

Overview:

This lesson plan is designed for preschoolers aged 4-5 and focuses on the topic of outer space. The lesson aims to introduce children to basic concepts about space, such as the planets, stars, and the sun. Through hands-on activities and discussions, children will develop an understanding of the vastness and wonders of the universe.

Materials:

- Picture books about outer space
- Flashcards or pictures of the planets
- Whiteboard or easel with markers
- Construction paper
- Glitter or stickers
- Art supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils)
- Playdough
- Astronaut costumes or props (optional)

Introduction:

Start the lesson by gathering the children in a circle and introducing the topic of outer space. Show them a picture book that contains images of planets, stars, and the sun. Begin by asking questions like, "Have you ever looked up at the night sky? What do you see? Have you heard of space before? What do you think is out there?". This introduction will spark their curiosity and engage them in the learning objectives of the lesson.

Activities:

1. Planet Flashcards (10 minutes):

- Show the children flashcards or pictures of the planets in our solar system.
- Discuss the different sizes, colors, and names of the planets.
- Encourage the children to repeat the names of the planets after you and make associations, such as "Mercury is the closest planet to the sun, so it's very hot!"

2. Exploring Space Art (20 minutes):

- Provide construction paper, glitter, and art supplies.
- Instruct the children to create their own space scenes by drawing and decorating planets, stars, and a rocket ship.
- Encourage their creativity and remind them to include the different colors and features of the planets.

3. Playdough Planets (15 minutes):

- Provide playdough and show the children a model or pictures of the planets.
- Instruct them to sculpt the different planets using playdough.
- Encourage discussion about the textures, shapes, and sizes of the planets as they work.

4. Astronaut Exploration (15 minutes):

- If available, provide astronaut costumes or props for the children to use during imaginative play.
- Set up an area with books, flashcards, and pictures of space to create a space-themed dramatic play center.
- Encourage the children to take turns being astronauts, exploring outer space, and sharing what they have learned.

Closure:

To conclude the lesson, gather the children in a circle and ask each of them to share one thing they learned about outer space. Summarize the key points discussed during the lesson and encourage them to continue exploring and asking questions about space.

Extension Activities:

1. DIY Solar System Mobile: Help the children create a solar system mobile using paper plates, strings, and painted planets. Hang the mobile in the classroom for further exploration and discussion.
2. Moon Sand Sensory Play: Provide a sensory bin filled with moon sand (a mixture of flour and baby oil) and small toy astronauts. Let the children explore and play in the moon sand.
3. Planet Matching Game: Create a planet matching game using flashcards or pictures of the planets. Play a matching game with the children, asking them to match each planet with its name and discuss their characteristics.

Assessment Objectives:

1. Social-Emotional:

- Manages feelings when working with others during group activities
- Interacts and cooperates positively with peers during dramatic play

2. Physical:

- Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination during art activities
- Demonstrates gross-motor skills during astronaut exploration

3. Language:

- Listens to and follows directions during group discussions and activity instructions
- Uses language to describe the characteristics and features of planets

4. Cognitive:

- Demonstrates curiosity and motivation during the planet flashcards and playdough activities
- Remembers and connects experiences by identifying and naming the planets

Assessment Methods:

Observations will be made throughout the lesson to assess the children's social-emotional interactions, physical abilities, language skills, and cognitive engagement. The teacher will listen to the children's discussions and provide individual feedback

during the art and playdough activities. Assessment results will inform teaching practices by identifying areas where additional support or extension activities may be required.