

Lesson Plan: Four Activities With Bear Counters

Overview:

This lesson plan is designed for preschoolers aged 2-4 and focuses on using bear counters for various activities. The lesson aims to introduce children to counting, sorting, patterns, and basic math concepts through hands-on activities using bear counters.

Materials:

- Bear counters (different colors)
- Sorting trays or bowls
- Number cards
- Pattern cards or strips
- Markers or crayons
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Optional: Counting mats or number line chart

Introduction:

Gather the children in a circle and introduce the concept of counting using bear counters. Show them a few bear counters and briefly explain that today they will be doing fun activities with these bears. Demonstrate how to count the bears using one-to-one correspondence, emphasizing that each bear represents one. Ask simple questions like, "Can you count with me? How many bears do you see?" to engage the children in the activity.

Activities:

1. Count and Sort (15 minutes):

- Give each child a set of bear counters and sorting trays/bowls.
- Instruct them to count and sort the bears according to their colors. Encourage them to repeat the color names as they place the bears in the trays.
- You can provide support by labeling each tray with a color name and demonstrating how to sort the bears.

2. Number Matching (15 minutes):

- Place the number cards (1-10) on the floor or a table.
 - Ask the children to select a number card and count out the corresponding number of bears to place on top of the card.
 - Encourage them to say the number out loud as they count and match the bears to the cards.

3. Pattern Making (15 minutes):

- Show the children pattern cards or strips with simple patterns made using bear counters (e.g., red, blue, red, blue, red, ____).

- Ask the children to continue the pattern by placing the correct color of bear on the blank space. They can also create their own patterns using different colors of bear counters.
- Provide support and guidance as needed, and discuss the patterns created by the children.

4. Bear Collage (15 minutes):

- Give each child a piece of construction paper and markers or crayons.
 - Ask them to draw a picture of a bear or a scene with bears.
 - Instruct them to cut out small squares or rectangles from construction paper and glue them on their bear drawings to create a "bear" collage.
 - Encourage creativity and engage them in discussions about the colors and shapes they are using.

Closure:

Gather the children in a circle and ask them to share one thing they learned or enjoyed about using bear counters. Summarize the activities and emphasize the concepts of counting, sorting, patterns, and creativity. Sing a counting or bear-themed song, such as "Five Little Bears," to reinforce the lesson's objectives.

Extension Activities:

1. Bear Hunt: Hide bear counters around the classroom or outdoor area and have the children go on a bear hunt to find and count them.
2. Bear Math: Use the bear counters to solve simple addition and subtraction problems. Ask the children to combine sets of bears and count the total.
3. Bear Books: Read bear-themed books and encourage the children to identify and count bears in the illustrations.
4. Bear Snack: Provide gummy bear snacks and have the children sort and count the bears before enjoying them.

Assessment Objectives:

1. Social-Emotional:

- Participates cooperatively in group activities, taking turns with the bear counters.
- Shows curiosity and motivation during the activities.

2. Physical:

- Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination when counting, sorting, and manipulating the bear counters.

3. Cognitive:

- Demonstrates positive approaches to learning by engaging in the activities with attentiveness and persistence.
- Demonstrates number sense and understanding of basic math concepts through counting, sorting, and creating patterns.

Assessment Methods:

Observations will be made throughout the lesson to assess the children's social-emotional interactions, physical abilities, and cognitive engagement. The teacher will also listen to the children's verbalizations during the activities to assess their understanding and use of numbers. Assessment results will inform teaching practices by identifying areas where additional support or extension activities may be required.