

Space Lesson Plans 2008

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. Science Foundation Blocks 5 and 6

1. Interrelationships in Earth/Space Systems:

2. Earth Patterns, Cycles and Change

- The child will be able to create a shadow
- Describe home and school routines

II. Concepts to be taught according to class' ability to comprehend:

1. Whole day is 24 hours which includes day and night

- ❖ Day time is when we go to school or play outside
- ❖ Night time is when we spend family time, rest and go to bed to sleep
- ❖ Night is darker and colder than during the daytime
- ❖ We wear different clothes at night than during the day (e.g. pajamas or nightshirt to go to bed)

2. The Sun

- ❖ Provides day with light and heat
- ❖ Light from the sun is called sunshine
- ❖ Can burn our skin
- ❖ Is a Star
- ❖ Clouds may hide the sun
- ❖ Can make a shadow when objects block a portion of the sun's light

3. The Moon:

- ❖ Shines at night
- ❖ Reflects light from the sun
- ❖ Clouds may hide the moon so we can't see it
- ❖ The light from the moon is called moonlight

3. Stars:

- ❖ Provide light at night
- ❖ Stars are far away
- ❖ Some stars are considered "hot" and some are considered to be "cold"
- ❖ There are too many stars to count

II. Concepts to be taught continued:

4. Planets: (Detailed Planet plans are in my 2003 Space Unit)

- ❖ We live on Planet "Earth"
- ❖ Earth has : land, water and air we need to live
- ❖ Earth is a big rock
- ❖ Earth has gravity (we don't float around)
- ❖ There are 8 other planets in our solar system (space neighborhood) and one dwarf planet (Pluto)
- ❖ Earth is in the "Milky Way" Galaxy which is made up of stars, planets, and moons (Space Nation or country)

5. Space Travel:

- ❖ We have to wear a special " space suit"
- ❖ We have to have oxygen (air in tanks to breathe)
- ❖ We have to travel in a special vehicle called a space ship

III. Drama Center Props:

1. A large Appliance Box for Space Ship : Mine was called "The Imagination Station"
2. A old computer keyboard inside, with instrument panel drawn on the inside
3. Make space shoes with large sponges put on child's shoe with rubber bands or elastic
4. Paper bag helmets
5. Moon Walk: Lots of pillows on the floor, cover them up with a sheet and let the kids moon walk in their "space shoes"
6. Pretend walkie-talkies or make a mouthpiece on to helmet with a pipe cleaner that has been taped on to helmet and bent towards the face.
7. White Christmas lights that has laminated star shapes with holes punched in center to put them trough or just the plain lights
8. Glow in the dark stars placed throughout the room
9. Oxygen tanks made out of 2 - 2Liter soda bottles. Turn them upside down and tape them together with masking tape, tie 2 arm loops with yarn

IV. Books that can be read:

1. **Wake Up Night:** A Glow in the Dark, Lift the Flap Book published by Kids books
2. **What Makes Day and Night?** A Just Ask Book by Chris Arvatis and Carole Palmer
3. **Good Night Little Grover,** illustrated by Norman Gorbaty
4. **There Were Ten Bears in a Bed :** A Count and Feel Book illustrated by Alison Atkins
5. **The Bad Dream** by Jim Aylesworth
6. **The Stars Trip To Earth** written and illustrated by eighth grade students at Ecole Viscount Alexander, Winnipeg, Manitoba
7. **Bedtime for Frances** by Russell Hoban
8. **Good Night Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown

IV. Books that can be read:

9. **The Berenstain Bears On The Moon** by Stan and Jan Berenstain
10. **LC and The Critter Kids :The Alien, An Adventure From Outer Space** by Mercer Mayer
11. **The Whispering Rabbit** by Margaret Wise Brown Flannel Board Story Set
12. **Good Morning Sunshine** by Barbara Cratzius and Ute Thonissen
13. **What Can You Do In The Sun?** by Anna Grossnickle Hines
14. **Blue's Clues: Blue Skidoos to the Planets** by Angela C. Santomero

V. Activities:

1. Day and Night:

- **Paper Plate Earth:**

- Take 2 paper plates and glue them together. Children paint one side black and shake glitter on it while wet for stars shining : Let Dry
- Paint the other side of paper plate yellow for the sun

- **Day/Night Banner:**

- One 9x11 black construction paper, add stars , decorate with oil crayons or glow in the dark crayons or paint
- One 9x11 blue construction paper, add a yellow sun and draw things one would do in day time:
- Staple the sheets together,
- Tie yarn around the 2 sheets of paper,
- Hang up the banners

- **Cotton Ball Painting** :Paint paper black with cotton balls

- **Sponge Paint** :Sponge paint a circle yellow and add paper rays

2. The Moon

- **Play dough moon** that has been made. Have children roll into a ball , then make craters with fingers or thumbprint impressions
- **Make moon shoes** with thick sponges rubber banded on child's shoes
- **Flour in the sensory Table** : and make impressions , this is dusty like the moon
- **Moon Mud** : equal parts cornstarch and water

3. The Stars

- **Marshmallow Constellations** : Glue mini marshmallows to dark paper, use oil pastel crayons to connect the marshmallows
- **Tissue paper stars:** or **Torn Paper Stars**
- **Lacing card Stars**
- **Go on a Star hunt** in the room
- **Take a large star shape** with child's name on it home: **family decorates** and returns them to school
- **Spray paint a star** on an easel
- **Star Color match Game**

- **Star puzzles**, cut in half and child matches

V. Activities Continued;

4. The Sun :

- **Mr Sun** with sun glasses and picture under the sun from color book
- **You Are My Sunshine project**: have a small sun made for each child and put their picture in it : saying, " You are my sunshine!"

5. The Planets: See 2003 Lesson Plans for ideas

6.. Space Travel :

- Several color sheets of space craft
- Drama center play
- Make an alien space craft : 2 paper plate(foam kind) nest them , then glue a bowl turned over on top , cut a door out of bowl and decorate (idea from www.familyfun.com)
- Trace a pair of scissors and decorate
- Make a cone shape with paper and decorate as a space ship

7. **Booklets from Mailbox**

IV. Games:

1. **Musical Stars**: Have pictures of stars, moon, and planets on floor. The children walk while the music plays and when it stops, go to a picture
2. **Shooting Stars**: Put sticker stars on paper cards. The children count the stars and jump that many times.

Poem:

Four Little Stars...

Four little stars winking at me
 One shot off, Then there were three
 Three little stars, With nothing to do
 One shot off, Then there were two
 Two little stars, Afraid of the sun;
 One shot off, Then there was one
 One little star, Not having any fun
 It shot off .Then there were none.

