



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH



Bear's Salad Party

This week, let's read books about planting and gardening. Growing your own food is one way to stay healthy. Find this one at your library or on YouTube:



The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle

TOGETHER TIME

Salad Wraps

What?

In the story of the week at school, Bear grew a garden then had a salad party with his friends. Make your own Salad Party Wraps.

How?

Slice up cucumbers, grate carrots and shred lettuce pieces. Invite your child to layer the veggies onto a tortilla then roll it up to make a salad wrap for a fun and healthy snack.

Why?

This activity nurtures patience and helpfulness while making wraps and waiting to eat them until snack time. It also increases an appreciation of healthy nutrition.





Bear's Salad Party Calendar



experience
toddler

language & literacy

LESSON 1

BOOK DISCOVERY Bear Block Reading

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Explore the books. Practice turning pages from front to back. Stack a block then turn the page.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES Blueberry Toss

MR 6 CLASSIFICATION

Toss colored pompoms into matching colored cores.

music & movement

RHYTHM PATTERNS Bend with Scarves

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance with scarves inside a square on the floor without touching each other.

art & drama

DRAMATIC PLAY Bear Headband

CA 4 DRAMA

Make a Bear Headband then crawl around gathering pretend vegetables.

LESSON 2

STORY PLAY Where Is the Veggie?

★ SS 4 HISTORY & SENSE OF TIME

Identify the pictures in a story. Hold a Story Piece and look for it in the book.

MEASURE WITH ME Potato Sack Pull

★ SCI 3 PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Explore heavy and light by pulling a bag filled with potatoes across the floor toward a picture from the book.

COORDINATION Patience Dance

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

While dancing, touch the bear sticker each time you hear the word "patient."

STICKER ART Bear Stickers

PD 4 PERSONAL CARE

Name body parts while applying stickers on hands, feet and other parts.

LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION Waiting Sticks

★ SED 2 SELF-REGULATION

Use the "wait" sign throughout the day. Put a stick in a cup each time someone uses the signs.

SENSORY PLAY Playdough Plants

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Decorate a mat with dough balls. Pretend they are vegetables planted in the garden.

GROUP DANCE Dance to Blue

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance with a partner. Hold hands and move together to the blue paper then to the yellow paper.

PAINTING Dot-a-Seed

★ SS 1 CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Strengthen fine motor skills and decorate garden squares with dots of paint on a cotton swab.



LESSON 4

PICTURES & LETTERS Wait with Bear

★ LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Roll a cube with the story characters. Toss a pompom into the bowl whenever Bear is rolled.

LIFE SKILLS Toss the Salad

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Explore cause and effect. Take turns carrying a pompom with a spoon and dropping it into a bowl.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT Pass the Potato

★ CA 1 MUSIC

Take turns passing a potato. Make fists and pound one on top of the other while waiting for the potato.

COLLAGING Garden Squares

★ MR 2 SPATIAL AWARENESS

Arrange a variety of square tiles on the paper to create a colorful garden picture or collage.

LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING Clap for Bear

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Clap hands each time a keyword such as "bear" is spoken during a read-aloud.

NUMBER PLAY Garden Fences

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Place numbered sticks on a numbered mat in the same order.

SOUNDS & SIGNS Wait Tomato

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the words "wait" and "tomato." Sign the words to the music.

COLORING Bear's Salad Party

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Explore coloring a picture of vegetables in a bowl.





FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

Farm

experience
toddler



This week, let's read books about vegetables. Vegetables offer a variety of tastes, textures and colors. Find this one at your library or on YouTube:



Planting a Rainbow
by Lois Ehlert

TOGETHER

TIME

Chalk Plant Paths

What?

In the story of the week, we followed paths to find which type of food grow on different plants. Go outside and draw your own plant with chalk then walk on the chalk stem.

How?

Draw one plant that is tall and straight like a corn stalk. Draw another with curlicue paths like a bean plant. Give your child a piece of chalk to draw a plant, too. Walk on the paths forward, backward or even crawl on the chalk plants. To make it more challenging, put objects along the path that your child needs to step around or climb over.

Why?

This activity builds large muscle coordination and balance as children learn to follow the path. Throughout the week, look for more plants and talk about the types of lines your child sees. Try drawing and walking on a similar line.



Farm Calendar



experience
toddler

language & literacy

math & reasoning

music & movement

art & drama

LESSON 1

BOOK DISCOVERY

Follow the Farm Path

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Develop book handling skills by following text from left to right.

SORTING & SHAPES

Tractor Patterns

MR 5 PATTERNS

Dig and find foam shapes in a tray of sand or other texture (e.g., oats, beans, corn meal). Line up squares to create a pattern.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Blue Leader

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Take turns being the movement leader during the song. Hold the blue ribbon and lead others around the chairs.

STICKER ART

Vegetable Match & Stick

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Use visual scanning to identify a specific sticker.

LESSON 2

STORY PLAY

Missing Vegetables

★ SCI 1 INVESTIGATION & INQUIRY

Hide and seek the vegetable Story Pieces by placing one under a bowl. Tell a story about what food you are looking for.

MEASURE WITH ME

Square Measure

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of length by lining up foam squares to measure the length of each vegetable.

GROUP DANCE

Square Dance

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Stomp along to the beat of a song. Follow a square path while singing and dancing.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Veggie Shape Puppets

CA 4 DRAMA

Create three shape plants then stick them in the ground and pull them out.

LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION

Carrot Walk

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Sign both words while walking across the room to a photo of the words. Repeat multiple times to help memory and recall.

SENSORY PLAY

Where's the Bean?

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Control the small muscles in the fingers by pulling out lima beans folded into dough.

COORDINATION

Pull Up a Carrot

PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Do yoga poses to the song and bend over, touch toes then reach arms up.

PAINTING

Painting the Barn

MR 3 SHAPES

Dip sponges in paint to stamp squares on paper and paint a barn.

LESSON 4

PICTURES & LETTERS

Veggie Match

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Roll a cube with Story Cards and follow a path to the matching vegetable.

NUMBER PLAY

Counting Flowers

★ MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Look at a card and count the flowers. Press the same amount of flowers into playdough.

RHYTHM PATTERNS

Tomato Clap

CA 1 MUSIC

Play a shaker to the music. Move it fast and slow then repeat in a little circle.

COLLAGING

Carrot Roots

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Strengthen fine motor coordination by threading yarn in and out of holes.

LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING

Farm Path Sounds

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Participate in a story read-aloud by imitating the sounds of the path.

LIFE SKILLS

Feed the Pig

SCI 2 NATURAL & EARTH SCIENCE

Explore feeding animals different portions of healthy food such as vegetables.

SOUNDS & SIGNS

Corn Up High

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the words "carrot" and "corn." Sign the words to the music.

COLORING

Corn Maze

★ LLD 7 WRITING

Strengthen fine motor and pencil control by drawing inside a maze path. Retrace the path in different colors.

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

Little Boy Blue



TOGETHER

TIME

Blue Hunt

What?

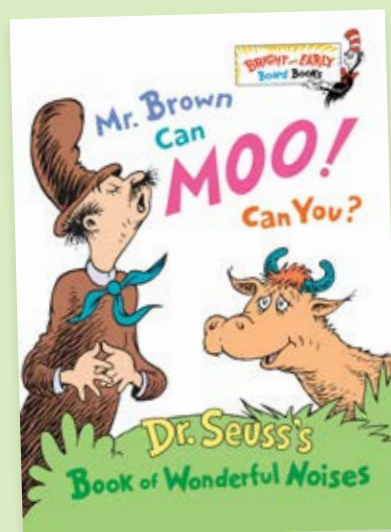
In the story of the week at school, Little Boy Blue blew his horn while watching for sheep and cows. Go on your own blue sorting hunt.

How?

Show your child five sticks and ask her to find something blue to earn a stick.

Why?

This activity builds both color recognition and math skills. Find blue and count to five while holding five sticks. Find blue in fabrics, bowls, flowers or even on clothing. Try this while you drive to keep your child learning in the car.



Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?
by Dr. Seuss





Little Boy Blue Calendar



experience
toddler

language & literacy

LESSON 1

BOOK DISCOVERY

Boy Blue Hide & Seek

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Place sticky notes on each page of the book. Lift the flap and determine if a word or picture is hiding.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES

Square Stack

MR 3 SHAPES

Invite children to match shapes and colors of foam squares to squares on the stack mat.

music & movement

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Hold Up Blue

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

While the song plays, listen for the word "blue" and hold up the blue paper.

art & drama

STICKER ART

Sheep in the Meadow

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Build eye-hand coordination by holding the sticker sheet with one hand and peeling off a sticker with the other/dominant hand.

LESSON 2

PICTURES & LETTERS

Boy Blue & Me

★ PD 3 SAFETY

Make conversations between the Story Pieces and photo of each child to help them imagine being in the story.

MEASURE WITH ME

Sheep Near & Far

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of distance. Toss colored pompoms into matching ribbon rings.

GROUP DANCE

Clap to Four

MR 5 PATTERNS

Bend down and stand up while clapping slowly then quickly.

PAINTING

Painting Corn

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Use bubble wrap to stamp corn textures.



LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION

Sign Sheep

★ LLD 1 LISTENING

Practice signing the word "sheep." Sign each time the word is used in the Storybook.

SENSORY PLAY

Design a Haystack

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Play with dough and put sticks in it to make a haystack.

COORDINATION

Blue Walk

SS 3 GEOGRAPHY

Dance and improve balance by walking foot in front of foot on a ribbon. Step over toys on the line.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Sheep Prints

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Use fingerprints to paint sheep.

LESSON 4

ACTIVE LISTENING

Sack of Words

LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Pull blocks out of a bag and line them up. Listen to the words on the blocks.

LIFE SKILLS

Spoonful of Corn

PD 5 NUTRITION

Explore feeding by scooping dry corn kernels from one bowl to another. Fill to a predetermined line.

RHYTHM PATTERNS

The Patient Ball

CA 1 MUSIC

Play with friends by rolling a ball back and forth while a song plays.

COLLAGING

Haystack Collage

SCI 3 PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Explore squeezing glue with control while making a haystack collage.

LESSON 5

STORY PLAY

Wool Wonder

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Increase attention span while listening to stories by playing with sensory materials.

NUMBER PLAY

How Many Spots?

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Recognize the difference between the numerals one, two and three. Put different numbers of spots on cows.

SOUNDS & SIGNS

Sheep Sleep

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the words "sheep" and "sleep." Sign the words to the music.

COLORING

Boy Blue

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Explore coloring upside-down or in positions other than sitting, e.g., on tummy or back.



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

experience
toddler

Old MacDonald Has a Farm

TOGETHER

TIME

Square Walk

What?

In the story of the week, Old MacDonald made his farm welcoming to animals from far and near. Throughout this week's adventure, your child learned to identify squares. Continue the square hunt around your neighborhood.

How?

Go for a walk and hunt for squares found in nature, on signs or even on a house. If possible, bring along a camera and take photos of each square that the child or you find. Review all the square photos at home. Talk about how they are all the same square but different.

Why?

This activity helps your child identify shapes in his natural environment, both 2D and 3D. Over time, he will discover that objects are made of many shapes. This will support his future geometry as well as drawing and writing skills.



It's Okay to Be Different

by Todd Parr





Old MacDonald Has a Farm Calendar



LESSON 1

language & literacy

BOOK DISCOVERY Old MacDonald

LLD 4 ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE

Explore the book and how to hold it right-side up. Use the pictures on the pages as clues to what is happening in the story.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES Pig Tails

MR 6 CLASSIFICATION

Find then sort pig tails and place them on the matching color pig.

music & movement

GROUP DANCE Sing in the Mirror

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Explore singing while looking in a mirror.

art & drama

STICKER ART Barn Stickers

★ SED 1 SELF-AWARENESS

Practice the pincer grip by peeling off desired stickers and decorating a sheet of paper.

LESSON 2

STORY PLAY Farm Storytelling

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Listen actively and hold up the Story Piece when a character is named during a read-aloud.

MEASURE WITH ME Big Blue Barn

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of size. Put the big squares in the big barn bag and the small squares in the small barn bag.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT Little Barn Dance

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance in personal space on a towel. Pause the music and run to another towel.

DRAMATIC PLAY Pig Pet

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Make a pet pig, help it find "food" then build a pigpen out of blocks.



LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION Cow Signs

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Use big then small voices while making the "cow" and "farm" signs. Explore how tone of voice communicates meaning.

SENSORY PLAY Tractor Tracks

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Use toy cars and drive across dough to make tracks while "planting rows."

COORDINATION Pick Up Patience

★ PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Build eye-hand coordination by picking up, tossing and catching pompoms while music plays.

PAINTING Horse Head

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Trace the child's footprint and decorate with yarn.

LESSON 4

PICTURES & LETTERS Farm Animal Bowling

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Recall the story by rolling a ball to an animal Story Piece then answer simple questions about that character.

LIFE SKILLS Heads & Tails Puzzle

MR 2 SPATIAL AWARENESS

Match heads and tails of animals. Talk about what goes together.

RHYTHM PATTERNS Start & Stop Shake

CA 1 MUSIC

Transition between starting and stopping. Hold the instrument still until the words "round and round" then shake it.

COLLAGING Pet Cow

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Look at the cow photo and explore the colors and spots. Then tear and glue tissue paper spots onto the cow shape and attach the clothespins as legs.

LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING Draw the Farm

LLD 1 LISTENING

Draw or scribble while listening to a story read aloud. Use the drawings as prompts and retell what you heard.

NUMBER PLAY Counting Eggs

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Explore one-to-one correspondence. Put one pompom in each section of a egg carton.

SOUNDS & SIGNS Farm Cow

LLD 1 LISTENING

Listen for the words "farm" and "cow." Sign the words to the music.

COLORING Barn Self-Portrait

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Draw a self-portrait on a flat surface.

