

End Of Year: It Is Hot!

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

1. Make daily weather observations
2. Describe home and school routines

II. Concepts to be taught:

1. Summer is a season between spring and fall
2. The temperature is usually warm to hot
3. People enjoy being outside:
 - swim
 - t-ball
 - swimming or playing in water
 - play at parks
 - go on picnics
 - visit a zoo
4. The weather may be rainy and stormy when it gets real hot
5. We wear lighter clothing like shorts and t-shirts, sunglasses, flip flops or sandals
6. Families may travel or go on vacations in the summer
 - The Beach
 - Camping
 - Theme Parks
 - Historical Spots
 - Visit Family or attend Family Reunions
7. Special Foods are available: watermelon, berries, cantaloupes, fresh vegetables

III. Books to read:

- *Summer* by Alice Low
- *The Bears' Vacation* by Stan and Jan Berestain
- *Busy Beach* by Rebecca Finn
- *Spot Visits His Grandparents* by Eric Hill

Link to more book ideas:

<http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/summer/books.php>

IV. Activities:

1. Make a class book: Favorite Summer Things- IF the children are verbal and able to give a dictation.

- In the summer, I like to----
- When its hot, I want to ----
- I like to play----
- After school, I am going to ----
- I like summer because ----

Illustrate the book.

2. Pack a vacation suitcase or beach bag in front of children. Ask them to tell you what is packed in the bag.

3. Summer Clouds; Read *It Looked like Spilt Milk* by Shaw and make clouds with white chalk or crayons on blue paper. Glue on cotton balls if desired.

4. Brainstorm ideas of what is fun to do in the summer:

- play with favorite toys
- play with pet
- go for walks with mommy and daddy
- ride tricycle or bike
- play in dirt or sandbox
- water garden or yard then play in water
- play in wading pool
- help mommy and daddy do things (chores around the house)
- watch movies

5. Make an obstacle Course:

Creek jump- jump ropes or rope, jump or over

Play tunnel

Use things in you're playground to map a course

6. Play with sidewalk chalk

7. Read: *Who Sank the Boat* by Pamela Allen and do sink and float activities

IV. Activities continued:

8. Make sail boats with plastic butter containers and paper sails

9 Water table play:

- pour and empty
- Wash and scrub play dishes (put in a dishes rack) or doll clothes (rinse and hang up to dry).

10. Paint outside with a paint brush and water

11. Play hop scotch

12. String beads: any round cereal

13. Sort cereal by color, count and then eat

14. on a rainy day:

Make a fort, a campout, or pretend beach scene

15. Balloon Play: blow balloons and toss up in air, try to keep balloons in the air

16. Parachute Play:

17. Library Visit: have a special story and activity

18. Make Water rainbows: Spray a water hose in the sunlight

19. Wet Chalk drawings

20. Make summer bugs: Have art material out: 3 bodies parts, legs, antenna and wings, Let your little ones put the bugs together and decorate their bugs

21. Play follows the Leader to music: a few examples

- arms out straight
- arms over head
- arms by side
- left arm out, right arm by side
- right arm out, left arm by side
- hop on one foot then the other
- hop wit both feet
- clap hands over head
- clap hands in front of body

22. Have Tricycle races

23. Paint with ice cubes and dry paint or food color

24. Make leis: cut out paper flowers and punch a hole in the middle, string on yarn

25. Make a paper sun

26. Make a Paper glass of lemonade. Then paint lemon prints on the yellow paper

27. Make summer trees. Get sticks, glue them on paper and add green torn tissue paper or leaves cut out of green construction paper.

V. Summer Foods

- Watermelon
- Ice Cream
- Melon of any kind
- Berry tasting (strawberry, blackberry, red raspberry, blue berry)
- Popsicles
- Pineapple (whole one to be examined then cut)
- Go on a Picnic or have a cook out