

## St. Patrick's Day 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. History and Social Studies Foundation Block 2: History and Change Over Time:  
The child will develop an awareness of change over time.

1. Express the difference between past and present using words such as "before," "after," "now" and "then"
2. Recount episodes from stories about the past.
3. Recount past times based on stories , pictures, songs and music

**II. Concepts to be taught:** (Use them according to cognitive levels of your children)

1. Holiday celebrated by Irish when the Irish preacher, "St. Patrick", ran all the snakes out of Ireland
2. St. Patrick used the Shamrock to teach about God
3. The color "Green" is symbolic of St. Patrick's Day and of Ireland , because they have such beautiful "green" grass
4. Leprechauns : Are they real or pretend ?
5. Pot of Gold "story": If you catch a Leprechaun, he has to give you his pot of gold, which is found at the end of a rainbow.

**III. Books to Read:**

1. Teacher Made Book: 5 Little Shamrocks by T, Williams
2. Teacher Made Book : Shamrock, Where Are You? by a Henrico County Speech Teacher ( do not know who but will give credit as I know the name)
3. Hurray for St. Patrick's Day by J. Holub

**IV. Activities**

1. **Go on a Shamrock Hunt:** Place paper shamrocks throughout the room. Once found give out prizes of stickers or coin candy. Use Shamrock View Finders

#### **IV. Activities continued:**

Directions: I took the paper outline that was left from cutting out a shamrock with a die cutter and laminated them. The children could look through the clear part for shamrocks.

- a) Math : Who has the most? Who has the least?
  - b) Math: Count who has how many and make a class graph
  - c) Math: Count how many there are all together
2. **Big/Little Shamrocks:** Have a variety of different sized shamrocks and arrange them in order according to size. The lower children can be directed to finding the large/small ones . If the child can't verbalize, let him or her point or touch the shamrock.  
(One can substitute different sized pots of gold or leprechauns for this activity.
  3. **Tissue Paper Shamrock:** Cut out shamrocks from card stock paper or green poster board; Add glue and put torn tissue or torn construction paper on it
  4. **Shiny Shamrock:** Cut out shamrocks from poster board or card stock, use corn syrup and green glitter to finger paint the shamrock. It will dry shiny.
  5. **Shamrock Person:** The Head is a large shamrock, use shorter strips of green paper for the arms and legs that one accordant folds by bending it back and forth. The hands and feet are smaller shamrocks. Draw a face on the face or use wiggle eyes for eyes and glue on the arms and legs.
  6. **Potato Shamrock Prints:** Use a shamrock cookie cutter to make a resist print of shamrock on the potato and put it in green paint and make prints with it
  7. **Shamrock Cookie Cutter Prints:** Dip the cookie cutter in green paint and make prints on paper.
  8. **Easy Rainbow:** This should be done 1:1 with the lower functioning or younger child. Dip each finger in one color of paint and then let them draw their hands across the paper . If not in a rainbow shape, the teacher can cut out into a rainbow shape.
  9. **Cereal Rainbow:** Take a cereal rings and *sort first by colors*, then glue them on rainbow that has been already drawn on paper.
  10. **Lucky Charms:** Sort the Lucky Charms according to shape and color , then let the children eat after counting and make a graph of how many each child has.
  11. **Leprechaun Visit:** Leave gold and green glitter on floor and have the children find treats for snack

**V. Games:**

1. Play Hot Potato

**VI. Food :**

1. Irish Soda Bread
2. Irish Stew
3. Shamrock shaped sugar cookies that are iced with green icing
4. Green Koolaide
5. Green Eggs and Ham
6. Green Jello
7. Cupcakes that are decorated with green icing or green sprinkles
8. Eat Lucky Charms Cereal

**VII. Other Resources:**

[www.activityideaplace](http://www.activityideaplace)

[www.childfunfamily](http://www.childfunfamily)