Preschool 2024 Curriculum

# DRAFT - Preschool 2024 (native)

# Theme 1: Marvelous Me

# Week 1

# Math Small Group

### Free Exploration: Math Time

Focus: Explore math manipulatives.

Invite children to hold hands and stand in a circle as you gather them for math small group. Sing Friends by My Side with Richele. Count the number of children in the group and insert the number in the lyrics. For example: I’ve got 5 friends by my side.  
Friends by My Side   
(Tune: He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands)   
I’ve got \_\_\_\_ friends by my side.  
I’ve got \_\_\_\_ friends by my side.  
I’ve got \_\_\_\_ friends by my side.  
I’ve got \_\_\_\_ friends by my side.

#### Music and Movement

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
observe  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
math small group #5  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
prepared bags of math manipulatives

Math activities are intended to be taught in a small group.

#### Day 1: Math Time

Display the observe Vocabulary Card and the math small group Photo Card. Gather the prepared bags of math manipulatives.

Introduce the math small group Photo Card. Invite children to repeat the words with you. Ask them to describe what they think the children in the photo are doing. If needed, provide suggestions, such as exploring, making designs with shapes, or counting.  
Ask, How is this picture the same as the group of friends at this table? Explain to children they will gather in a small group each day to learn math.

Give each child a bag of math manipulatives. Invite them to observe the items. Refer to the observe Vocabulary Card and explain it means to touch, listen, or look at something closely. Encourage children to describe the manipulatives using their senses.

### Free Exploration: Attribute Buttons

Focus: Explore math manipulatives.

#### Day 2: Attribute Buttons

Display the attributes and observe Vocabulary Cards. Place the attribute buttons on a tray.

Review the definition of observe. Say, Attributes describe how something looks, sounds, smells, tastes, or feels. Explain how you observe objects to find their attributes.  
Point to the attribute buttons. Invite children to take a handful and explain how the buttons they might find on clothing are alike and different from the buttons in their hand.  
Continue to use the words observe and attributes as they describe the buttons.

Ask, What colors do you see? How are the shapes alike and different? What does it sound like when a button falls against the table?  
Encourage children to share a button with the group and describe its attributes.

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
observe  
attrbutes  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
attribute buttons  
tray

observe, attributes

### Free Exploration: Frog Counters

Focus: Explore math manipulatives.

observe, attributes, compare

#### Day 3: Frog Counters

Display the observe, attributes, and compare Vocabulary Cards. Gather two frog counters for each child.

Review the words observe and attributes.  
Distribute one frog counter to each child. Invite children to observe the attributes. Ask, What animal does it look like? How do you know?  
Define compare as setting two items side by side to figure out how they are alike and different.  
Distribute another frog counter that is a different color and size to each child. Invite children to observe and compare the attributes.

Ask, What is the alike? What is different?  
Encourage children to tell about the attributes they see. Invite them to look at their classmate’s frog counters and describe what is alike and different.

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
observe  
attrbutes  
compare  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
frog counters (assorted colors and sizes)

### Free Exploration: Connecting Cubes

Focus: Explore math manipulatives.

take apart, put together

#### Day 4: Connecting Cubes

Display the take apart and put together Vocabulary Cards and gather 10 connecting cubes for each child.

Refer to the take apart and put together Vocabulary Cards. Use connecting cubes to model these words as children observe your movements. Distribute the connecting cubes, and invite children to explore the attributes.  
Ask, How are the cubes alike and different? What colors do you see?  
Invite a volunteer to put together and take apart the cubes. Guide children who are tempted to use their teeth to use the muscles in their hands and fingers instead.

Ask, What does it feel like to connect the cubes?  
Invite children to build something. Encourage them to describe the object’s attributes, such as color, shape, and size.

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
take apart  
put together  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
connecting cubes

### Free Exploration: Match the Manipulatives

Focus: Explore math manipulatives.

match

#### Day 5: Match the Manipulatives

Gather the prepared bins of manipulatives, labels, and storage bags. Display the match Vocabulary Card.

Model labeling each bin of manipulatives. Explain to children the labels will help them find where each manipulative belongs.  
Say, Another way to do math is by matching objects. Point to the match Vocabulary Card and define as something that has similar attributes.

Give each child a bag of manipulatives. Encourage them to place each manipulative in the matching bin.  
Ask, How do you know you placed each manipulative in the correct bin? Invite children to select one of the bins to explore with a partner.

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
match  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
storage bags  
Manipulative Storage Labels and bins

# Mindful Movement

### Mountain Pose

Mindful Movement practice with Mountain Pose

Learn the Pose  
This week we are beginning our mindful movement practice with Mountain Pose. Standing strong, steady, and centered in Mountain Pose helps to improve posture, alignment, and balance.  
Mountain Pose  
Mountain Pose seems very simple but helps us stay rooted and connected. It is an important foundation of many other poses, too. We will build on Mountain Pose in Week 2.  
Provide an open and safe space for children to learn and practice the pose.  
  
Stand tall and press your legs firmly into the ground.  
Let your spine be long. Your head reaches up towards the sky.  
Press your palms together firmly. Stay rooted into the ground like a strong mountain.  
Practice holding a strong Mountain Pose for up to 1 minute.

#### Mountain Pose

What You’ll Need:  
  
5 Minutes  
Indoor or Outdoor Space  
No Mat Required

Start with calm in Mountain Pose, by pressing your palms firmly together. Stay rooted into the ground. Take a nice breath in, and let it all out. Repeat for 3 to 4 breaths.  
Move to silly by inviting children to be playful. Say, 1, 2, 3. Get silly! Allow children to be silly for 30 to 60 seconds.  
Return to calm in Mountain Pose. Have children press their hands together and take several breaths in and out.  
Repeat the Silly to Calm mindfulness activity up to three times. End with calm.

#### Silly to Calm Mindfulness

This activity is meant to be done in a large group or whole class. You can also use it for transitions.

# Read-Alouds

### Read Aloud #1: Day 1 - Marvelous Me

Day 1 instruction for literacy, using the Marvelous Me book.

HERE ARE MY EARS  
Here are my ears.  
Here is my nose.  
Here are my fingers.  
Here are my toes.  
   
Here are my eyes  
Both open wide.  
Here is my mouth  
With white teeth inside.  
   
Here is my tongue  
That helps me speak.  
Here is my chin  
And here are my cheeks.  
   
Here are my hands  
That help me play.  
Here are my feet  
For walking today.

#### Action Rhyme

#### Day1: Marvelous Me

Display Marvelous Me and the marvelous and illustrator Vocabulary Cards.

Say marvelous and invite children to say the word with you again.  
Define marvelous as wonderful and the very best quality. Explain they will hear and use this word many times this week.  
Introduce the book, highlighting the author and illustrator. Explain the author writes the words and the illustrator creates the pictures.  
Facilitate a picture walk of the book. Invite children to make comments, describe the pictures, and make connections.

Ask, What are the children doing? Have you done things like this before? After, perform the action rhyme Here Are My Ears.

BOOK  
  
Marvelous Me   
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
illustrator

### Read Aloud #2: Super Bodies

Day 1 instruction for literacy, using the My Super Body book

#### Day 1: Super Bodies

Display My Super Body and the super Vocabulary Card.

Say super and invite children to say the word with you. Define super as very great. Introduce the book, highlighting the word super in the title. Explain our book is about our super bodies and how great they are! Read the story.

Ask, What are some things the boy’s body can do? What can your body do that is super? Accept all answers from children as they are providing their own opinion and perception of their body.

super

Invite children to sing I Am Special with Thomas Moore.    
Song: I AM SPECIAL  
©Thomas Moore  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
Just because I’m me, Just because I’m me (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I may be tall, I may be tall (echo)  
I may be short, I may be short (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I may have long hair, I may have long hair (echo)  
I may have short hair, I might have short hair (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I may be a boy, I may be a boy (echo)  
I may be a girl, I may be a girl (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I am a child, I am a child (echo)  
And I love myself, And I love myself (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope you like me; I hope you like me (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
Just because I’m me, Just because I’m me (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I’m special, I’m special (echo)  
I’m special, I’m special (echo)  
I’m special, I’m special (echo)

Invite children to sing I Am Special with Thomas Moore.  
   
Song: I AM SPECIAL  
©Thomas Moore  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
Just because I’m me, Just because I’m me (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I may be tall, I may be tall (echo)  
I may be short, I may be short (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I may have long hair, I may have long hair (echo)  
I may have short hair, I might have short hair (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I may be a boy, I may be a boy (echo)  
I may be a girl, I may be a girl (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I am a child, I am a child (echo)  
And I love myself, And I love myself (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope you like me; I hope you like me (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
Just because I’m me, Just because I’m me (echo)  
I am special, I am special (echo)  
I hope that you like me, I hope that you like me (echo)  
I’m special, I’m special (echo)  
I’m special, I’m special (echo)  
I’m special, I’m special (echo)

#### Music and Movement

BOOKS  
  
My Super Body  
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
super

### Read Aloud #1: Day 2 - Helpful Hands

Day 2 instruction for literacy, using the Marvelous Me book.

BOOK  
  
Marvelous Me   
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
helpful  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
hands #1

#### Day 2: Helpful Hands

Display Marvelous Me, the marvelous and helpful Vocabulary Cards, and the hands Photo Card.

Review the word marvelous. Invite children to say the word. Introduce the word helpful, defining it as useful.       
Point to the hands Photo Card and discuss how hands are marvelous and helpful.  
Read the book, highlighting where hands were helpful (drawing a picture, pouring milk, playing a game).

Invite children to describe what they do with their hands. Ask children to put their hands behind their back and imagine how they would brush their teeth. Ask, How will you brush your teeth without your hands? Remind children their hands are helpful.

### Read Aloud #1: Day 3 - Awesome Arms

Day 3 instruction for literacy, using the Marvelous Me book

BOOK  
  
Marvelous Me   
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
reach  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
hands #1

#### Day 3: Marvelous Arms

Display Marvelous Me and the marvelous and reach Vocabulary Cards.

Review the word marvelous. Invite a child to give a definition. Remind children their hands are marvelous and awesome.  
Introduce the word reach. Explain they reach when they stretch their arms. Demonstrate reaching for an object.  
Read the book, highlighting where children used their arms for climbing, somersaulting, and dancing. Encourage children to mimic the motions by reaching their arms.

Invite children to discuss what they do with their arms. Prompt children to give their neighbor a high-five. Ask, How were your arms helpful when giving a high-five?  
Invite children to stand and participate in the action rhyme Stretch.

(action rhyme)  
Stretch to the ceiling.   
Stretch to the floor.   
Stretch to the wall.   
Stretch to the door.

#### Stretch

### Read Aloud #1: Day 4 - Fabulous Feet

Day 4 instruction for literacy, using the Marvelous Me book.

Invite children to sing and march to I Like Me with Ronno. Encourage children to pay attention to their feet as they march.  
   
Song: I LIKE ME  
Ronno  
Lyrics by Judy Millar, Liz Jones-Twomey, Ron Hiller/RONNO, Pam Schiller © Song Support SOCAN  
Verse 1:   
I like my skin  
It’s the house I’m living in  
Well, it zips up tight  
And it fits just right  
So I like my skin.  
And I like my nose  
I kinda like the way it blows.  
It honks good and loud  
And that draws a crowd  
So, I like my nose.  
Chorus:  
And I like me  
I’m an OK me to be!  
Though I’m not like you  
That’s OK, too . . .  
‘Cause I like me.  
(Repeat chorus after each verse.)  
Verse 2:  
I like my lips  
Hey, they’re great for catching drips.  
And when I want a kiss  
Well, I never miss  
Yes, I like my lips.  
And I like my knees  
‘though they rattle when I sneeze.  
They just bend one way  
But that’s OK  
‘Cause I like my knees.  
(Repeat chorus after each verse.)  
Verse 3:   
Now, I like my feet  
They get a good grip on the street.  
You might say they smell  
But I think they’re swell  
‘Cause I like my feet.  
And I like my hair  
I’d like to grow it down to there.  
But then all I’d do  
Would just be shampoo!  
Still, I like my hair.  
(Repeat chorus after each verse.)  
Verse 4:   
Well, I like my brain  
Like spaghetti in a drain.  
Sometimes my thoughts  
Get tied in knots  
But I like my brain.  
And I like my heart  
It’s my very finest part.  
It’s the part that shares  
And the part that cares  
Yes, I like my heart.  
(Repeat chorus after each verse.)

#### Music and Movement

#### Day 4: Fabulous Feet

Display Marvelous Me, the marvelous Vocabulary Card, and the feet Photo Card.

Talk about the word marvelous. Invite a few children to use the word when speaking about their classmates.  
Introduce the words fabulous and wonderful. Explain these words mean the same as marvelous, the very best quality.  
We use these words to describe things we love and enjoy.  
Point to the feet Photo Card. Discuss the marvelous things you can do with your feet (kick a ball, dance, skip, hop, jump, climb, pedal a tricycle).  
Read the book, highlighting where children used their feet.

Ask, How do your feet help you get from here to there? How can walking be faster than crawling? Point out feet help us do many things. Our feet are marvelous!

BOOK  
  
Marvelous Me   
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
feet #2

### Read Aloud #1: Day 5 - Wonderful Legs

Day 5 instruction for literacy, using the Marvelous Me book

BOOK  
  
Marvelous Me   
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous

#### Day 5: Wonderful Legs

Display Marvelous Me and the marvelous Vocabulary Card.

Say, Our legs are marvelous! Invite children to use the word marvelous to describe their body. Say, Our legs help us to stand, kneel, and extend the reach of our feet.  
Read the book, highlighting where children used their wonderful legs.

Invite children to discuss how they use their legs. Ask, What parts do you see on your leg? Where is your knee? How does it help your legs?  
Invite volunteers to kneel, hop, jump, and march. Point out they are using both their legs and feet to do these movements. Encourage all children to do the same while being mindful of safety in the classroom.

### Read Aloud #2: Marvelous Face

Day 2 instruction for literacy, using the My Super Body book

(Tune: "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes")  
Eyes, eyebrows, mouth and nose, Mouth and nose.  
Eyes, eyebrows, mouth and nose, Mouth and nose.  
Eyes and eyebrows mouth and nose.  
Eyes, eyebrows mouth and nose, Mouth and nose.   
(Repeat)

#### Song Lyrics: Eyes, Eyebrows, Mouth and Nose

marvelous, expression

#### Day 2: Marvelous Face

Display My Super Body, the marvelous and expression Vocabulary Cards, and the face Photo Card. Gather a mirror for each child.

Remind children marvelous means the very best quality.  
Point to the face Photo Card and explain our faces are marvelous because they can show how we feel. Read the story.  
Review pages 2-3. Ask, How do you think the boy is feeling? What makes you think so? Say, The smile on his face shows he is happy. This is called an expression. An expression is the look on our face that lets others know how we are feeling.

Distribute a small mirror to each child. Invite children to examine their own expressions of happiness. After, invite children to sing Eyes, Eyebrows, Mouth and Nose.

BOOK  
  
My Super Body  
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
expression  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
face #3  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
small mirror for each child

### Read Aloud #2: Super Ears

Day 3 instruction for literacy, using the My Super Body book

#### Day 3: Super Ears

Display My Super Body, the marvelous Vocabulary Card, and the ear Photo Card.

Point to the ear Photo Card. Explain the part of the ear you can see is the outer ear. Inside the ear is where our hearing takes place, which is called the inner ear.  
Discuss the earlobe and encourage children to feel their own earlobe. Say, Our ears are marvelous.   
Read the book, pausing on page 11 to invite children to answer the question.

Ask, What did the boy hear with his ears? What are some things you have heard today?   
Encourage children to close their eyes and listen to the sounds.  
Ask, What do you hear now? Point out some sounds are nice to hear (soft music, kind words) and some sounds can be annoying (sirens, yelling).

marvelous

BOOK  
  
My Super Body  
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
ear #4

### Read-Aloud #2 - Day 4: Marvelous Nose

Day 4 instruction for literacy, using the My Super Body book.

BOOK  
  
My Super Body  
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
face #3

#### Day 4: Marvelous Nose

Display My Super Body, the marvelous Vocabulary Card, and the face Photo Card.

Say, Our face is marvelous! Refer to the face Photo Card. Ask a volunteer to point to the nose. Explain the holes are called nostrils. Describe how smells and air travel inside the nose through the nostrils. Some things smell nice like apple pie, while other things smell bad, like a dirty diaper.  
Read the book, pausing on page 13 to invite children to answer the question.

Ask, What did the boy smell? Play a smell game by naming different scents (perfume, onion, garbage, cookies baking, dirty socks). Have children sniff the air for a good smell and hold their nose for a bad smell. Accept all perspectives and responses.

marvelous

### Read-Aloud #2 - Day 5: Super Mouth

Day 5 instruction for literacy, using the My Super Body book.

marvelous

#### Day 5: Super Mouth

Display My Super Body, the marvelous Vocabulary Card, and the face Photo Card.

Refer to the face Photo Card. Ask a volunteer to point out the mouth, cheeks, and chin. Ask, What do you do with your mouth?   
Provide ideas such as eat breakfast, talk, smile, and give a kiss. Remind children that marvelous means the very best quality. Say, Our mouths are marvelous!  
Read the book, pausing on page 15 to invite children to answer the question.

Ask, What was the boy waiting to taste with his mouth? After, invite children to echo the Warm-Up Chant. Children should repeat each line after you say it.

(children echo each line)  
I love myself.  
I feel so good.  
This is my nose.  
I smell with my nose.  
I blow my nose.  
I have holes in my nose.  
I love my nose.    
There are my ears.  
I wash my ears.  
I hear with my ears.  
I have holes in my ears.  
These are my teeth.  
I brush my teeth.  
I floss my teeth.  
I chew with my teeth.  
I love my teeth.    
This is my chin,  
my chinny-chin-chin.  
I don’t know why I have it.  
I love my chin!

#### Song Lyrics: Warm-Up Chant by Thomas Moore

BOOK  
  
My Super Body  
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
  
PHOTO CARDS  
  
face #3

# STEAM

### Block Play

STEAM activity involving building with blocks

Provide a large storage tub with blocks. Tell children they can build and design things when they use their imagination.  
Introduce the blocks children can use to build. Invite each child to select a block to observe closely. Prompt children to describe the block. Ask, Which blocks are good for making walls, rooftops, or roads? Which blocks roll when you place them on the ground? What could you use those blocks for?  
Invite children to build structures throughout the week using various blocks.

#### Activity

blocks  
large storage tub

### Construction Center

STEAM activity involving building with blocks

Invite children to explore and build with blocks. Remind them blocks are used for building or designing make-believe structures. Orient blocks in different ways (flat, horizontally, vertically) to provide ideas of how to use blocks for different purposes. Take a picture of children’s structures and display the photos during Closing Circle.

#### Building Structures

blocks  
pretend-play materials (toy animals, cars, etc.)

# Music, Movement, and Transitions

### Music, Movement, and Transitions (Theme 1, week 1)

Ideas to create smooth transitions from one activity to another and to offer children movement opportunities throughout the day

Open, shut them, open, shut them.  
Give a little clap, clap, clap.  
Open, shut them, open, shut them.  
Place them in your lap.  
Creep them, Creep them,  
Creep them, Creep them,  
Right up to your chin.  
Open wide your little mouth,  
But do not let them in.  
Open, shut them, open, shut them.  
Give a little clap, clap, clap.  
Open, shut them, open, shut them.  
Place them in your lap.

#### Enjoy Anytime!

Create space in your room! Before beginning a music activity, have children spread their arms and turn around. Explain they should make this turn without touching anyone or anything.

#### Music and Movement

During cleaning transitions, allow children to sing Can You Put the Toys Away? with Richele.  
   
Song Lyrics: Can You Put the Toys Away  
(Tune: “Do You Know the Muffin Man?”)   
Can you put the toys away,  
Toys away, toys away?  
Can you put the toys away?  
It’s time to end our play.

#### Transitions

# Digital Books

### Marvelous Me

### My Super Body

# Lesson Planners

# Email to Family

### Correo electrónico para la familia (español)

### Email to Family (English)

# Family Connections

### Physical Me Family Letter

# Greeting Circle

### Fernando Unite: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

### Greeting Circle

Conscious Discipline Practices and Morning Message

UNITE  
Display Fernando’s Playhouse, with Fernando inside. Invite a volunteer to “wake” Fernando.  
Display the Fernando Unite Video and sing Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes. Encourage children to dance along. After, invite volunteers to point to their ears, eyes, mouth, and nose.  
Tell children they will be learning about their marvelous body and how it moves. Display the marvelous Vocabulary Card. Define marvelous as wonderful and the very best quality. For example, you might see a marvelous butterfly or attend a marvelous party. And, our bodies are marvelous, too!    
   
Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes Lyrics  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
Knees and toes.  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
Knees and toes.  
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose.  
Head, shoulders, knees and toes,  
Knees and toes.  
(Repeat)  
   
CALM  
S.T.A.R. (Smile, Take a deep breath And Relax) is a calming strategy. Explain deep breathing can help us feel relaxed.  
Have children pretend to smell a flower (inhale through nose) and blow out a candle (exhale through mouth). Display the Calming Strategies Poster and refer to the S.T.A.R. icon.  
   
CONNECT  
Refer to the Greetings Poster and explain greeting others in a friendly way helps us get to know each other. Introduce Fernando as a member of the class and shake his hand.  
Invite children to greet Fernando by waving. Once children greet Fernando, invite them to greet the child sitting next to them.  
Encourage them to make eye contact and be gentle. Offer choices such as high-five, hug, fist bump, and wave.  
   
COMMIT  
The first classroom commitment starts with you!  
Introduce your job as the Safekeeper. Say, My job is to keep you safe. And it’s your job to help keep the classroom safe. Explain one way to keep the classroom safe is to use “walking feet”. Discuss and demonstrate “walking feet”. Demonstrate “running feet” and how it is not safe and can cause accidents.  
Refer to the “walking feet” icon on the Commitments Poster. Encourage children to commit to using “walking feet”.

The Morning Message is a short, 5-minute activity conducted each morning, specifically crafted to introduce and reinforce fundamental literacy skills, including:  
  
Phonological Awareness  
Print Concepts  
Alphabet Knowledge  
  
You will find detailed instructions for the Morning Message in your weekly guide starting in Theme 1, Week 3. In Theme 1 Weeks 1 and 2, you may take the 5 minutes you would normally allocate for the Morning Message to introduce and familiarize yourself with the Greeting Circle, and build classroom routines that support the Unite, Calm, Connect, and Commit goals.

#### Morning Message

POSTERS  
  
Calming Strategies  
Greetings  
Commitments  
  
VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
Fernando with house

# Inquiry and Exploration Centers

### Math Center

Inquiry and Exploration center set up for Math

Gather collections of recyclables or other common objects children can sort (coins, rocks, bottle caps, buttons, pom-poms). Each collection should have items within it that vary in size, color, or shape. Prepare a label for each collection by printing the name of the material next to a picture of it. Attach the label to the plastic tub in which the material is stored.

#### Prepare

Sorting Collections   
Encourage children to use bowls to sort items from each collection. Explain sorting is putting things together that have the same attributes. Demonstrate how to use tweezers or spoons to move items from the tubs to the sorting bowls.  
   
Reflect: What attribute did you sort by?

Exploring Collections   
Introduce different types of collections children can explore. Store each collection inside a tub labeled with a matching picture and printed word. Model how to observe and inspect the materials closely.  
Reflect: What did you observe? How are they alike/ different?

#### Math Center

sorting collections  
collection labels  
tubs  
bowls for sorting  
spoons or tweezers

### Literacy Center

Inquiry and Exploration center set up for Literacy

tactile name cards  
paper  
crayons  
name puzzles  
plastic letters

Use white glue to write each child’s name on a 5" x 7" index card. Allow the glue letters to dry. You may need to trace over the name with glue a second time so the letters are raised from the card.

Print each child’s name on a 9" x 10" sheet of cardstock. Leave a space between each letter. Make puzzle cuts between the letters. Place each child’s puzzle pieces in a storage bag.

Tactile Name Cards   
Invite children to place paper over their name card and rub with crayon. Children will see the letters appear on the paper. Have children close their eyes and trace over the first letter of their name. Reflect: What did the letters feel like?  
Name Puzzles  
Invite children to put together their name puzzle. When children complete their puzzle, have them use plastic letters to copy their name. Reflect: Where else do you see your name in the room?

#### Activity

### Gross Motor Center

Inquiry and Exploration center set up for Gross Motor skills

masking tape  
beanbag  
rope or yarn

Use rope or yarn to create a wavy line. Have children walk holding their arms out to their side. Reflect: Was it more difficult to walk the wavy line or the zigzag line? Why?

Use masking tape to make a zigzag on the floor. Invite children to walk forward and backward a few times. Then, have them repeat with a beanbag on their head. Remind children their feet and legs allow them to enjoy this activity. Reflect: How were you able to walk backwards?

#### Activity

### Creativity Center

Inquiry and Exploration center set up for Creativity

Mix flavored gelatin using half the amount of water as the directions state on the box. Have children use the mixture for paint. When it dries, children can scratch- and-sniff their artwork.

finger paint  
paper  
scratch-and-sniff paint

Add scratch-and-sniff paint. While children paint, ask them to sniff and name the scent. When the picture is dry, have them scratch- and-sniff again. Reflect: How were you able to smell the scent?

Invite children to finger paint directly on the tabletop. Then, press their painted hands onto a sheet of paper to create handprints. Discuss the names of the fingers (thumb, index, middle, ring, pinkie). Reflect: Which finger did you use most?

#### Activity

### Sensory Center

Inquiry and Exploration center set up for Sensory

Invite children to match the scent canisters that smell the same. Change the scents throughout the week. Remind children their nose helps them enjoy this activity. Reflect: Which scents did you smell? Which one was your favorite?

#### Activity

Switch out the scented canisters with scented dough. Reflect: Did the scents smell the same in the canisters as they did in the dough?

scent canisters  
scented dough

Soak cotton balls in essential oil or food flavoring extracts. Place the cotton balls in small tubs with holes poked in the lid. Make 2 tubs for each scent. Chamomile, lavender, and orange are calming scents. Peppermint, lemon, and cinnamon increase mental alertness.

### Writer's Center

Inquiry and Exploration center set up for Writing skills

Encourage children to draw pictures of things they like to hear or smell. With children’s permission, label their drawings. Reflect: What would you like to share about your drawing?

paper  
crayons

Invite children to draw a self-portrait, adding as many body parts as possible. With children’s permission, label the body parts on their paper. Remind children it is their hands that allow them to create beautiful drawings. Reflect: Can you name the body parts in your picture?

#### Activity

# Closing Circle

### Closing Circle - Day 1

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
marvelous  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
Fernando with House

#### Day 1

Display the marvelous Vocabulary Card. Review the definition as the very best quality. Ask, What do you think is marvelous?

On Day 1, send home the “Physical Me” family letter.

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle. Ask children if they have used “walking feet”. Give some specific examples you observed of children using “walking feet”. If children were successful, have them say, I did it! If children were not successful, encourage them to say, Oops! I will practice more tomorrow.  
Display Fernando’s Playhouse and ask a volunteer to put him to sleep inside for the night.

#### Daily

### Closing Circle - Day 2

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle. Ask children if they have used “walking feet”. Give some specific examples you observed of children using “walking feet”. If children were successful, have them say, I did it! If children were not successful, encourage them to say, Oops! I will practice more tomorrow.  
Display Fernando’s Playhouse and ask a volunteer to put him to sleep inside for the night.

#### Daily

PHOTO CARDS   
  
face #3  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
Fernando with House

#### Day 2

Display the face Photo Card. Ask volunteers to point to body parts you name (chin, cheeks, mouth, nose, eyes, ears). Ask, How can someone’s face let us know they feel happy?

### Closing Circle - Day 3

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle

#### Day 3

Display the observe and compare Vocabulary Cards. Ask volunteers to show and describe how they used a manipulative to observe and compare.

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle. Ask children if they have used “walking feet”. Give some specific examples you observed of children using “walking feet”. If children were successful, have them say, I did it! If children were not successful, encourage them to say, Oops! I will practice more tomorrow.  
Display Fernando’s Playhouse and ask a volunteer to put him to sleep inside for the night.

#### Daily

VOCABULARY CARDS  
  
observe  
compare  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
Fernando with House

### Closing Circle - Day 4

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle

Pictures from Building Structures  
Fernando with House

#### Day 4

Refer to a picture you took of a block structure a child built this week. Share the photo with the class and invite the child to describe their structure.

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle. Ask children if they have used “walking feet”. Give some specific examples you observed of children using “walking feet”. If children were successful, have them say, I did it! If children were not successful, encourage them to say, Oops! I will practice more tomorrow.  
Display Fernando’s Playhouse and ask a volunteer to put him to sleep inside for the night.

#### Daily

### Closing Circle - Day 5

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle

#### Day 5

Display the math small group Photo Card. Invite a volunteer to tell something about math they enjoy doing or learning.

Reflect on Daily Commitments made during Greeting Circle. Ask children if they have used “walking feet”. Give some specific examples you observed of children using “walking feet”. If children were successful, have them say, I did it! If children were not successful, encourage them to say, Oops! I will practice more tomorrow.  
Display Fernando’s Playhouse and ask a volunteer to put him to sleep inside for the night.

#### Daily

PHOTO CARDS   
  
math small group #5  
  
OTHER MATERIALS  
  
Fernando with House