Sample
24 Preschool Learning Ideas

Literacy - Math - Science - Fine Motor - Sensory - Gross Motor
Art - Social Studies - Circle Time

www.PreschoolUnitLessonPlans.com
**A Note About Safety:**

The activities in this book are intended to be done under adult supervision. Appropriate and reasonable caution is required at all times. Beware when using all materials and tools suggested in this book, including but not limited to scissors, hot glue or objects that could pose a choking hazard. Observe safety and caution at all times. The authors of this book disclaim all liability for any damage, mishap or injury that may occur from engaging in activities in this book.

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Introduction

From mastering the letters of the alphabet to fine motor play, preschoolers are constantly learning about their world through hands-on activities. This book will provide lesson plans and hands-on activities centered around a specific theme. These are called thematic lesson plans.

Whether you are a parent, care-giver, or teacher, this book is easy to use. It is a guide to learning with a focus on interactive experiences. Each activity contains a learning objective, material list, and step by step directions.

How to Use This Book

First, page through the lesson plans to get a quick overview of the activities. Decide which activities would best fit the age and needs of the children in your care. Sort the activities into different days. It is recommended to read each book in the unit every day, but you may plan to focus and go more in depth on one book each day. When making your learning plan, consider alternating active activities with quiet activities to provide preschoolers with the opportunity to balance out the learning day. Add in open ended indoor and outdoor playtime activities. Use the list on the following pages for ideas. Thoughtful planning and interactive activities can make a learning day more enjoyable.

Gather the materials needed for each activity selected. Organizing materials ahead of time will allow you to focus on the play and learning without interruptions. Collect the books needed from the library, your own bookshelves, or purchase from a book store. Place the books and materials in large bags, containers, or a designated area. If you have toys or dress up items related to the theme set them in a basket and place them in the pretend play area for children to explore.

Finally, do the selected activities with the children. If the learning activity is too difficult or too easy, look for activity extensions and ideas for how to modify the activity to provide more support or to extend the learning. Feel free to make your own modifications to the activities as you know the children best. Most activities will take anywhere between 15 and 30 minutes to complete. Take the behavior cues from the children to assess if they are ready to move on or would like more time.

Indoor Playtime Activity Ideas

- Beach ball and laundry basket basketball
- Cars in cardboard box tunnels
- Painting and coloring
- Making music with instruments
- Pretending with dolls
- Playing dress up
- Puzzles and board games

Outdoor Playtime Activities

- Sidewalk chalk
- Tossing and catching balls
- Three-wheel riding toys
- Scooping and pouring in the sandbox
- Water exploration with cups
- Swinging and sliding
Space

Concepts:
Sun, moon, stars

Recommended Reading:
How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers
On the Launch Pad: A Counting Book About Rockets by Michael Dahl
Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me by Eric Carle
Zoo in the Sky by Jaqueline Mitton
The Sun is My Favorite Star by Frank Asch

Recommended Songs:
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
Rocketship Run by The Laurie Berkner Band
Moon Moon Moon by The Laurie Berkner Band
Zoom Zoom Zoom We’re Going to the Moon by The Kiboomers
Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun by Super Simple Songs
Hey Diddle Diddle
Blast Off by Stephanie Burton
Activities at a glance:

**Literacy:**
- Moon Landing
- Name Rocket
- Moon Sand Writing Tray
- Shooting Star Syllables
- S is for Star

**Math:**
- Counting Sun Rays
- Star Ten Frame Cards
- Space Spin & Cover
- Moon Rock Math
- Constellation Geoboard
- Moon Phase Sequencing

**Science:**
- What is Air
- Straw Rockets
- Constellation Play Dough
- Moon Craters

**Art:**
- Moon and Sun Collage
- Hidden Moon Pictures

**Social studies:**
- Myself as an Astronaut

**Fine motor:**
- Moon Rock Letters
- Constellation Creations

**Sensory:**
- Counting Stars Sensory Bin
- Star Sensory Bottle

**Gross motor:**
- Catching Stars Game
- Alphabet Match Stars

**Circle Time:**
- Rocket Countdown Activity
**How to:**

This Rocket Ship and Stars Counting Activity is a fun way to get children moving around the room as they practice identifying numbers and counting. Learning to identify numbers and count in preschool will set the foundation for learning and increase children’s comfort and confidence when working with more advanced math and number concepts.

To prepare this activity, print the rocket ships and stars on white card stock. Print four copies of the star sheet. Laminate the papers for extra durability and cut all of the pieces apart. Next, glue each rocket ship onto a craft stick. After the glue dries, put the rocket ships into a large cup or can. Place the stars throughout the room.

After reading the book *On the Launch Pad: A Counting Book About Rockets* by Michael Dahl, children will select a rocket out of the cup or can. They will identify the number on the rocket. The children will then walk around the room and pick up the same number of stars that is printed on their rockets. For example, if a child has a rocket with the number 5 written on it, he or she will pick up five stars.

After collecting their stars, children can compare their numbers and line up in numerical order.

**Modifications / extra ideas:**

To extend this activity, the adult will select two children to combine their stars together. They will work together to count and add their stars. The children can also practice writing number sentences on a piece of paper or on a whiteboard.

**Adapt:**

For children who unable to identify the number on their rocket skips, give them a visual representation of the number using a number chart or manipulatives. If a child selects a rocket with the number 9 on it but can’t identify the number, for example, count and draw 9 tally marks on a white board. Then, cross off a tally mark each time the child picks up a star until he or she had collected all 9 of them.