

Camping Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

I. Virginia Science Foundation Block 6: Earth Patterns, Cycles and Change:

- a) Observe and classify the shapes and forms of my common natural objects including seeds, cones and leaves.
- b). Recognize the order or stages of animal and plant growth.
- c). Describe home and school routines (for a summer vacation)

II. Concepts to be taught:

1. Camping is something some families do for vacation time
2. Places where people camp
 - campgrounds, parks, woods,
 - lakes,
 - mountains
 - your own back yard
3. Equipment used for camping.
 - tent and sleeping bag,
 - camper or cabin
 - lantern, flashlight
 - grill, campfire, bottled water
4. Camping transportation
 - a camper can be hitched to a car or driven alone

II. Concepts to teach continued:

5. Camping Activities

- fishing
- boat rides
- swimming, playing in the water or sand
- reading,
- bird watching,
- hiking in woods,
- listening to music,
- talking to family and friends

6. Foods we eat while camping

- hotdogs, hamburgers, fish, steaks (Most anything you can grill)
- beans
- roasted marshmallows
- picnic foods

III. Books that can be read:

Zachary in Camping Out by Bertrand Gauthier

When We Go Camping by Margriet Ruurs

Camping Out by Mercer Mayer

Just Me and My Dad by Mercer Mayer

When I Go Camping With Grandma by Marion Dane BAuer

The Berestain Bears Go To Camp by Stan and Jan Berestain

Curious George Goes Hiking by Margaret Rey

Camping In the Mountains by Lucille Wood

Bailey Goes Camping by Kevin Henkes

Do Not Disturb by Allen Say

Three Days On The River In a Red Canoe by Vera B. Williams

When Daddy Took Us Camping by Julie Brillhart

Stella and Ray Go Camping by Ashley Wolff

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Happy Birthday Moon (Little Bear Series)

The Very Lonely Firefly by Eric Carle

Wake Up Night by Alyssa Capucilli

IV. Classroom Activities:

A. Overlapping Themes: "Day and Night"

1. Color book pages from What Do I Hear Color Book? Little Golden Book Publishing, 1989
2. What Does One See In the Night Sky? Stars and moon Take black or dark blue construction paper and add sticker stars and use a white crayon or chalk to draw the moon
3. Make a daytime picture: If children are unable to draw, let them tear or cut out magazine pictures to glue. Paint on a yellow sun
4. Color with Glow in the Dark Crayons or Markers
5. Make a Night time and Day time routine book: have parents send in pictures of their child going to bed or doing one nighttime routine: having a story read and a picture of child doing a favorite activity at home: compile into a book and let each student take it home to share
6. Paint paper with black paint, and then sprinkle with glitter to make night sky

B. Forest Animals /Camping

(Forest animals: skunk, deer, raccoon, bears, mountain lions, fish in lake, snakes, bugs and owls)

1. Talk about camping safety
 - Smokey the Bear and Fire Safety
 - Swimming and water safety
 - poison plants
 - being safe with forest animals
2. Go on a nature walk and pick up collage items (sticks, flowers, etc and then make a collage)
3. Make a grocery bag backpacks (see pictures)
4. Make a paper tent
5. Make bugs out of collage materials (Twigs, pine needles, pinecones, nuts, acorns)
Add wax paper wings
6. Bees: use yellow paper and dip a potato masher in or clean flyswatter in black paint, and print w/ masher over bug, add wings and eyes for details
7. Make fish prints in a black construction paper fry pan (real or a fake model fish will work)
8. Make fishing vests out of paper bags
9. Make a fishing hat /visor: See pictures
- 10; Color pictures of forest animals or make puppets

11. Make toilet roll binoculars: paint rolls and staple together and add yarn to hang on neck

12. Make a grocery bag backpack: Idea from Preschool Mailbox: Aug/Sept., 2000

- Cut five inches from off the top and front of the bag
- Trim and fold down the back panel to create a flap
- Cut two 3x24 inch straps: we used wide ribbon that had wire in it
- Draw four three inch lines on the bag of the bag; thread the straps through the three in slits.
- Place tape over to reinforce the straps
- See pictures in samples.
- The children packed up the backpacks with juice boxes, small box of raisins and a nature bar so we could go on our nature hike.

13. Let children use their nap towels or blankets for bedrolls. Show them how to roll them up

14. I have forest animal stuffed animal toys that I placed through the room, plus fake birds. I then took pictures of my birds and animals. Each child was given a copy of the pictures and we went on a class room hike to find the birds and animals with our binoculars.

- I have a skunk, a squirrel, a chipmunk, hedgehog, raccoon, river otter, and beaver, plus an owl, and variety of craft birds.

15. We had a small wading pool set up with child sized folding lawn chairs and those were used for fishing in our lake. The child sized boat in the room was used for boating. We made paper lifejacket vests.

16. Made: Gone Fishing hats fastened to heads with yarn

17. Made stuffed fish that was mounted on Brown paper: Stuffed a bulletin board paper fish shape with pillow fiberfill material, closed it up with taped once stuffed and then mounted it on brown oval shaped paper.

18. We played nature tape and set up a camping drama center with 2 child sized tents, a campfire, and a toy grill to cook with.

19. Made T-shirts for each child with each child's hand prints painted on the t-shirts: We adopted the following name: Donahoes's Camp Lot-of-Fun.

20. I bought fake fishing worms that we used for our fishing tackle box and for math. We counted them, added and subtracted worm sets. Gummy worms can also be used

21. We made a book of forest animals: color sheets

Online resources:

[www.ChildFun Family.com](http://www.ChildFunFamily.com)

www.activityideaplace.com

http://www.first-school.ws/theme/animals/cp_forest.htm