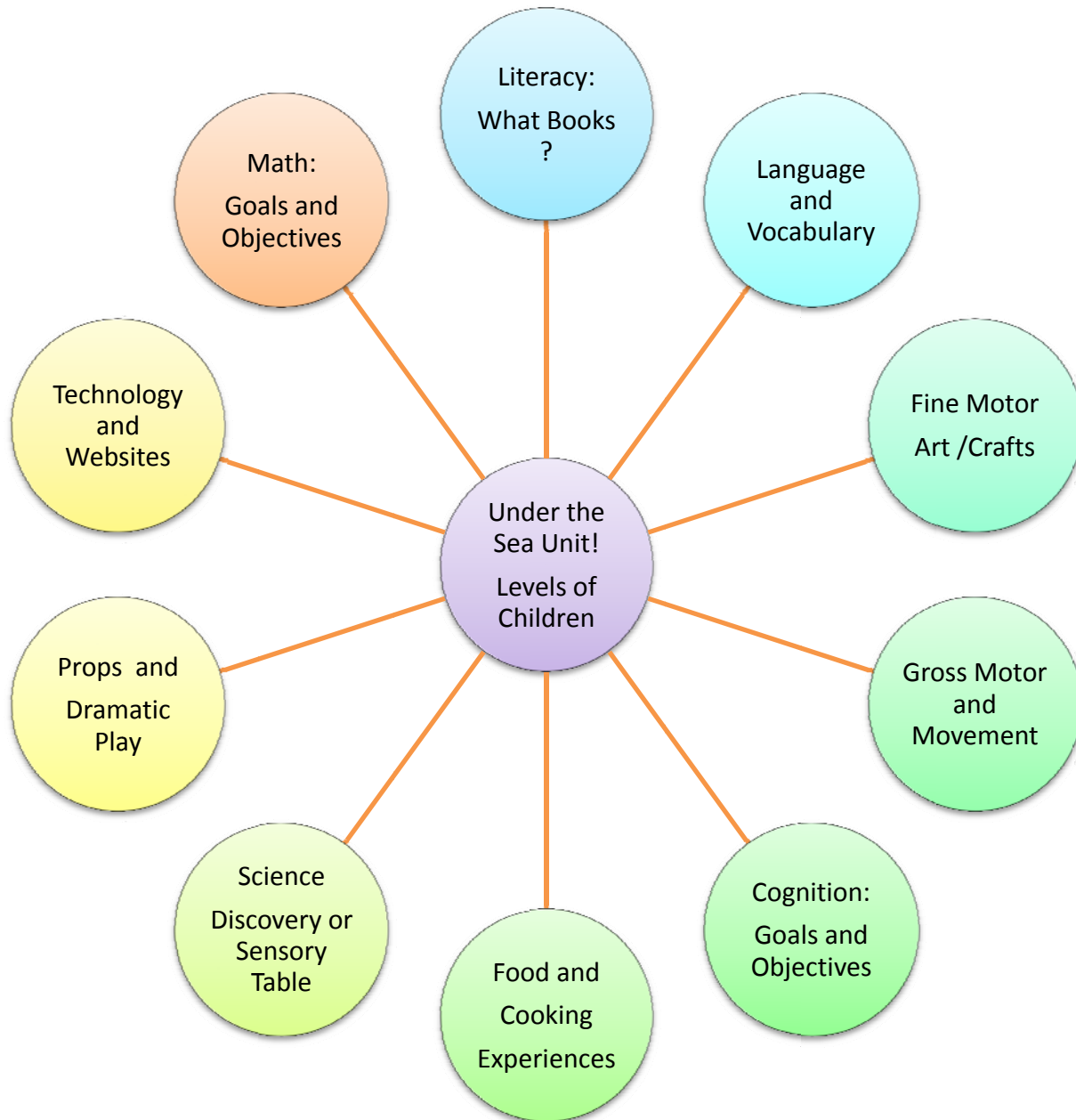


Theme Planning: Plug topics into Basic Array.



## Steps I Undertake When Writing a New Theme:

1. **Research** the topic
2. **Internet Search** for new activities
3. **Unit Writing** in the "Array" Style or type into Lesson Plan Outline
4. **Gather Props and Books** into a theme box or 2 gallon baggie
5. **Design Centers and Bulletin Boards** I want to make for classroom.
6. **Teacher Made Books** for concept teaching.

### Examples:

- Fact or Concept Book: "What's Under the Ocean?"
  - Teaching Colors: " In The Deep Blue Sea"
  - Teaching Sea Creature Names: "Mermaid, Mermaid, What Do You See?"
  - Teaching Math: "5 Little Seashells" is an interactive book
7. **Plan the Lesson** on a monthly calendar for what activities I want to accomplish each day or write it up on a weekly planning form from Mailbox Magazine.
    - Decide how long or short I want to make the unit.
  8. Level my activities according to children's abilities. (This is done mentally, not written out)
  9. **Individual Skill Work**: I will pull out ability level games in that are themed related if I have them or decide to make more.

### Example:

- Sea Shell Days of Week Matching (color and learning sequence)
- Fish Attendance Matching ( Match picture to name or just name matching).
- Folder Games

## Example Plan in Outline Form

I. Theme Topic

II. Goals and Objectives from Virginia's Foundation

Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds. I adapt and modify to the differing levels of my students.

III. Concepts to be Taught

IV. Books to be Read

V. Activities to go with Lessons that can be broken into

- Fine Motor
- Gross Motor
- Science
- Sensory Center
- Math

VI. Cooking or Other Hands -On Experiences

VII. An Assessment Rubric may be on some of my older plans from teaching k/2

VIII. Take pictures or keep a sample of activities that went well.

Individualized Teaching According to IEP Objectives:

Examples:

- Some children may need to point to object when named if can't verbalize
- Other children are learning to imitate words so the child will repeat the label and make the connection between prop or picture to the "label or name"
- The higher verbal children will label and learn facts about sea creatures

**Sample Plan for One Lesson**

- Goals and Objectives with concepts are written on the Theme Unit: I do not repeat it here.

**Lesson 3 : Introduce Beach****Possible Centers:****Drama Center:** Beach Center

Props: Small plastic wading pool, 2 children's Beach chairs, Beach Bag, beach balls, beach towels, sun glasses and empty sun lotions, Picnic area with child picnic basket and toy grill.

**Sensory Table:** Sand with sea shells

**Water Play:** Water Table in fenced in area outside of Pod

**Vocabulary Words:** Beach, Sea Shell, sand, ocean or water (pictures of vocabulary)

**Books that can be read:**

- Just Grandma and Me by Mercer Mayer
- Busy Beach ( An Interactive Book) by Rebecca Finn
- A Day At the Beach by Barron's Educational Series ( a soft book that is interactive).

**Activity 1: Beach Facts**

Props: sand, shells, shovel and pail, Beach Bag

What is a beach? Sand that is next to a river, pond, lake or ocean

What does one do at the beach?

- Make sand castles, dig in the sand, make shapes in the sand
- Play with a beach ball
- "Catch Rays" : lay in the sun- don't forget sun lotion
- Play in the water- talk about water safety

## Activity 2: A Day At the Beach Art Project

May be completed in one or two days.

Directions:

1. Large Sheet of white construction paper divided into thirds. I prefer the landscape view.
2. Discuss top, middle and bottom.
3. Leave bottom portion blank for gluing on sand
4. Top Section: Color blue for sky, may add cotton balls for clouds and sun if you wish
5. Middle portion: paint with blue paint for ocean: Typically I use a brush , though one can finger paint the water
6. Bottom section: Brush on watered down glue with paint brush Sprinkle with sand, shake off excess
7. Add on tiny sea shells (can buy at Dollar Tree), a beach towel, tiny drink umbrella ( I help child push through paper and tape it on back side) and one can add stickers to your beach scene. The ability level of students determine what can be added to picture.