

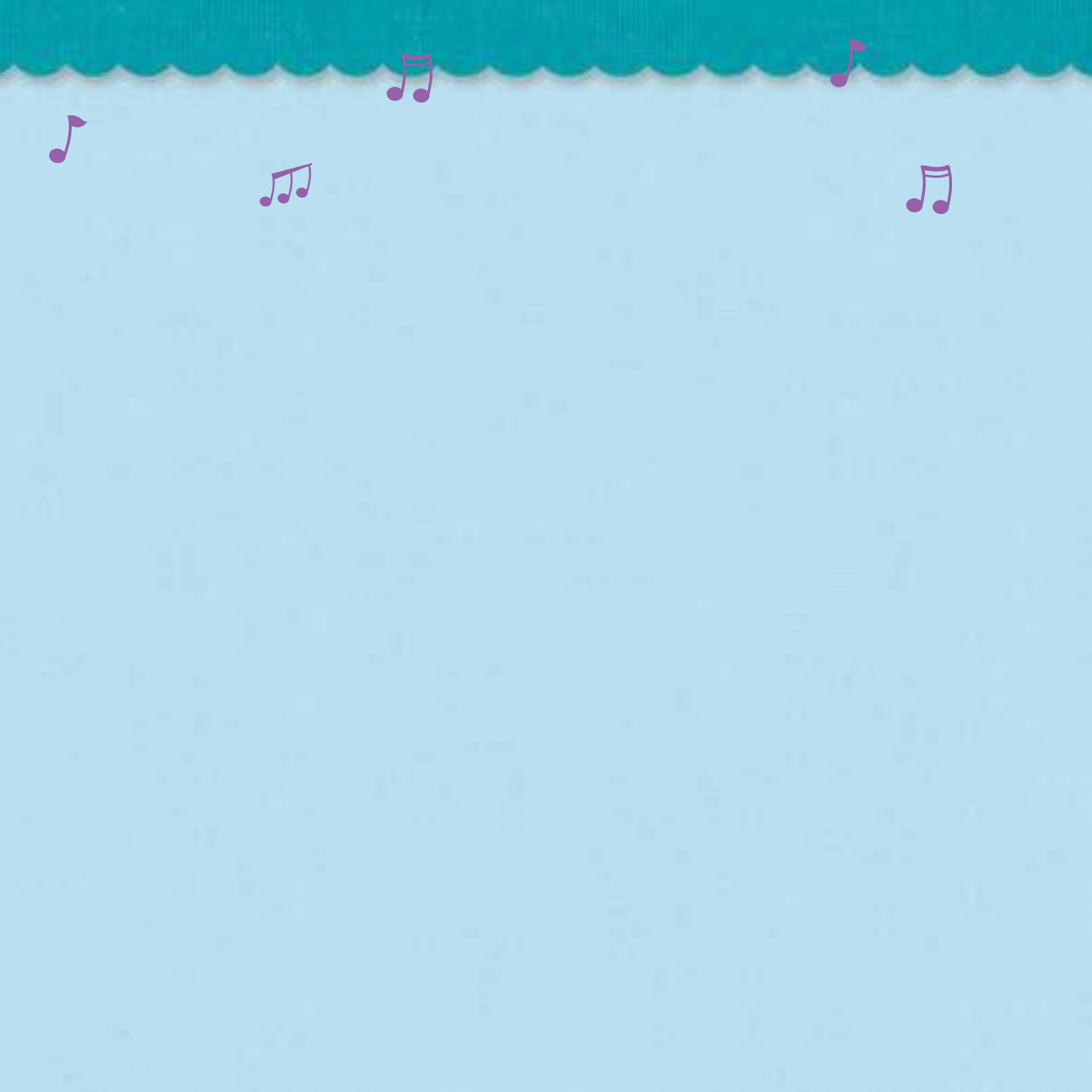
Calendar and Weather Ideas for

Circle Time










experience
Early Learning Company

Over 65 skill-based activities to engage children during Circle Time.



In this book, we will offer you 66 interactive and creative ways to teach your children about the calendar and weather. You can use your calendar and weather routine to build community and teamwork. This routine can also reinforce early literacy, foundational math, scientific inquiry and observation skills. This book will show you how to teach all 33 key skills required for school success in ways that will help your children construct knowledge through meaningful and age-appropriate experiences.

Table of Contents

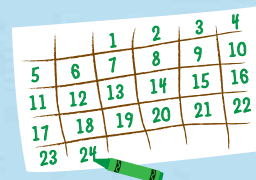
	Social Emotional	p. 6
	Physical	p. 12
	Language and Literacy	p. 18
	Mathematics	p. 34
	Social Studies	p. 46
	Science	p. 54
	Creative	p. 64

Calendar Station

Here are a few ideas on how to create your own calendar station:

Monthly Grid

Draw a grid on a large piece of poster board and number each day of the month.

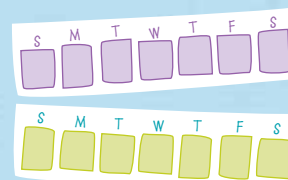


Week by Week Strips

Cut poster board into one week-strips. On the strip, draw one box for each day of the week. Each week, put up a new strip of boxes to represent the week.

Explore the basic concept of beginning and end:

- Beginning of the day – End of the day
- Beginning of a week – End of a week
- Beginning of a month – End of a month



Calendar Envelopes

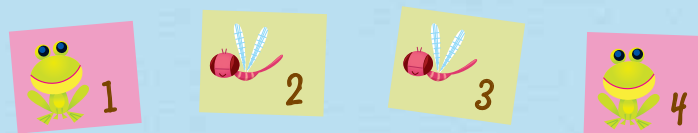
Write Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. on seven envelopes. Children help find the envelope of the day. Put calendar pieces in the envelope to post on the calendar grid.



Calendar Pieces

Make daily calendar pieces using shapes cut out from colored paper, photos of the children, or label stickers.

Number each calendar piece. Consider following a simple pattern that repeats throughout the month (AB, AABB, ABB, ABC).

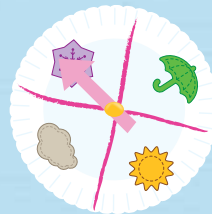


Weather Station

Record the child's daily weather observation with one or more of the following props:

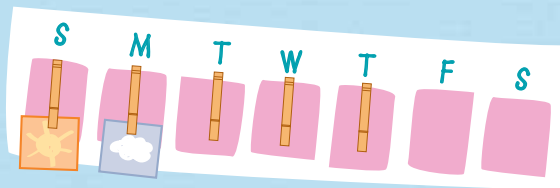
Weather Wheel

Make a simple weather wheel out of a paper plate and a brass fastener.



Weather Chart

Draw a variety of weather cards. Hang clothespins and invite children to choose a weather card and clip it to the pin.



Weather Buckets or Display

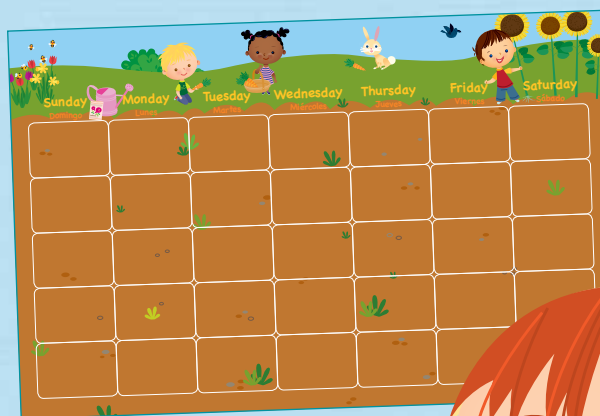
Use old cans or a recycled egg carton. Tape weather cards to the top of craft sticks. Invite children to choose a weather stick and place it in a can or the egg carton.



In these activities, children will demonstrate their ability to identify feelings and express preferences.

Calendar

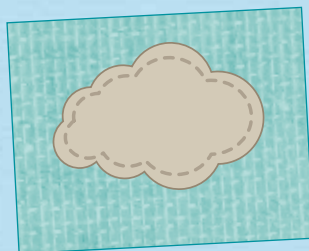
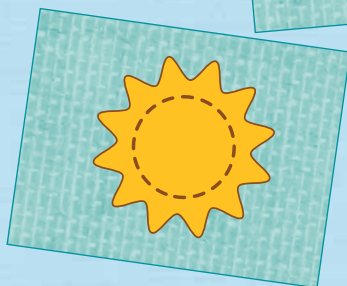
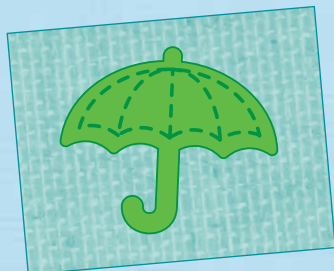
Invite children to identify the day of the week. Ask children how that day makes them feel. For example, "How do you usually feel on a Monday?" "What about a Friday?"





Weather

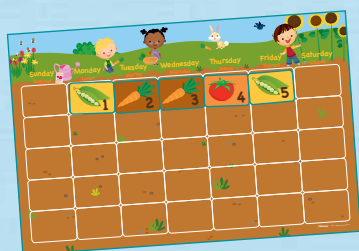
Ask the children to choose the weather card that best matches today's weather. Invite them to share one thing they like to do in this type of weather, then tape the card to the weather chart.



In these activities, children will demonstrate their attention span and ability to stay focused on a task for an extended period of time.

Calendar

Ask the children to look at the calendar pieces already on the calendar and to identify the pattern. Place the remaining calendar pieces in front of a child. Encourage the child to use the pieces on the floor to extend the pattern as far as he can.





Weather

Invite each child to go to the window to observe the weather. Without saying anything, the child looks and then sits down to think about what weather card best represents today's weather. After everyone has had a turn looking outside, hold up one weather card at a time. If the child thinks that card represents today's weather, she or he holds up her/his hand.



In these activities, children will demonstrate their ability to cooperate and work together with a friend on a task.

Calendar

Invite one child to tape today's calendar piece onto the calendar. Encourage children to find a partner and clap each other's hands together as they count to today's date.





Weather

Invite a child to choose a friend and look at the weather together. Encourage them to discuss and decide together which weather card best matches today's weather. The children agree on one card, then display it on the chart.

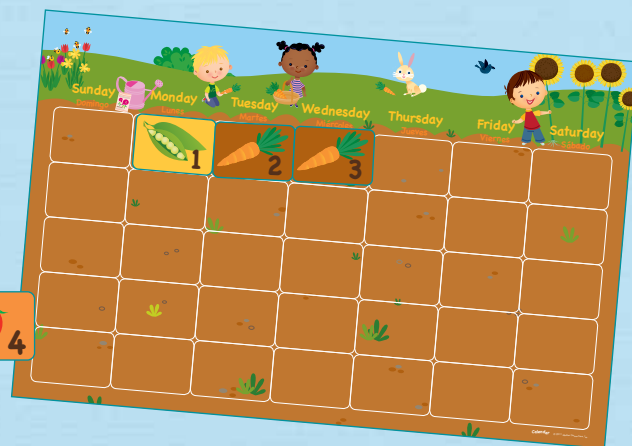


In these activities,
children will
coordinate large
movements and
build body control.

Gross Motor

Calendar

Ask one child to tape today's calendar piece into today's box on the grid. Invite the children to stomp their feet once for each past day and count as they count up to today's date.





Weather

Encourage the children to observe the weather with their eyes and ears. Then, invite them to use different parts of their body to imitate the sound today's weather could make. Take turns demonstrating the sound effects.



In these activities, children will coordinate small movements to draw, cut, pick up or manipulate small objects.

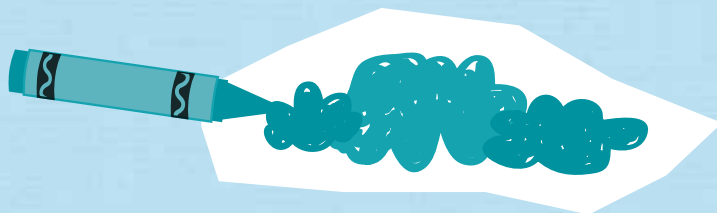
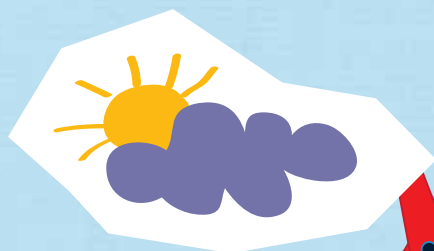
Calendar

Review the calendar piece pattern already displayed on the calendar. Figure out together what today's piece might look like. Lay a few calendar pieces on the floor, including today's piece. Invite children to use tweezers to pick up beads or pieces of yarn and lay them on the calendar piece they think should come next on the calendar.



Weather

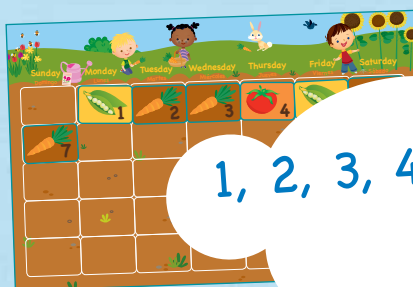
Invite children to observe today's weather and draw what they see (sunshine, raindrops, clouds, etc.) Give each child a pair of scissors and invite him/her to cut around their drawing. Place the cut-out drawings on or around the weather chart.



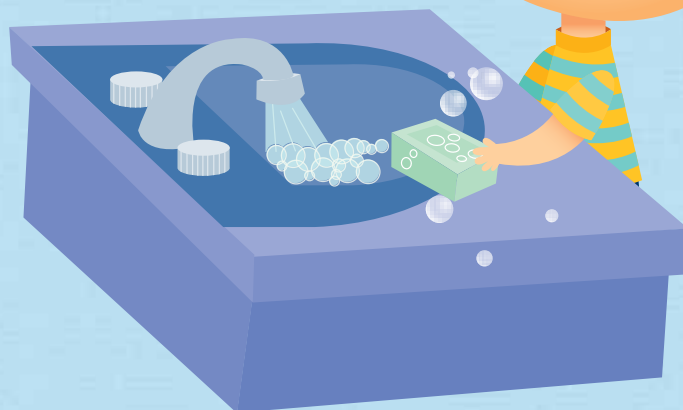
In these activities, children will demonstrate their knowledge about washing hands, staying safe and health.

Calendar

Ask a child to tape today's calendar piece in its place. Read today's date and then roll hands, as if washing them, while you count together to today's date. Ask children if that seems long enough, or if you should wash longer than that? Practice counting to today's date each time the children wash their hands throughout the day.



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7





Weather

Invite a child to choose a weather card and discuss ways to stay safe in this weather. For example, use sunscreen in sunny weather or boots in the rain.

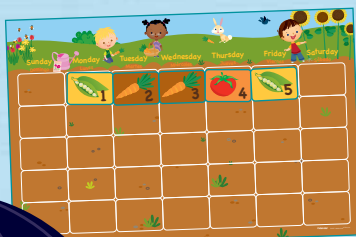


In these activities,
children will listen
and follow verbal
directions.

Listening Comprehension

Calendar

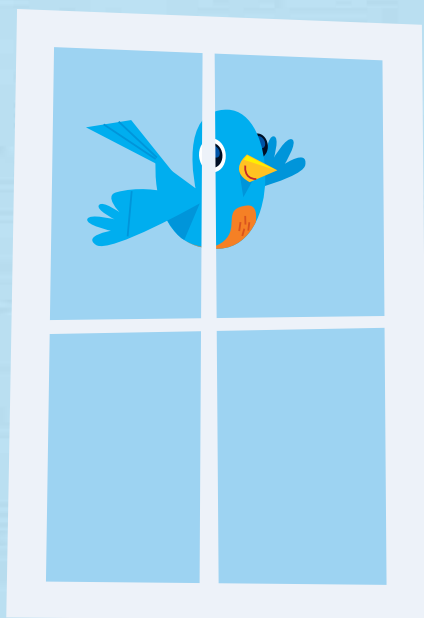
Invite children to close their eyes and listen as you clap your hands the same number of times as today's date. Invite the Calendar Helper to clap back the same number, then guess today's date and find the matching calendar piece.





Weather

Give children simple 2-4 step verbal directions such as:
Go to the window, point to the sky, then fly back to me
like a bird. Discuss the weather he or she observed.



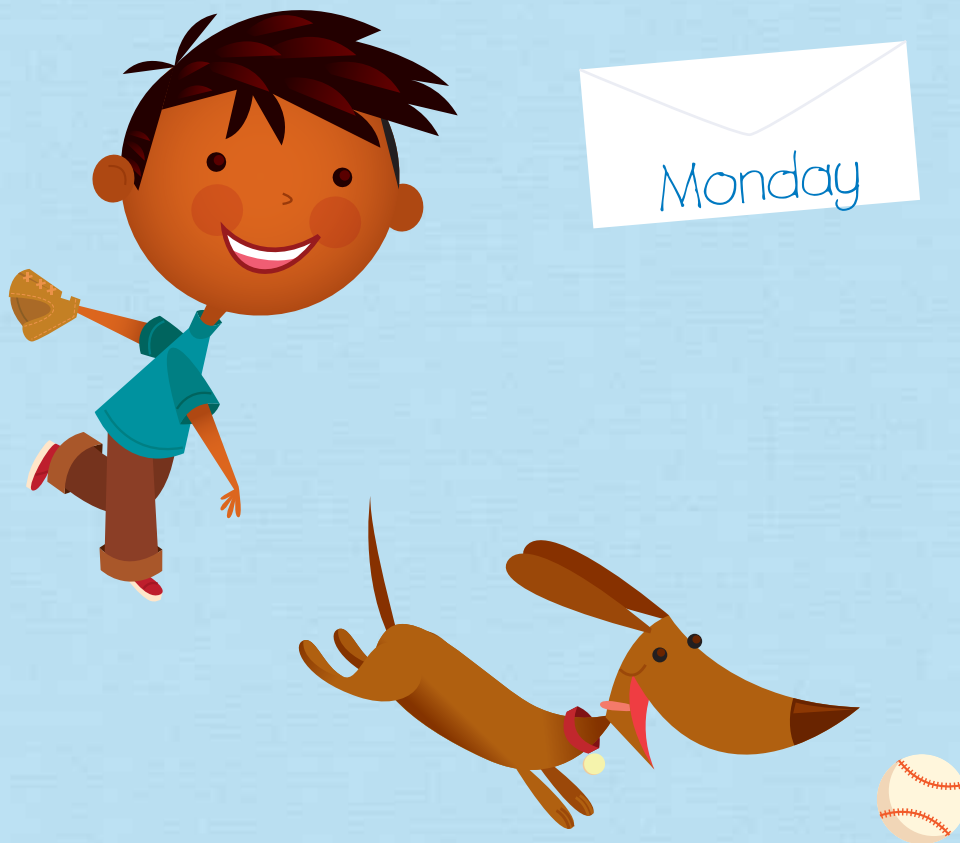
In these activities, children will verbally communicate their ideas and tell stories.

Communication

Calendar

Ask the children to help you identify today's day of the week. Then, invite each child to share what usually happens on that day (or any other day of the week) in his/her family. What do they do?

Option: Read *Today is Monday* by Eric Carle.



Weather

Ask a child to describe his/her favorite weather without saying the weather type. For example: My favorite weather looks white. Invite other children to guess the weather type. Discuss why he or she likes this type of weather. Do we have that type of weather today?



In these activities, children will build vocabulary by using new and technical words in their conversation.

Vocabulary

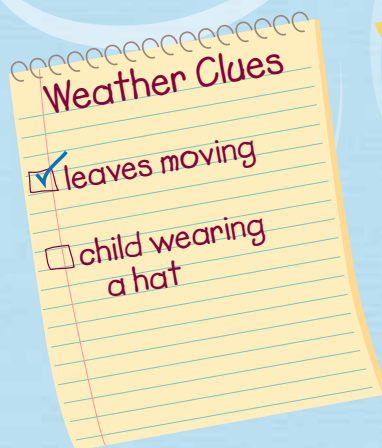
Calendar

Ask a child to identify today's date on the calendar. Then, invite all children to take that many steps towards any object in the room. Count aloud as you take steps. Children say what they are near or touching (a basket). Offer descriptive words to extend their description (a smooth basket).



Weather

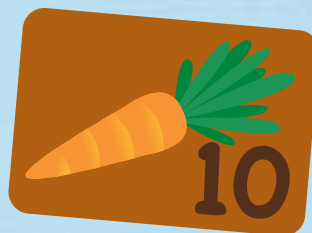
Ask the children to look outside and identify weather clues. Take time for each child to share what clues helped him/her know what the weather is today. (For example, he saw leaves moving.)



In these activities, children will identify small units of sound and recognize rhyme and alliteration (the beginning and ending sounds of words).

Calendar

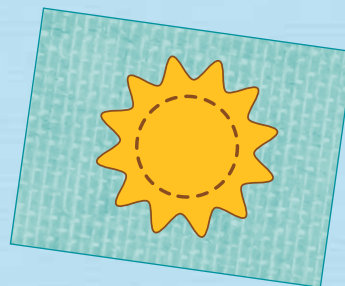
Ask the children to help you determine today's date. Then, work together to think of words that rhyme with today's number. For example, "ten" rhymes with "hen" or "two" with "shoe." For younger children, give them a word and ask whether it rhymes or not.





Weather

Invite a child to choose a weather card that matches today's weather. Encourage her to think of a descriptive word that begins with same sound as the weather type. For example, "special sun" or "wonderful wind."



In these activities, children will demonstrate book handling skills by holding a book right side up, turning pages and following the direction of text from left to right.

Calendar

Invite a child to identify today's date. Show the calendar piece with that number. Give each child a book and ask him/her to turn to the page with the matching number. For example: turn to page 11 because today's day is March 11th. Take turns showing the picture or reading the words on the page.





Weather

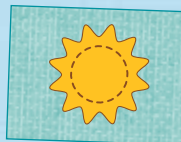
Write weather words on strips of paper. Tape the strips in a long, horizontal line on the wall. Tape one weather picture card above each word. Invite the Weather Helper to read the weather words from left to right and then stop at today's weather type.



Cloud



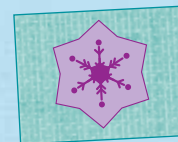
Rain



Sun



Wind



Snow



In these activities, children will identify letters, words and make letter-sound connections.

Calendar

Print the words "yes" and "no" on craft sticks or paper. Give each child a set of yes-no sticks. Ask questions about today or the calendar and invite children to raise the stick that represents their answer.





Weather

Write weather words (sun, cloud, rain, etc.) on pieces of paper with the beginning letter very large on top then the word underneath. Give a clue that the weather today does not begin with the /s/ sound. Children turn over any weather words that begin with that letter sound. Continue until only one weather word remains. Read that word together.

C
Cloud

R
Rain

W
Wind

S
Sun

In these activities, children will respond to text by retelling, asking and answering questions.

Calendar

At the end of each day, invite children to share one activity or thing that was special to them. Write their dictation on a paper and ask them to draw a picture. After one week, make a "Wonderful Week" book from all of the pages. On Friday, read the book aloud. Ask children to retell the story.



Monday
I made applesauce.



Weather

Look through your books or go to the library and find one book that highlights each weather type that is typical where you live. Place them all in a basket. Each day, invite the Weather Helper to identify the weather of the day and then choose the book that best represents the weather. Ask him/her to retell some or all of the story.



In these activities, children will write their name, letters, numbers and use print to express their ideas.

Emergent Writing

Calendar

Ask a child to identify today's day. Invite her to choose the envelope with today's day printed on it. Encourage her to copy today's day on the paper and then hang it on the wall.

Monday

Monday



Weather

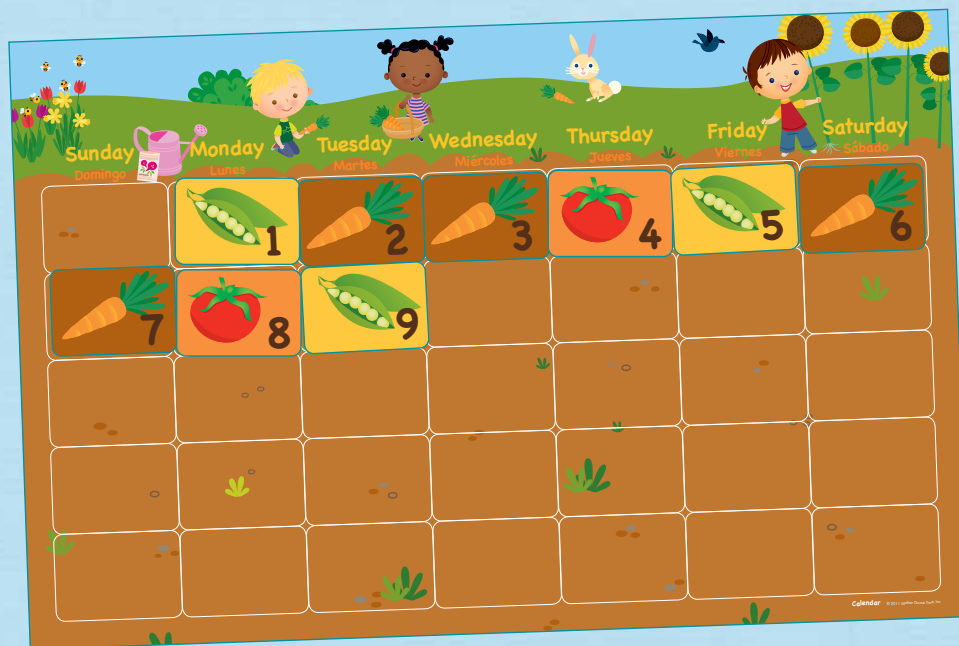
Ask a child to look outside and then place the weather stick that matches today's weather in a cup. Encourage the children to write and draw a picture of why they should be careful in this type of weather. Make a Weather Warning book.



In these activities,
children will
identify numerals
and count to
determine quantity.

Calendar

Ask the children to look at a calendar (or calendar pieces with printed numerals). Call out a number and invite children to touch the number with their finger. After repeating this numerous times, count the days on the calendar up to today's date. Invite the Calendar Helper to find the piece with the matching numeral and tape into place.



Weather

Record the weather of the day for one entire week. At the end of the week, invite the children to count the total number of sunny days, rainy days, etc. What type of weather did you experience the most this week?



Weather This Week



2



4

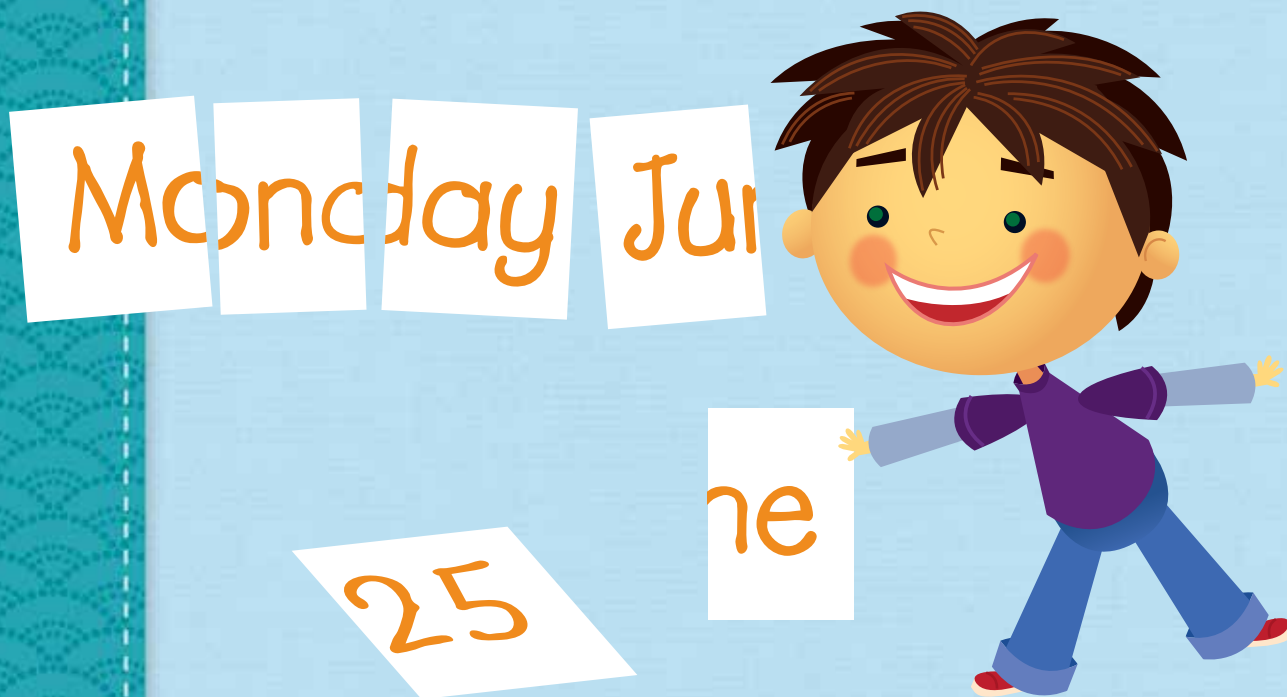


In these activities,
children will
identify shapes and
manipulate parts to
create a whole.

Shapes

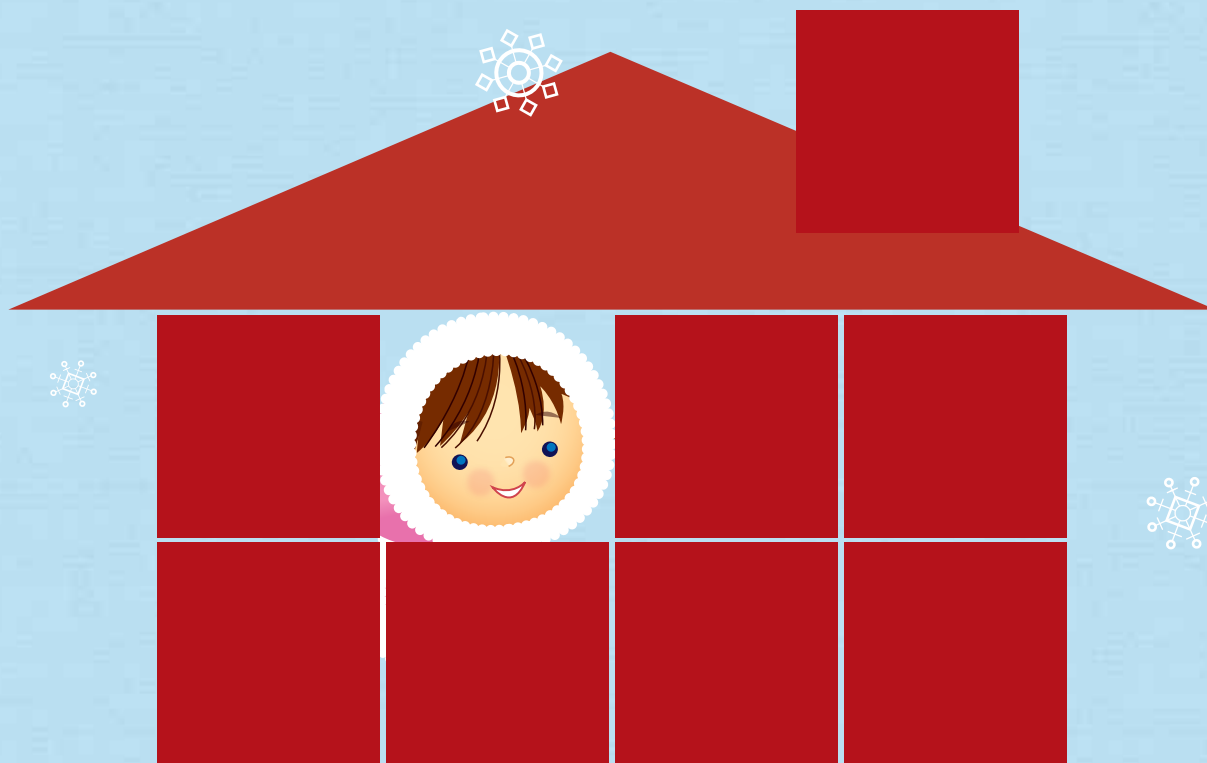
Calendar

Write today's date or day of the week on a piece of paper. Cut the paper into 6-8 squares, rectangles or triangles. Mix up the pieces and invite children to work together to put the shape puzzle together to reveal today's date.



Weather

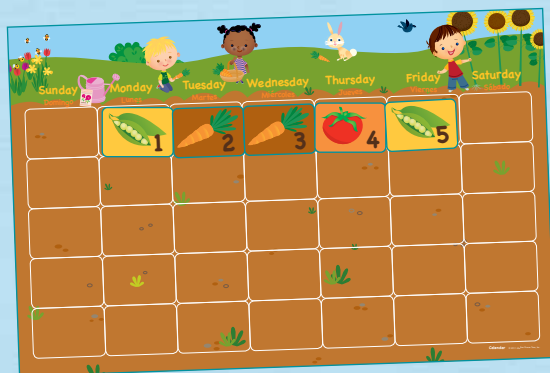
Cut out numerous shapes and place them in a pile on the floor. Observe the weather and invite children to use the shapes to create something that would be useful or fun to do in today's weather. For example: use a square and triangle to make a house that keeps us warm in the cold. Discuss the children's ideas and which shapes they chose to use.



In these activities, children will identify an object's location by using directional words such as under, next to, in front of, and behind.

Calendar

Determine today's date by counting up to today's date. As you count, invite children to clap hands behind their back. Repeat but try clapping above your head or next to your knee.



Weather

Place one of each card around the room. Ask the Weather Helper to search for the weather card that matches today's weather then describe where he found it. Invite him to tape it to the weather chart.

It is next to
the plant!



In these activities,
children will find
matches and
identify patterns.

Patterns and Sorting

Calendar

Use calendar pieces that picture objects and follow a pattern (AB, AABB, ABB, ABC). Each day invite children to look and say what pictures they see taped onto the calendar, then guess what comes next. For example, children say, "shoe, sock, shoe, sock and today I think the next picture is a shoe."



Weather

Put weather cards in a bag. Invite a child to reach into the bag without looking and pull out a weather card. Repeat until the child uncovers today's matching weather picture.

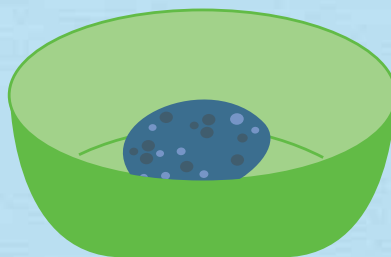
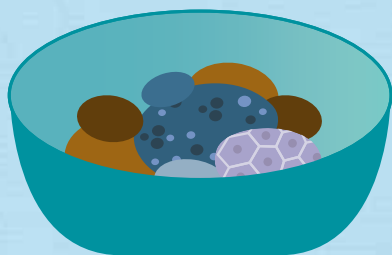


In these activities, children will estimate, measure, compare and seriate objects.

Measurement

Calendar

Before working with the children, fill three different bowls with different amounts of rocks. Fill one bowl with the number of rocks that matches today's date. For example: Today is March 14th. Fill the bowl with 14 rocks. When the children sit down, invite them to look at the calendar and determine today's date. Then ask them to look at the bowls and guess which one has the same number of rocks as today's day. Before counting the rocks, take time for children to explain why they chose a particular bowl.



Weather

Set out jars with weather cards taped to them. For example: sunny jar, rainy jar, windy jar, cloudy jar. Invite children to guess what type of weather they think tomorrow will have. Each child places a rock or stick in the jar of their choice. Without counting, estimate which jar has the most sticks. The next day, observe the weather and see if the predictions were correct. Count the sticks and see how many people guessed correctly.

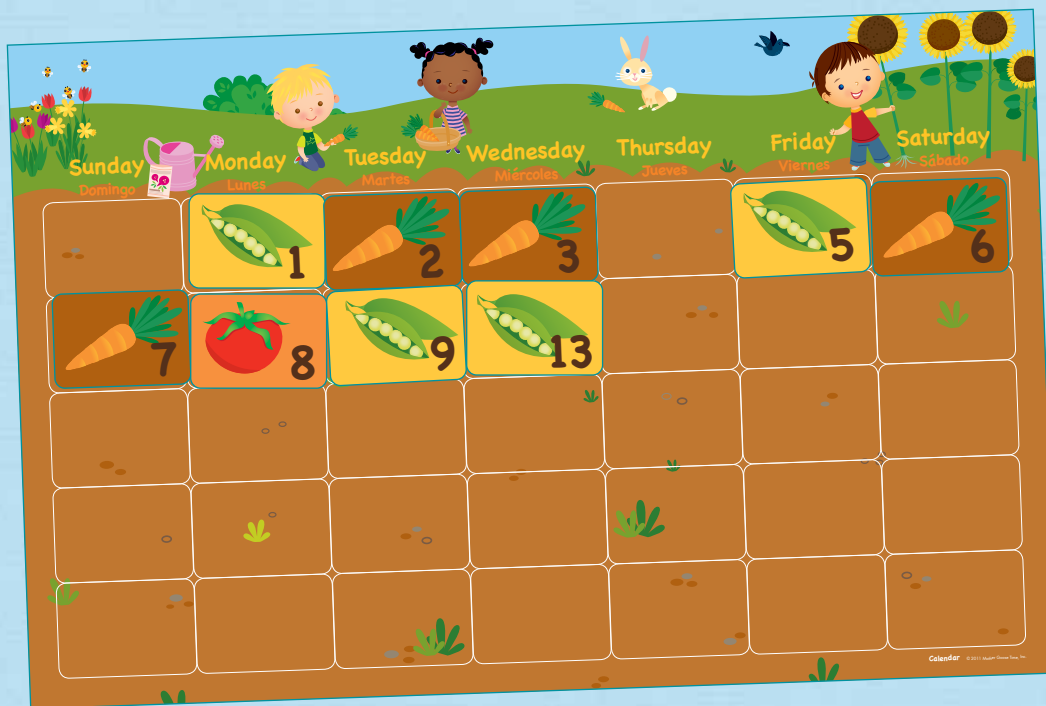


In these activities, children will solve problems by using previous knowledge and trying out a variety of possible solutions.

Logic

Calendar

Before children arrive, remove one calendar piece randomly from the calendar display. Also, put up a piece for today, but in an incorrect piece. Ask the children to study the calendar and try to find the two things wrong. How would they fix it?



Weather

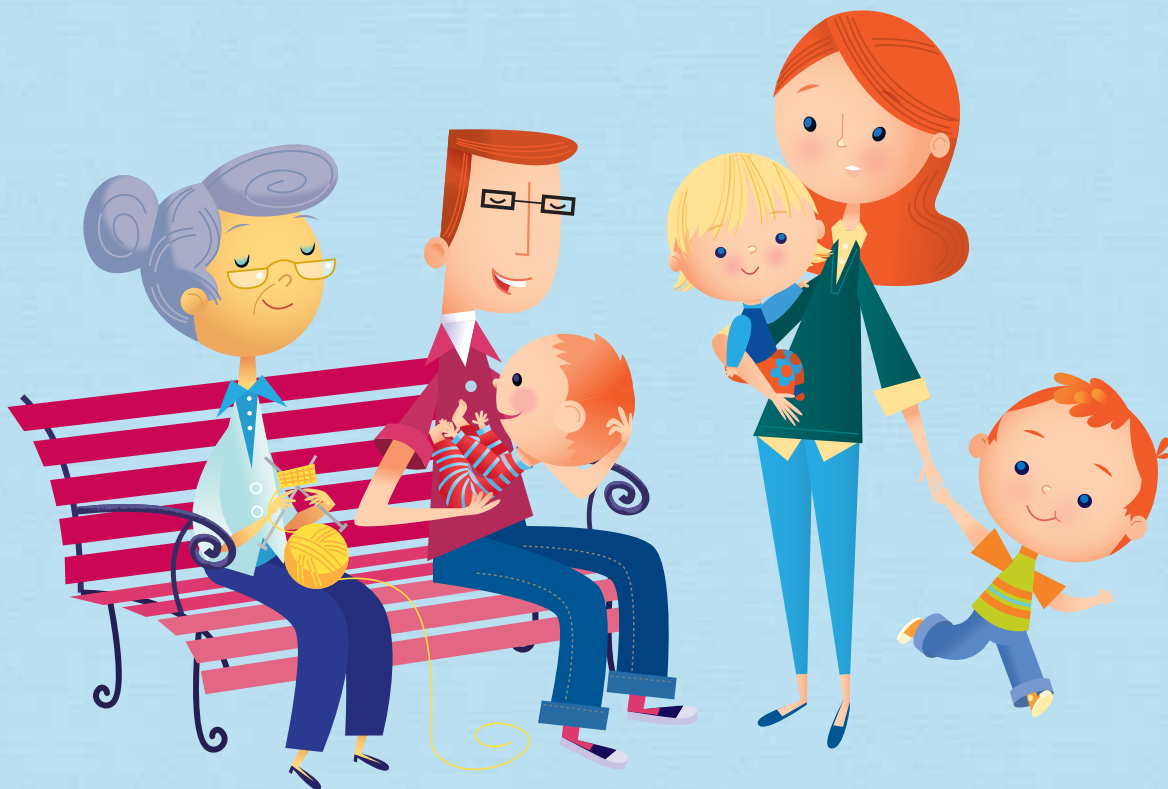
Set out a collection of dress-up clothes and props, (boots, hats, gloves, coats, sunglasses, etc.). Invite a child to silently observe the weather and then dress-up accordingly. Encourage the other children to explain why they think the child choose to dress in that way. Discuss their logic.



In these activities, children will identify family members and describe community roles.

Calendar

Identify today's date and count together to that number. Encourage each child to share how many members they have in their family. Do they have more or less family members than today's date?





Weather

Identify today's weather and then make-believe you are lost outside in this weather. Discuss what it would be like to be outside in this weather for a long time. Who could help you and how would these people help? For example: I might get a sunburn. A police officer could give me a ride in his police car to the hospital where a doctor could help my burn. Other ideas might include: a waitress could get me a drink of water and if it was raining, a hairdresser could blow dry my hair.



In these activities, children will explore concepts of citizenship and fair trade.

Calendar

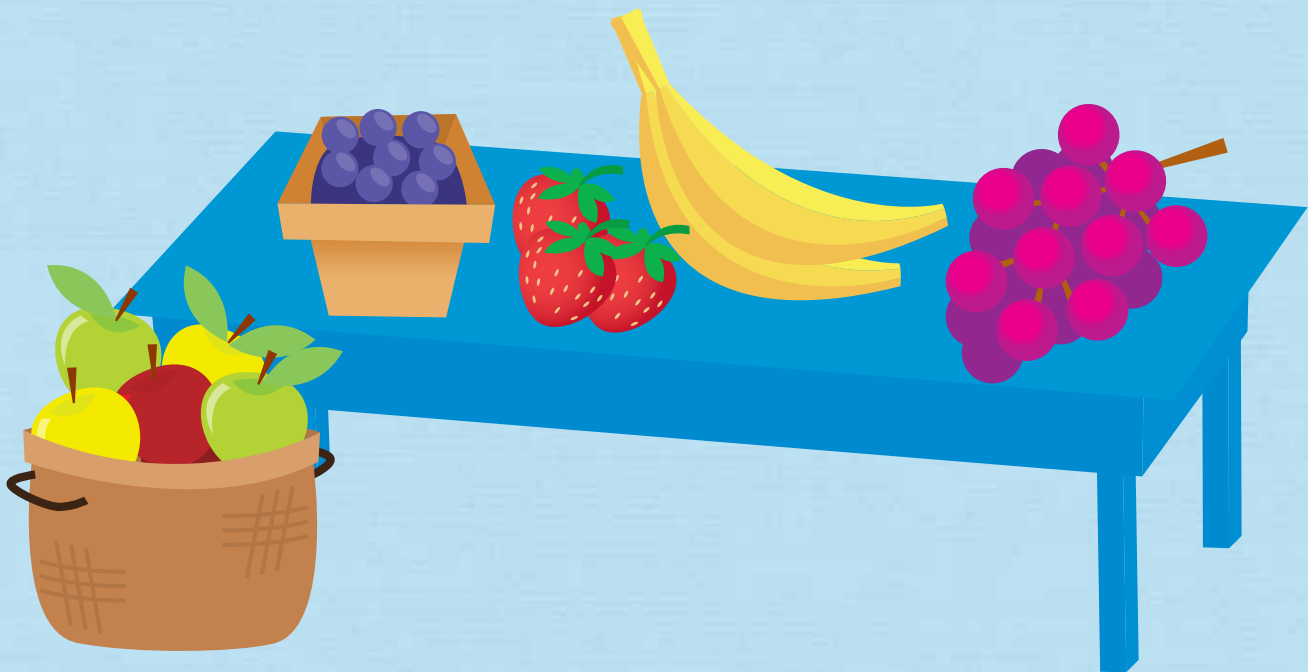
Give play money to one child. Hand out a variety of calendar pieces to other children. Invite the child to shop for today's piece. When she finds today's piece, encourage her to trade the play money for the calendar piece. Collect the other calendar pieces and save them to play again tomorrow.





Weather

Observe today's weather and make-believe you are going to set up a fruit stand at the outdoor market. What types of fruit would taste good in this weather? What might you need to do to protect your fruit in this weather? Take a vote to decide which types of fruit to sell in your stand.



In these activities, children will identify and discuss various locations by using maps.

Geography

Calendar

Hide today's calendar piece somewhere in the room. Make an easy map and invite a child to use the map to find the calendar piece. Tape it on the calendar. Decide together where the calendar piece for tomorrow should be hidden. Draw its location on the map. Reference the map tomorrow to find the piece.





Weather

Invite a child to touch any location on a national or world map. Share the name of the location the child touched. Explain that the weather is not the same in all parts of the world. Work together to find out what the weather is like today in that location. How does that compare to your weather? Keep track and compare the weather of that location and your own all week.



In these activities, children will explore events and the concept of past, present and future.

History

Calendar

Challenge children to recall yesterday's day of the week, today's day and then determine what day tomorrow will be. Encourage children to remember their last birthday. Take time to find the date on a calendar. Talk about the fun birthday memories.





Weather

Encourage children to recall how the weather was yesterday. Discuss how it was similar or different from today's weather. Predict what tomorrow's weather might be like.



In these activities, children will guess a possible answer or outcome, observe what happens and then describe their observation.

Calendar

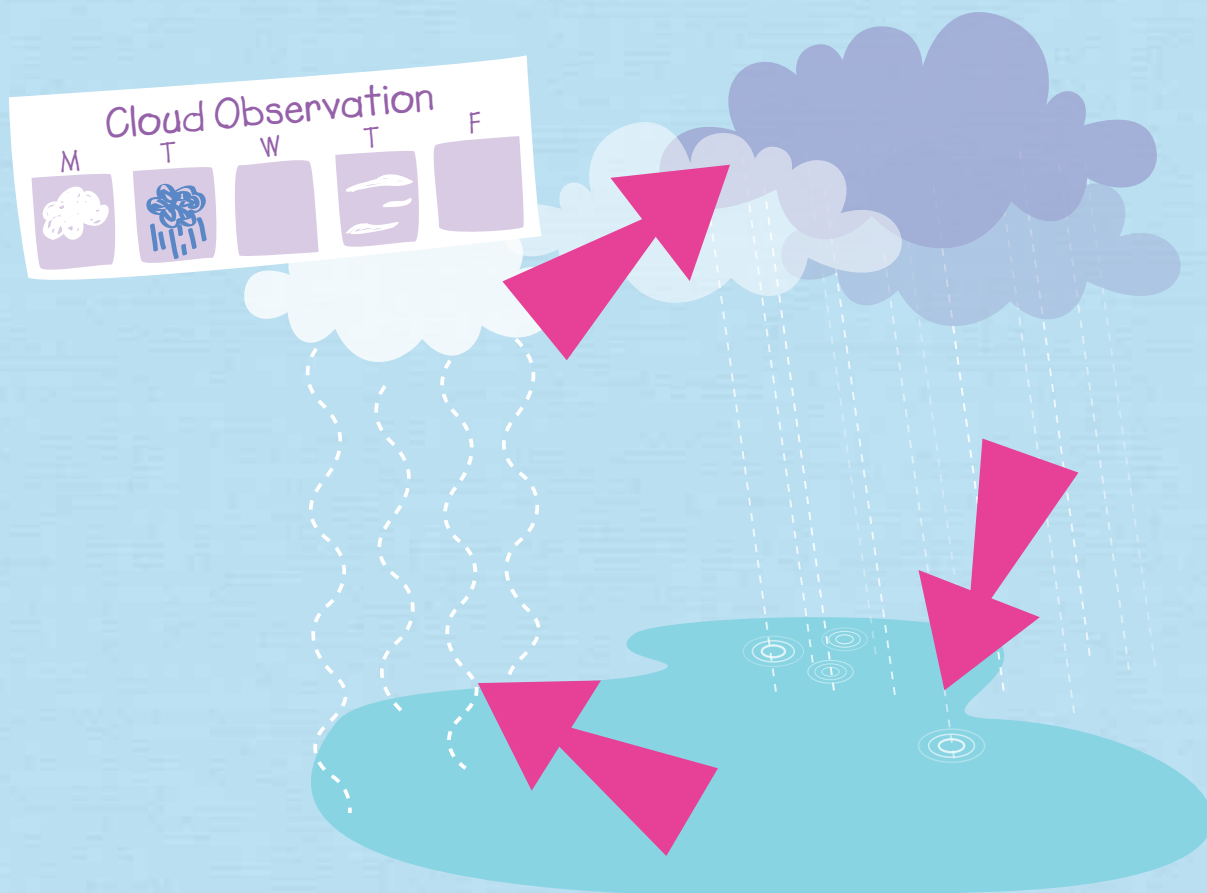
Invite the children to help you choose an object, plant or piece of food from the room. Discuss what might happen if you leave it outside for one week. Write their predictions on paper. Each day, observe the item and record the children's observations on the calendar. At the end of the week, discuss what happened. What surprised the children?





Weather

Ask children where they think the clouds go. Invite children to share their ideas and then look for clouds every day. Record the weather and note if there were clouds. Throughout the week, explore concepts of condensation and the water cycle.



In these activities, children will identify what is living and non-living.

Calendar

Hide a different object or photo of an object in seven different paper bags. Label each paper bag a different day of the week. Invite a child to find today's bag, look inside and determine if it is living or non-living. At the end of the week sort the items by living and non-living.





Weather

Invite each child to name an animal, then look outside and observe today's weather. Invite each child to describe how this weather might help or hurt the animal they named. Make animal puppets and put on a show during which the animals describe their preferred weather.



In these activities, children will identify properties of matter and explore forces and motion.

Calendar

Identify a texture of the day. Write it on the calendar. For example: Monday is soft day; Tuesday is scratchy day. Encourage children to look around the room and find an object that has that texture. During outdoor time, hunt again for the same texture. Name a different texture for each day of the week.



Monday
Soft



Tuesday
Leathery



Wednesday
Smooth



Thursday
Prickly



Weather

Ask a child to identify the weather of the day. If it is rainy, experiment with how to move an object by using water. If it is windy, find ways to move feathers or other light objects by blowing on them. If it is sunny, experiment by creating shade or shadows.



In these activities, children will identify the change in temperature and explore characteristics of habitats.

Calendar

Build a habitat throughout the week. With the children, brainstorm a plan of what you will need to do each day of the week. For example: Monday, find a container; Tuesday find food for the creature; Wednesday, find the creature (insect, worm, etc.). Tape each task on the calendar. Invite a child to find today's date and remove the task for the day.



Wednesday
Find the
creature and
put it in the
container.



Weather

Show children a thermometer and experiment with ways to make a bowl of water colder and hotter. Afterwards, record the temperature inside and outside. How are they similar and different? Which one is hotter? Colder?



In these activities,
children will
use tools to
perform tasks.

Technology

Calendar

Invite children to help you put metal paper clips on the calendar pieces. Then, place string, stick, and a magnet on the floor in front of the children. Encourage children to help you figure out a way to build a fishing pole with the supplies. Each day, take turns fishing for the day's calendar piece.





Weather

Gather and set out a variety of weather testing instruments for children to explore. Each day of the week, ask a child to choose one instrument to test the weather. Invite children to first guess how it might be used. Then, explain how we most commonly use it. Common weather instruments include: a thermometer, a rain gauge (or bucket with lines), a wind vane (or weather sock), and weather balloons to measure weather higher up in the sky.



In these activities, children will follow simple rhythm patterns and express ideas through musical sounds.

Music

Calendar

Invite a child to look at the patterned calendar pieces taped to the calendar. Identify the pattern and then clap, slap legs and stomp out the pattern. For example an ABCABC pattern would be clap, slap, stomp, clap, slap, stomp.



Weather

Invite a child to look outside and report on the weather for the day. Brainstorm instruments that you could make to represent each weather type. Some examples could be a rain stick made from a paper towel tube and wind ribbons from long fabric pieces.



In these activities, children will explore personal space, mimic movements and move to music.

Calendar

Tape a circle on the floor with masking tape. Invite a child to identify today's date. Children rock side to side as you count together to today's date. (1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8! May 8th!) Repeat but walk along the circle on the floor. Then, play an instrumental song. Count along with the rhythm of the song, when you say today's date, turn around and walk the other direction. Continue changing directions until the end of the song.





Weather

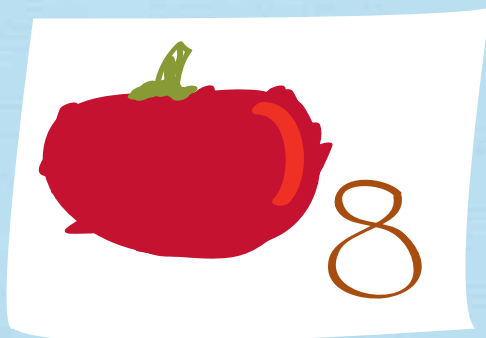
Ask a child to find the weather card that matches today's weather. Invite him/her to make up a dance that might go with that type of weather. Invite other children to mimic his/her movements.



In these activities, children will explore artistic techniques and use art to express ideas.

Calendar

Invite a child to tape today's calendar piece on the calendar. Ask each child to draw a picture of what they think tomorrow's piece will look like. Discuss how the children decided to draw their picture. Tomorrow, compare the pictures to the actual calendar piece.





Weather

Invite each child to go outside or look through the window to observe the weather. Set out paper and crayons and ask children to choose one or two colors that remind them of the weather's today. Use these colors to draw a picture that shows the weather of the day. Repeat this activity every day of the week and save the pictures to create an "Our Weather of the Week" book.



In these activities,
children will
make-believe
and role-play to
communicate ideas.

Drama

Calendar

Invite children to pretend to be their favorite animal. Encourage them to move like that animal as you say the days of the week. When you say today's day, invite children to growl, roar or make an animal noise.



Weather

Ask one child to look outside and observe the weather. Encourage him to act out (play charades) this weather until another child guess today's weather.





Social Emotional Development



Activities labeled with this icon will build skills such as:

Self Concept; Expresses preference | Takes responsibility | Identifies and manages feelings

Self Direction; Follows rules and routines | Maintains attention | Transitions and adapts

Social Relationships; Builds positive relationships | Cooperates | Cares for and responds to others

Physical Development



Gross Motor; Builds strength and Balance | Coordinates large movements

Fine Motor; Controls small movements | Uses drawing/writing tools

Health and Safety; Makes healthy food and exercise choices | Practices good hygiene | Demonstrates safe practices

Social Studies



Families and Communities; Identifies community & family roles | Explores cultures, and traditions | Respects diversity

Civics and Economics; Understands citizenship | Understands concepts of trade

Geography; Identifies types of places | Uses maps

History; Describes past events

Language and Literacy



Listening Comprehension; Comprehends spoken language | Follows verbal directions

Communication; Communicates ideas | Speaks in sentences

Vocabulary; Builds vocabulary

Phonological awareness; Hears small units of sound | Identifies rhyme and alliteration

Concepts of print; Demonstrates print knowledge

Letter/Word Recognition; Identifies letters and words | Makes letter-sound connections

Reading comprehension; Responds to text | Retells, asks & answers questions

Emergent Writing; Writes name, words & sentences | Expresses through writing

Mathematics & Reasoning



Number concepts; Identifies numerals | Counts to determine quantity | Understands operations

Shapes; Identifies shapes | Manipulates parts and wholes

Spatial awareness; Flips and rotates objects | Determines object location

Patterns and Sorting; Identifies and creates patterns | Matches, sorts and charts

Measurement; Estimates and measures | Compares and serializes

Logic; Solves Problems

Science



Scientific Reasoning; Inquires and predicts | Observes and experiments | Evaluates and infers

Life Science; Identifies basic needs | Classifies organisms

Physical Science; Identifies properties of matter | Explores forces and motions

Earth Science; Identifies weather and climates | Explores ecosystems

Technology; Explores technology

Creative Development

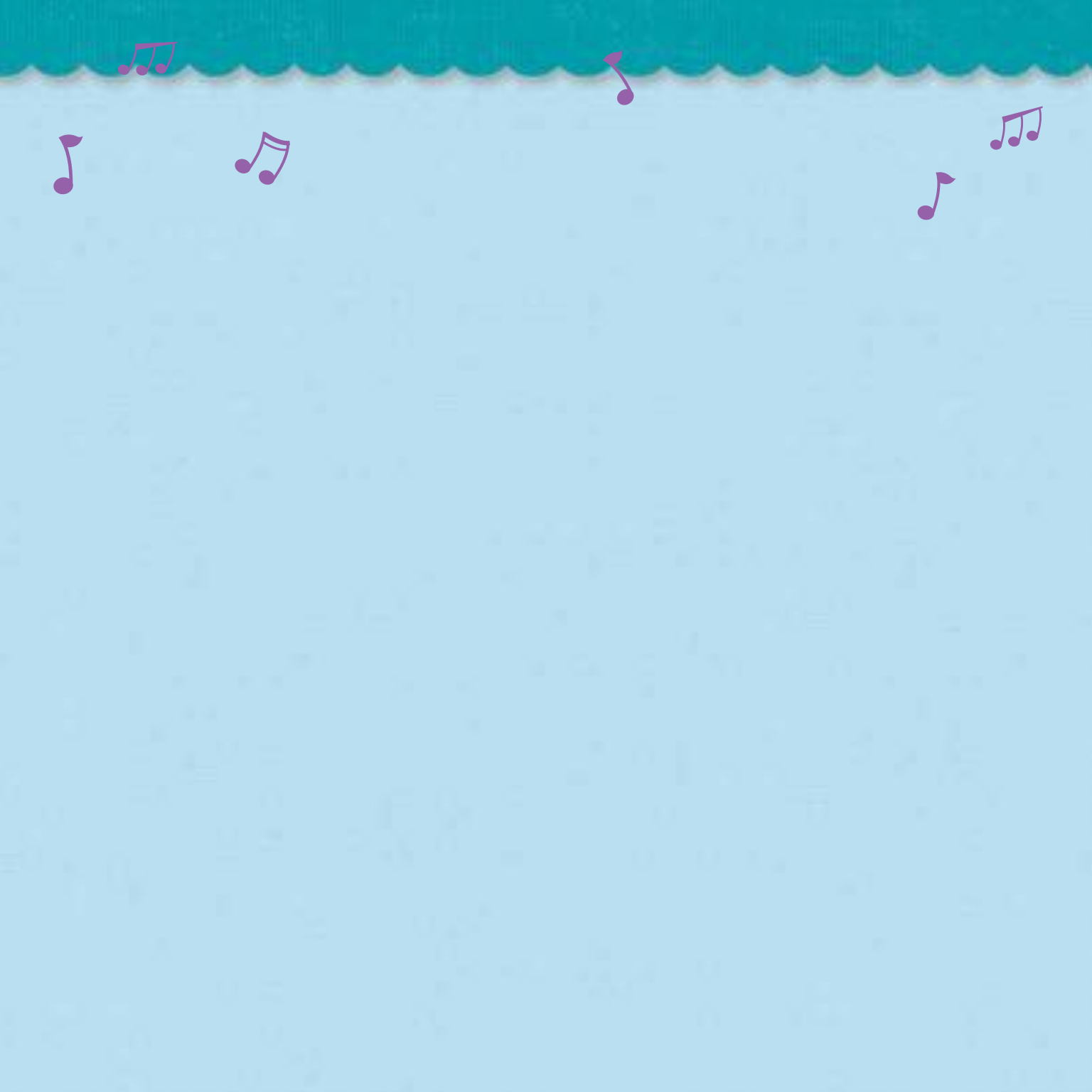


Music; Develops rhythm and tone | Expresses through music

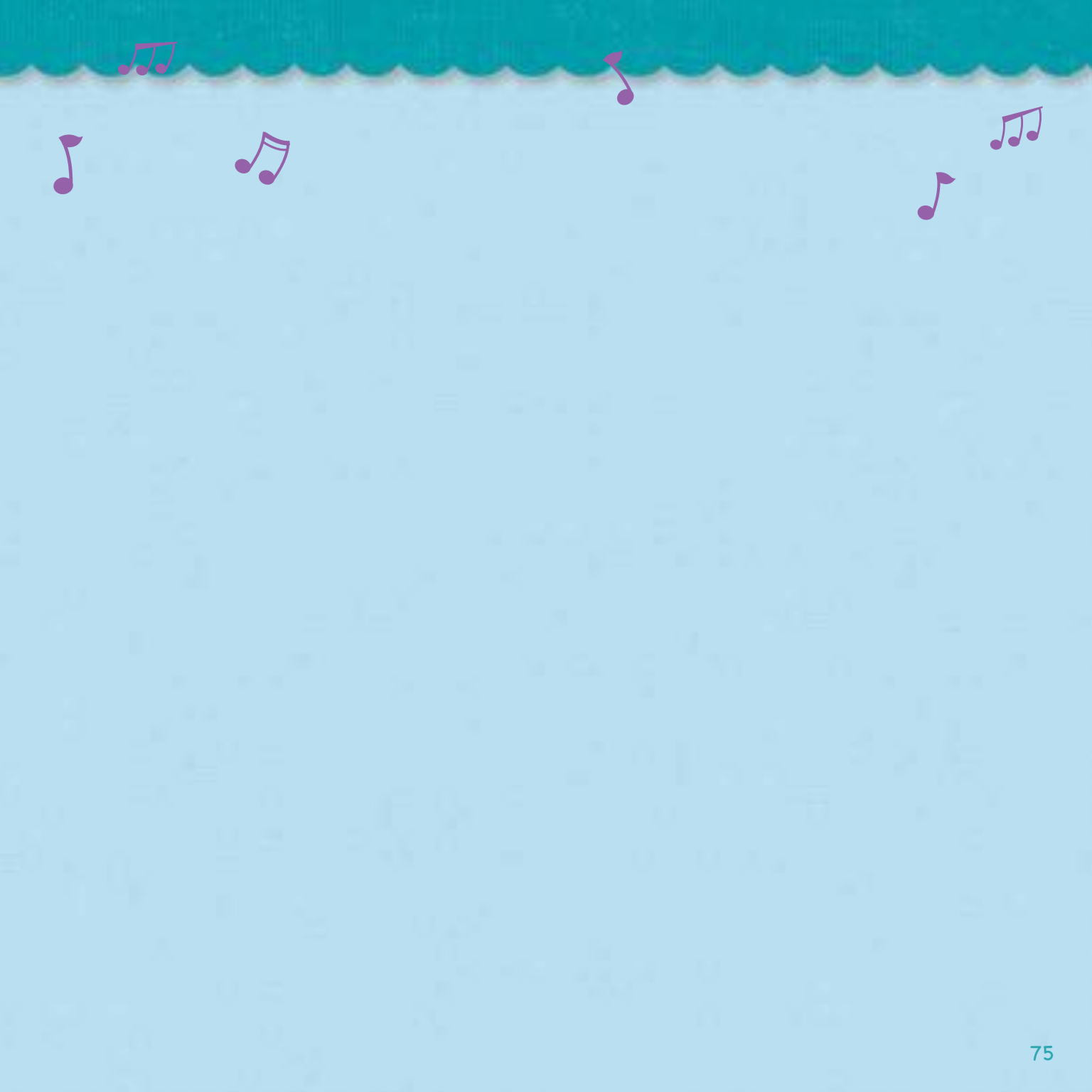
Dance and Movement; Develops dance & movement techniques | Expresses through dance & movement

Visual Arts; Develops artistic techniques | Expresses through visual arts

Drama; Participates in dramatic play | Uses and creates props









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