptiles have skeletons and dry scaly skins or plates.	Skills Explore reptile models, observe differences among reptiles
Music and Story Act out the lizard song Attend to the book about the lizard	Art/Snack Bend pipe cleaners to make lizard legs Stick Cheerios on the banana to make scaly skin and pretzel sticks to make legs	Walk/Explore Look for places reptiles might live

Living in a Tree

Focus— What lives in a tree?

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

What are all the things that
can live in a tree?

A squirrel and a bat and a bird
I see.

A snake and a spider and a
butterfly—

Some down low and some up
high!

• **First 15 minutes— Gathering:**

- Feel pieces from trees in feely bags.
- Look for stuffed or model animals in trees.
- Read [A House Is a House for Me](#) by Mary Ann Hoberman and Betty Fraser.
- Place model animals on a tree branch or stump.

Learning

Act out with, sounds and actions, parts of a tree—Tree Factory, Project Learning Tree. Use toy animals to talk about “who lives in a tree”. Act out Toddler Tall Oak Tree using large pictures for the animals. Sing *The Little Owl* song. Read The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward. Use *The Sun and the Rain* , The Wise Guy Preschool Songs to transition to the walk.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Use all the senses to experience the parts, similarities and differences in trees. Look for animals, birds and insects in trees, signs of life in trees, and things that could be homes or food.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Make a tree collage by sticking pieces of bark and leaves on a paper with dilute tacky glue and foam brushes. Paint with pine needles by dipping them in paint to use as brushes.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Eat a selection of tree fruits.

Closing

Hang owls and leaves on a tree poster. Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Living In a Tree

Targets

- Trees have roots, trunk, bark, leaves
- Many different animals love in trees

Extensions

- Roots slurp up water and food and anchor the tree to the ground
- Water and food go up the trunk
- Leaves make energy from sun and air
- Energy goes down the trunk
- The trunk supports the tree
- The bark protects the trunk

Thinking about outcomes: Living In a Tree

Vocabulary Trunk, roots, bark, leaves	Concepts Many animals live in trees Trunk supports the tree Roots slurp up water and food Leaves make energy from sun and air Bark protects the tree	Skills Doing the sounds and actions of the tree parts Using the senses to explore and observe bark, tree sections and leaves
Music and Story Do the actions with <i>The Sun and the Rain</i> song Imitate actions of the leaves fingerplay Attend to the <u>Busy Tree book</u>	Art/Snack Dip pine needles in paint and paint on paper. Attach bark and leaves to tape. Choose and sample nuts and fruit.	Walk/Explore Observe trees and parts of trees.

Mighty Ants

Focus— ant anatomy and roles

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Ants work together—1,2,3

(put up 1,2,3, fingers

Ants live in a colony!

(Spread fingers and bring both hands together.)

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Have sets of 2 pans—1 with sand and ants, and one empty with a shovel. Let the children dig in the pan to make an ant hill in the empty tub, and discover the ants.
- March using the *Ants Are Busy* song.
- Look at ant books .
- Use multi facet lenses to see an ants eye view.
- Follow a path of plastic ants.
- Have straw antennae bands to practice communicating.

Learning

Show 3 paper plate (head, thorax, and abdomen) and pipe cleaner (6 legs and 2 antennae) model of ant body parts. Have noisemaker, vibrator, comb, hooks, smell bottle to talk about ant communication and parts on the legs for cleaning and climbing. Review exoskeleton by tapping on skull, elbow and knees. Use balloons to pretend to communicate. Explain that ants live in groups and cooperate. Different ants have different jobs. Assign “jobs” to toddler ants.

Use movements to teach body parts--Sing the *Head Thorax* song to *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*.

Use the *Ant Chant* with the power point pictures full size and ant Popsicle stick puppets. Call out “hey!” at the end of each set of lines and the children can call out “Little Ant!” and raise the puppets.

An alternative is to read or sing Hey Little Ant by Phillip and Hannah Hoose.

Transition—line up like an ant line and walk .

Sing *The Ants Go Marching*_

Sung to: "When John Comes Marching Home".

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Use ant plates to see which foods attracts ants—have plates ready with a shred of bologna, spoonful of sugar, spoonful of jelly, cooked bean—first show a tray of foods. Look for good places to find ants and place the plates there, walk to find ants and ant hills, then return and check plates to see which foods the ants go to. You may want to place plates out in advance and then check them during class. Look for ants on the trail.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Make Model Magic ants with pipecleaner legs and antennae. Have baggies with three balls of Model Magic and 8 pieces of pipe cleaner.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Be a “colony” and form a line to go to the snacks like ants following to find food. Make (raisin) ants on a (pretzel and cream cheese) log snacks—Transition—use the music to march to the mat.

Closing

Stamp ants, larvae and pupas on the huge brown paper anthill. Read Hey, Little Ant, review the song, fingerplay and sing the Good-bye songs, give out handouts, and preview coming attractions.

Outcomes Mighty Ants

Targets

- Ants live in *colonies*/groups with different jobs
- Ants have three body parts, 6 legs and 2 antennae
- Ants live in anthills

Extensions

- Ants *communicate*/talk with smell and touching antennae
- Ant jobs include building, protecting, gathering food, processing food, cleaning the ant hill, taking care of baby ants

Thinking about outcomes: Mighty Ants

Vocabulary Head, <i>thorax</i> /chest, <i>abdomen</i> /tummy <i>Colony</i> /group Ant hill Legs, antennae, eyes <i>Pheromones</i> /smell	Concepts Ants have three body parts (3 fingers) and 6 legs(3 fingers each hand), 2 antennae (2 fingers), 2 big eyes (2 fists), 3 little eyes Ants have different roles	Skills Imitating actions for learning, fingerplays and songs Observing ants at food sample plates
Music and Story Touch head, chest, tummy with song. March to <u>The Ants Go Marching</u> . Attend to <u>Hey Little Ant</u> .	Art/Snack Attach 3 balls to make ant body. Insert 6 pipecleaner legs and 2 antennae. Spread cheese on pretzel. Place raisins on cheese.	Walk/Explore Participate on walk. Look for ants. Observe natural features.

More and Less

Focus— reduce, reuse, recycle

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Use it again or make it
something new (hands mix)
That's what good recyclers
do! (clap)

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Play the *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* song and act it out with objects.
- Explore trays of paper to recycle and plastic to recycle, in a recycling bin.

Learning

Teach share, reduce, reuse, recycle—Act out sharing by having pairs hold something together. Act out recycle by pretending to throw something in a can. Act out reduce (conservation) by turning water and lights out. Find recycle symbols on trash. Sort trash into blue recycle or brown trash containers. Sing the *Trying to Use Less, Sharing With Our Friends*, and *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* songs from Growing Up WILD. Read Don't Throw That Away, by Lara Bergen, and Recycling Is Fun by Charles Ghigna.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Go on a walk to collect “planted” litter.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Find a recycled card in the box to be made into the recycling box. Decorate the recycling box by gluing on (option= 2 sided tape) a recycling symbol, and coloring with markers or dot painters. Use the box to place snack reusable in.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Use any food in reusable cups and recycle the container.

Closing

Give children reusable bags and let them go grocery shopping, Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes More and Less

Targets

- We *reduce waste* by using less and sharing.
- We can *re-use* things .
- We can *recycle* some *trash*.

Extensions

- We help the earth by making less trash.
- *Composting* is another way of making less trash.
- Some things can be recycled and others can't.

Thinking about outcomes: More and Less

Vocabulary <i>Reduce, re-use, recycle, trash, waste, compost, symbol, conserve, litter</i> Glass, plastic, paper, cans	Concepts We want to make less trash There are several ways we can help	Skills Looking for recycling symbol Placing reusables in a recycling bin
Music and Story Act out sorting, recycling, and sharing Attend to <u>Don't Throw That Away</u> , and <u>Recycling Is Fun</u> .	Art/Snack Poke decorations on 2 sided tape, and glue decorations. Place reusable container in the blue bin and trash in the brown bin.	Walk/Explore Look for litter on the trail.

Pokies and Pricklies

Focus— Cacti are adapted for heat.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Cactus pads green and flat
(hand pat like pancake)

With a sharp and pointy spine
(1 finger touch to other like point)

And some fruits and flowers
(open fist like tuna blooming)
Bright and lovely looking fine!
(clap)

- **First 15 minutes—Gathering:**
- Explore cacti in pots and cactus books
- Read Cactus Charlie by Angela Muse.
- Sing *In the Desert*
Tune: “Oh, My Darling Clementine”
- In the desert, in the hot sun,
Grows a cactus big and tall.
It is green and it is spiny,
It’s the best one of them all
- Xeric (heat adapted) plants use three techniques—escape=hide, e.g. bluebonnets (annuals), evade=avoid e.g. Artemisia (perennials) , endure=last it out (cacti, agaves, deciduous trees, etc.)

Learning

Cacti are green and can have pads and fruit and flowers. Cacti have sharp spines. Cacti don't need a lot of water.

Cacti have big spines (develop from leaf), and little spines (glochids). They have fruit called tunas and flowers.

Some cacti have flat pads and some have pads like sticks. Cacti have names like Prickly pear, pencil or Christmas cactus.

The white on cactus is cochineal, from a scale insect—it makes red dye.

Cacti don't need a lot of water. Another plant that doesn't need a lot of water is the yucca.

Yucca constricta have narrow leaves and Yucca rupicola has twisted leaves.

Second 15 minutes— Walk

Walk to find prickly pear and pencil cacti, Agarita, sedges, sandbur grass, agave and yucca.

Third 15 minutes--Make and take

Stick toothpicks in green playdoh cactus.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Spread celery with cream cheese and place cranberry tunas on. Spread agave honey on crackers and drink SoBe pomegranate drink.

Closing

Let children place toothpicks on large paper cactus covered with two-sided tape. Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Pokies and Pricklies

Targets

- Cacti are green and can have pads and fruit and flower.
- Cacti have sharp spines.
- Cacti don't need a lot of water.

Extensions

- Cacti have big spines and little spines (glochids).
- They have fruit called tunas and flowers.
- Some cacti have flat pads and some have pads like sticks.
- Cacti have names like Prickly pear, pencil or Christmas cactus.
- *The white on cactus is cochineal, from a scale insect—it makes red dye.*
- Another plant that doesn't need a lot of water is the yucca. *Yucca constricta* have narrow leaves and *Yucca rupicola* has twisted leaves.

Thinking about outcomes: Pokies and Pricklies

Vocabulary Cactus, tuna, pad, flower, spine, <i>cochineal</i> , <i>glochids</i> , <i>xeric</i> , <i>escape</i> , <i>evade</i> , <i>endure</i>	Concepts Cacti are green and can have pads and fruit and flower. Cacti have sharp spines. Cacti don't need a lot of water.	Skills Exploring and observing <i>xeric</i> (low water, high temperature adapted) plants
Music and Story Do the actions with the cactus song and fingerplays.	Art/Snack Stick toothpicks in green dough to make a cactus. Spread cream cheese dots on celery and press cranberries in.	Walk/Explore Find cacti and yucca and observe and describe them.

Rockin' and Rollin'

**Focus—Hello and Name
Songs**

Finger play:

Some rocks come from seas
(wave hands)

And some rocks come from
heat (volcano up)

And some rocks become soil
(tilling)

But every rock is neat! (clap).

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Feel and look at lots of rocks, clay, silt, and sand.
- Dig and sift bins of sand and rocks.
- Have books about rocks and soils out.
- Wash rocks.

Learning

Read The Earth and I by Frank Asch. Have the children feel clay, silt, and sand (with supervision). Let them feel igneous (melted) and sedimentary (little pieces) rock. Talk about what the earth does>support, we stand on it (stamp feet), build on it (pat floor), grow things on it (hands go up). Soil has water (shake water jar), nutrients (show vegetable peel) and air (deep breath).

- Act out being an igneous rock (volcano) and a sedimentary rock (layer hands).

Second 15 minutes—Walk to look at soil and rocks in the park.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Paint a rock with acrylic paint. Make a ‘landscape’ by painting weak glue on cardstock and sprinkling colored sand over the glue. Paint with mud. Make mud pies.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Put some sunflower seeds and raisins in the bottom of the cup to represent the rocky parent material; crumble some graham crackers for sand, silt and clay; crumble a brownie layer for humus. Enjoy. Can be stirred as animals do stir up the soil. Spread refried beans on multi-seed crackers.

Closing—Make a shaker with small pebbles for a rock band, and make a soil collage with sticky tape the children can pat soil on, good-bye songs: preview next class.

Outcomes Rockin' and Rollin'

Targets

- Rocks are hard
- Rocks come in different shapes, colors and *textures* (feel)
- Rocks break up to make soil

Extensions

- Rocks break up in many ways
- Soil has several parts
- Soil lies in layers
- Rocks are made in different ways

Thinking about outcomes: Rockin' and Rollin'

Vocabulary Rock, soil, <i>humus, topsoil, subsoil, bedrock/parent, sand, silt, clay, igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic, composite</i>	Concepts Features of rocks Parts of soil Relationship of rocks to soil	Skills Exploring/observing rocks, soil and components
Music and Story Reinforce concept of the relationship of rocks to soil. Relate rocks and soil to the general idea that Earth is a rock with soil.	Art/Snack Brush dilute glue on paper, sprinkle sand. Paint rocks. Crumple cracker and brownie.	Walk/Explore Observe rocks and soil in the natural environment

Seeds We Need

Focus— Seeds travel in different ways.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

The seeds are scattered everywhere (move hands all about)

Some by animals (bend down on all fours), some by air (puff).

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Have trays of seeds and seed foods we eat for the children to explore.
- Read *A Fruit Is a Suitcase for a Seed*, by Jean Richards, and let the children put foods into the suitcase.

Learning

Read *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss. Act it out using dolls, seed packet, watering can and weeder. Sing *Dropping Seeds to Frere Jacques*. Have lots of seeds to feel and scatter for the fingerplay. Use Velcro and cotton balls to simulate seeds catching in fur. Seeds sprout and grow into plants. Seeds travel in different ways—hooked onto animal fur, eaten by animals, and birds and “pooped out”, loosened as animals eat, or buried and hidden by animals. Seeds also travel on wind and water. We eat foods which are seeds--cereals, breads, beans, nuts, fruits, etc. Simulate seed travel by giving each child a real seed, (dry raisin, nut, wheat berry, grass or flower) and have them walk or run and drop the seed.

Second 15 minutes— Walk--Walk to find seeds in the forest and scat.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Cut up fruit to find seeds. Look at sprouted seeds and plant seeds to take home. Make a Seed Collage (seeds in model magic) with parent supervision.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make your own trail mix or edible art seed collage with cream cheese (almond butter, humus) nuts and dry fruit. Transition with *The Sun and the Rain* song.

Closing

Let the children place beans, rice and popcorn on a poster of a forest. Use *The Sun and Rain* song to regroup, and sing the good-bye songs, and preview the next session.

Outcomes Seeds We Need

Targets

- We eat seeds
- Some foods are seeds and others have seeds inside
- Seeds travel and spread

Extensions

- Seeds travel by sticking to animal fur, being eaten and “pooped out”, and being hidden by animals
- Seeds can travel by air or water

Thinking about outcomes: Seeds We Need

Vocabulary Seeds, fruits, vegetables, grow, sprout, plants, flowers, grass, travel (<i>dispersal</i>)	Concepts Plants come from seeds Many foods come from seeds Animals eat seeds We eat seeds Seeds travel in different ways	Skills Using all the senses to explore seeds and plants that grow from seeds
Music and Story Imitate the seed fingerplay and <i>Dropping Seeds</i> movements. Act out <i>The Sun and the Rain</i> song. Attend to <u>The Carrot Seed</u> .	Art/Snack Poke seeds into Model Magic with extended finger Poke seeds into dirt to plant them Pour water in cup to water seeds Choose seeds and dry fruit for trail mix Spread humus on rice cake and place seeds on it.	Walk/Explore Participate on walk by observing grass, flower, plant and tree seeds. Look for seeds in <i>scat</i> .

Turkeys Are Terrific

Focus—Hello and Name
Songs

Finger play:

*The turkey is a funny bird
(hands make big belly)*

*Its head goes wobble, wobble
(side to side)*

*And the only thing that it can
say (up and down)*

*Is gobble, gobble, gobble!
(front and back)*

- **First 15 minutes—**
Gathering: Ten Fat Turkeys,
I'm a Turkey, feel feathers
and turkey models, use
“bag” wings, breasts, tails
and heads to practice
movements (flap, puff out,
gobble, roost in nests)

Turkeys Are Terrific

Focus— anatomy and roles of turkeys

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

*The turkey is a funny bird
(hands make big belly)*

*Its head goes wobble, wobble
(side to side)*

*And the only thing that it can
say (up and down)*

*Is gobble, gobble, gobble!
(front and back)*

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Read Ten Fat Turkeys, by Tony Johnston, or I'm a Turkey by Jim Arnosky.
- Feel feathers and turkey models.
- Use “bag” wings, breasts, tails and heads to practice movements (flap, puff out, gobble, roost in nests)

Learning

Talk about hen and tom (mommy and daddy) turkeys, poult (babies) and jennys and jakes (young turkeys). Compare the turkey roles to babies, children, and grown-ups. Strut (practice with puffy chests forward and hands in back forming tails), roost (sit on=squat) and gobble (practice). Play hen and tom turkeys—sit on make believe nests (crushed brown paper bags) and strut. Talk about camouflage (hiding). Turkeys have feathers. They eat seeds. They live in forests. Toms are colorful so they are handsome. Hens blend in so they are hidden and safe.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Take a walk in the woods to find good roosting, feeding, and hiding places. “Seed” the trail with hard boiled eggs in nests for the children to discover.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Do feather painting. Make a Model Magic, stick and grass nest, in a bowl.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make your own trail mix of dried cranberries and other fruit, nuts, seeds.

Transition: Strut into the circle.

Closing

Let the children tape feathers on a big paper turkey in the front of the room. Review the song, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Turkeys Are Terrific

Targets

- Turkeys have feathers, wings and tails.
- Turkeys sit on eggs in nests.
- Turkeys roost in trees.
- We have special names for turkeys at different ages.
- Turkeys gobble.

Extensions

- Turkeys have *beards, wattles, caruncles, snoods, and spurs*.
- Baby turkeys are *poults*, young boy and girl turkeys are *Jennies* and *Jakes*, and grown up turkeys are *Hens* and *Toms or gobblers*.
- Turkeys can run and fly.

Thinking about outcomes: Turkeys Are Terrific

Vocabulary Wings, tails, feathers, wattles, beards, spurs, turkeys, toms, hens, poults, jennies, jakes, roost, nest, eggs	Concepts Body parts of turkeys, stages and roles of turkeys, turkeys run , fly, roost and gobble	Skills Tracing hand, assembling nest, imitating turkey actions
Music and Story Imitate actions in the songs. Attend to the story. Help count the turkeys.	Art/Snack Mold Model Magic into a nest. Assemble nest pieces and press them into the Model Magic nest. Use pincers to get “turkey” foods.	Walk/Explore Find eggs. Observing parts of the forest.

Water, Water Everywhere

Focus— Water changes form. There are different bodies of water. We use water.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Water in the river (hands make waves)

Water in the pool (swim)

Water from the faucet (turn handle)

Rain water makes us cool (raindrops falling).

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Have ice, water and steaming (under supervision) tea kettle for the children to explore, pails of water with containers and funnels for pouring, as well as sponges and bubbles. Have books about water. Have pictures of some kinds of water—lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, glaciers, waterfalls, pools, rain—and ways we use water—drinking, washing, bathing, shampooing, brushing teeth.
- Read We Need Water, by Charles Ghigna. Paint the walls and tables with water. .

Learning

Read Water by Frank Asch. Let the children act out ways we use water. Talk about how plants and animals use water. Let the children show, with hands and arms, different bodies of water (pond=hands close together, lake =make an arm circle, ocean=spread arms wide, creek=finger, river=arm out). Choose one or more of the water songs depending on the age and size of the groups to demonstrate water forms, water bodies, water use or water cycle.

Second 15 minutes

Walk to find sources and uses of water. Do a water walk with a water story script.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Make a paper plate water source with foil and blue cellophane and attach water creatures. Paint with water and food coloring on paper towels.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Find a tub of ice and water bottles for snack of Goldfish and watermelon.

Transition: Read We Need Water by Charles Ghigna to children who complete snack early.

Closing

Attach items that use water, boats, cups, plants etc. to water poster. Review the songs, story and fingerplay, sing Good-bye songs, pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Water, Water Everywhere

Targets

- Animals and plants need water to live.
- We use water in lots of different ways—drinking, cooking, bathing, cleaning, *recreation*.
- There are many sources of water—lakes, rivers, rain, faucets, bottles.

Extensions

- Water takes 3 forms—steam, water and ice.
- Water is also in clouds, breath, tears, *glaciers* and *icebergs*.
- We conserve water.

Thinking about outcomes: Water, Water Everywhere

Vocabulary Water, river, lake, pond, stream, creek, ocean, rain, cloud, steam, ice, wet, dew, cold, hot, <i>recreation, evaporation, condensation, precipitation</i>	Concepts Water is necessary for all living things. There are lots of forms of water. We use water in lots of ways. Water changes form.	Skills Pouring, stirring, painting, washing, wiping, squeezing, dabbing, painting
Music and Story Act out <i>Water Everywhere</i> , <i>Water Forms song</i> , <i>Water Cycle song</i> , <i>Water Sources</i> songs. Attend to <u>Water</u> , <u>We Need Water</u> .	Art/Snack Paint with sponges and water Water paint on paper towels Pour water into cups. Pick-up Goldfish and watermelon with pincer.	Walk/Explore Water play with dry sponges , different containers, squeeze bottles, spray bottles, and funnels. Act out the water story.

We Love Leaves

Focus— Leaves turn colors in the fall. We eat leaves.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play: *The leaves are blowing (blow) all around (hands go around)*

They go up in the air (reach high) and down to the ground (bend over and touch the ground)!

Have leaf wands (straws with cut-out leaves attached by yarn or ribbon) made to go with the songs.

- **First 15 minutes—
Gathering:**
- Rake leaves and sweep leaves—this is a good time to examine a variety of leaves using all four senses.
- Gather leaves.
- Make a leaf fort.
- Jump in leaf piles.
- Crumple leaves.

Learning

Have a tray of leaves of plants we use, including foods we eat, and leaves we smell. Use all the senses (taster foods in individual baggies) to learn about leaves. Pass around leaves of different shapes, sizes, textured, colors, for children to explore. Leaves have veins, teeth or lobes—compare to veins in our arms, teeth in our mouths, earlobes. Insects may lay eggs on a leaf; the tree makes a gall to protect itself. We eat leaf foods; animals eat leaf foods.

Act out parts of a tree with sounds and actions—

Heartwood makes the tree strong. (lubdub, pat chest)

Roots get food and water from the soil.(slurp, squeeze hands by feet)

(Water and nutrients go up to give the tree food and drink—whoosh)

Leaves make energy. (engine, rotate hands, chug-chug)

(The sun helps the leaves make energy which goes down to the tree—whoosh)

The bark is like clothing—it protects the tree—give a hug

Read one of the leaf books: Fresh Fall Leaves by Betsy Franco, Let It Fall by Maryann Cocca-Leffler, or Leaves by David Esra Stein.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Collect leaves for art. Use smell/feel/look to compare leaves and bark. Smell any fruit or flowers.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Paint with leaves. Place leaves on paper brushed with glue.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make leafy wraps by letting the children wrap cheese (cubes or strings) in a lettuce leaf.

Transition to *The Sun and the Rain* song by Toy Band, The Wise Guy Preschool Songs.

Closing

Have the children tape real leaves from home on a large tree made out of brown paper in the front of the classroom. Review the songs, sing the Good-bye songs, and preview the next session.

Outcomes We Love Leaves

Targets

- Leaves grow on plants and trees.
- Leaves come in different shapes and sizes.
- Leaves turn colors in the fall.
- We eat leafy foods.

Extensions

- Leaves have different textures and shapes.
- Leaves have different smells, and colors.
- Leaves have veins and stems.
- Some leaves have teeth or *lobes*.

Thinking about outcomes: We Love Leaves

<p>Vocabulary, leaves, trees, green, red, yellow, brown, orange, veins, rough, smooth, hairy, scratchy, shiny, lettuce, spinach, vein, stem, <i>lobe</i>, teeth</p>	<p>Concept We can use all our senses to experience leaves. Leaves grow on different plants. We eat leafy foods</p>	<p>Skills—using the senses, observing, painting, raking, sweeping leaves</p>
<p>Music and Story Act out <i>Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down</i> and the other songs. Attend to <u>I Love Fall</u>, <u>Fresh Fall Leaves</u>, <u>Red Leaf</u>, <u>Yellow Leaf</u> .</p>	<p>Art/Snack Dip leaves in paint and dab on paper. Roll cheese in leaves</p>	<p>Walk/Explore Observe trees, plants, and leaves using all the senses</p>

Where's the Energy?

Focus— Plants make energy. We get the energy from plants in food we eat.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

The sun's warm rays come shining down. (reach way up and then down)

To help the plants grow upward bound. (reach way up)

(Optional verses)

Plants make food grow and grow. (hands move up twice)

Farmers plant them in a row. (dig)

Trucks bring food to the store. (hands on steering wheel)

So we can eat more and more. (hands to mouth)

Growing Up WILD

- **First 15 minutes—**
- **Gathering:**
- Pull pictures of foods out of reusable bags.
- “Shop” for toy food with a reusable bag or toy grocery cart.
- Have plastic bags with (garden picture and vegetables; a farm picture and eggs, cheese, meat, grains; an orchard picture with fruit and nut; factory picture with processed food) inside.

Learning

We get food from different things—animals and plants. Animals and plants need sun and water and air and a safe place to grow. Different animals eat different things. We call animals that eat plants (oh, oh, big words!) *herbivores*. We call animals that eat meat *carnivores*. We call animals that eat insects *insectivores*. We call animals that eat different kinds of foods *omnivores*. Have a bag decorated with animal pictures and pull out eggs, cheese, luncheon meat which come from animals. Have a bag decorated with trees and pull out nuts, orange and orange juice. Have a bag decorated with grain and pull out bread slice and baggie of cereal. Have a bag decorated with vegetables and pull out carrot and cucumber. Have a bag decorated with insects and pull out insect lures.

Read [Eating the Alphabet](#) by Lois Ehlert.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Take a walk to find possible foods in the woods—leaves, nuts, berries, insects, animals, birds.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Have a tan circle on a plate and let children squeeze red, brown, yellow and green paint ” toppings, to make a “pizza”.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Provide quarter flour tortillas, grated cheese, and cup of tomato sauce and let children make a pizza wedge.

Closing

Stamp or place stickers of foods on a large brown paper grocery bag. Review the songs, story and fingerplay, and sing Good-bye songs. Pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Where's the Energy

Targets

- Plants give us food.
- Animals and insects can be food too.
- Plants need sun and rain and space to grow.

Extensions

- Plants make energy and food from the sun.
- We get energy from food from plants and animals
- We eat a “rainbow” of foods to get all kinds of energy.

Thinking about outcomes: Where's the Energy

Vocabulary Plant, animal, sun, food, <i>energy, rainbow,</i> <i>herbivores, carnivores,</i> <i>omnivores, insectivores</i>	Concepts Plants make energy and food from the sun and earth and water. Animals can eat plants, insects and animals.	Skills Acting out growing, exploring foods
Music and Story Attend to <u>Eating the Alphabet</u> . Do the actions with the <i>Growing Song</i> .	Art/Snack Squeeze paint on a plate. Spreading tomato sauce on tortilla. Sprinkling grated cheese on tortilla.	Walk/Explore Use the senses to observe plants and animals .

Wild Things

Focus— Some animals are wild and some are pets or farm animals.

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Animals can be tame (Smile) and you want to have them play(Hug).

Animals can be wild (Frown) and you need to stay away (Move feet quickly).

Animals can be friendly (Smile) and you want to have them play(Hug).

Animals can be scary (Frown) and you want to run away (Move feet quickly).

• First 15 minutes— Gathering:

- Read Brian Wildsmith's Wild Animals, Who is Beast? by Keith Baker.
- Play with toy animals—pets, domestic and wild.
- Look at animal cards of wild and friendly animals and choose an animal to act out being that animal.
- Move like an animal.
- Have three bins—one with a zoo picture on it and the wild animals in it, one with a barn picture and domestic animals, and one with a house and pets inside. Let the children pull animals out of the bins. Have additional animals for the children to put in the bins.
- Have zoo and farm sets for play.

Learning

Wild animals survive on their own; pets or domestic animals depend on us to survive. Read the modified *A Day in a Life* story and act it out. Discuss animals' basic needs—water, food, shelter. Talk about feelings and act out “friendly” with hugging stuffed animals, and scary with putting stuffed animals “in the zoo”.

Second 15 minutes—Walk

Take a hike and find traces of animals, sources of food and water, and possible “homes”. You can plant toy animals on the trail for children to find.

Third 15 minutes—Make and take

Let the children mold model magic and stick pipe cleaner pieces into it to make their own animal.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Press animal crackers on a square cracker covered with cream cheese.

Closing

Transition by moving like animals to a poster of a house, barn and zoo. Stick domestic, wild and pet animals on the poster. Review the songs, story and fingerplay, and sing Good-bye songs. Pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Wild Things

Targets

- Some animals are scary and some animals are friendly.
- We see wild animals in the zoo.
- We see *domestic*/farm animals on farms.
- We have pets in houses.

Extensions

- Wild animals live in forests and deserts and jungles.
- Wild animals take care of themselves.
- We take care of pets and farm animals.
- We get food from farm animals.

Thinking about outcomes: Wild Things

<p>Vocabulary Scary, friendly, wild, zoo, <i>domestic</i>, farm, pets, <i>tame</i></p>	<p>Concepts We have feelings about animals. We see animals in different places. Some animals take care of themselves and we take care of some animals.</p>	<p>Skills Acting out animal movements, acting out feelings</p>
<p>Music and Story Doing the motions with the animal song Attending to <u>Who Is Beast?</u> Acting out the dog and squirrel</p>	<p>Art/Snack Glue animal cut outs on the front and back of a paper plate or poke pipe cleaners into model magic bodies to make an animal. Spread cream cheese in a celery chunk and poke animal crackers in or spread cream cheese on a rice cake and add raisins and apple slices to make a happy face.</p>	<p>Walk/Explore Look for animals and places animals can live and things they could eat.</p>

Worm Tracks

Focus— worm anatomy and functions

Hello and Name Songs

Finger play:

Earthworms break up garbage (mixing with hands), earthworms are neat (cheer).

Earthworms turn the soil (mixing motion) and birds find them a treat (pretend to be a bird pecking at an earthworm)!

• **First 15 minutes— Gathering:**

- Observe and feel worms.
- Have worm fishing lures to find in dirt bins.
- Wiggle to *the Wriggly Worm* song from Creepy Crawlies by Kidzone.

Learning

Use a slinky to demonstrate stretching. Use corrugated cardboard to demonstrate segments, brush for setae, and long balloons for circular and longitudinal muscles, envelope for flap and silly putty for squishy. Demonstrate aeration with clumps of soil. Read Bob and Otto, by Robert O. Bruehl, or Wormy Worm, by Chris Rashka. Make a worm line and dance out to the walk.

Second 15 minutes—Walk-

Walk to find places worms might live—ideally have a pile of dirt on a tarp or shoe boxes with dirt and seed them with earthworms. Let the children find and explore worms.

Third 15 minutes—Make and Take

Make Model Magic worms—roll back and forth to make a long shape and use plastic fork to make segments. Do worm painting with mud or paint and fishing worm lures.

Fourth 15 minutes—Snack

Make worms and dirt snacks—crush and “aerate” graham crackers and place in cups with gummy worms and spoons. Transition with *Wriggly Worm* by Kidzone.

Closing

Attach yarn “worms” to a poster with dirt glued on . Review the song, story and fingerplay, and sing Good-bye songs. Pass out handouts and preview the next class.

Outcomes Worm Tracks

Targets

- Worms are small, and long, with bumps (*segments*), and bristles.
- Worms move by squeezing circle muscles and lengthening long muscles; the bristles grip.
- Worms make good soil by adding air and turning material into fertilizer.

Extensions

- Worms don't have teeth. Their *gizzards*, with stones and dirt they swallow, grind food.
- Worms' mouths (*prostomium*) are shaped like envelopes.
- They have *crops* like bags, to store food.
- They have 5 hearts.

Thinking about outcomes: Worm Tracks

Reference Vocabulary Earthworm, <i>segments</i> , <i>crop</i> , <i>gizzard</i> , <i>bristles</i> , <i>setae</i> , soil , <i>aerate</i> , fertilizer	Concepts Earthworm parts Earthworm movement Earthworm function	Skills Imitating actions Exploring earthworms using vision and touch
Music and Story Act out the movements in The Worms Are Mixing Up the Soil. Attend to <u>Bob and Otto</u> .	Art/Snack Roll Model Magic into a long tube. Make segments with a fork. Dip rubber worms in paint. Paint with rubber worms. Crumple the cracker.	Walk to find worms and dirt and rocks. Touch the worms. Watch the worms moving.