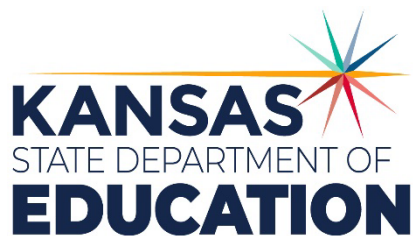


Activities to Support the Kansas Early Learning Standards



Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Table of Contents

Activities to Support the Kansas Early Learning Standards

Introduction	2
Approaches to Learning	3
Persistence and Engagement in Learning- Engagement and Attention	3
Persistence and Engagement in Learning- Persistence.....	3
Initiative- Curiosity and Initiative.....	4
Initiative-Sense of Competence.....	4
Creativity- Problem Solving.....	4
Creativity- Creativity and Flexibility.....	5
Physical Health and Development.....	5
Gross Motor Skills.....	5
Fine Motor Skills.....	6
Physical Fitness.....	6
Nutrition & Healthy Eating.....	6
Self-Care.....	7
Safety.....	7
Social-Emotional Development.....	8
Character Development- Foundations of Character Development-Develop understanding of appropriate behaviors.....	8
Character Development- Foundations of Character Development- Foster caring attachments between fellow children, staff and the community.....	8
Character Development- Foundations of Character Development- Demonstrate mutual respect and utilize strategies to build a safe and productive culture.....	9
Character Development- Foundations of Character Development- Demonstrate actions and facilitate experiences that promote empathy, positive interactions and respectful relationships.....	10
Responsible Decision-Making & Problem-Solving- Begin to develop the skills necessary to recognize and acknowledge the feelings and needs of others and how positive choices contribute to a safe community.....	10
Responsible Decision-Making & Problem-Solving- Demonstrates awareness of personal time and responsibilities within predictable routines.....	11
Responsible Decision-Making & Problem-Solving- Develop, implement and model effective problem-solving skills.....	11
Personal Development- Self-Awareness- Expresses and develops an understanding of thoughts and emotions of self and others.....	12
Personal Development- Self-Awareness- Develops and communicates a sense of self and positive identity.....	13
Personal Development- Self-Management- Understand and practice strategies for managing emotions and behaviors.....	13
Personal Development- Self-Management- Reflect on perspectives and emotional responses.....	14
Personal Development- Self-Management- Set, monitor, adapt and evaluate goals to achieve success in social settings.....	14

Social Development- Social Awareness- Demonstrate awareness of the thoughts, feelings and perspectives of others.....	15
Social Development- Social Awareness- Express comfort and joy in human diversity and develop accurate language for differences.	16
Social Development- Interpersonal Skills- Demonstrate communication and social skills to interact effectively.	16
Social Development- Interpersonal Skills- Develop and maintain positive relationships.....	17
Social Development- Interpersonal Skills- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage and resolve interpersonal conflicts.	18
Communication and Literacy Skill Development.....	18
Speaking and Listening-Conversation and Comprehension	18
Speaking and Listening-Expressive Language.....	19
Language-Conventions of Language	19
Language-Vocabulary Acquisition and Use.....	19
Literature- Identifying and finding meaning, details and ideas from literature.....	20
Literature- Structure and Format.....	20
Literature- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas.....	20
Literature- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.....	21
Foundational Reading Skills-Print Concepts	21
Foundational Reading Skills- Phonological Awareness	21
Foundational Reading Skills- Fluency	21
Writing	22
Mathematical Knowledge.....	22
Counting and Cardinality-Know number names and counting sequence.....	22
Counting and Cardinality- Count to identify the number of objects.....	23
Counting and Cardinality- Compare Numbers.....	23
Operations and Algebraic Thinking- Understand addition as putting together and subtraction as taking from.....	23
Measurement and Data- Describe and compare measurable attributes.	24
Measurement and Data- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.....	24
Geometry- Identify and describe shapes.	25
Geometry- Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes.	25
Science	25
Scientific Inquiry	25
Movement and Simple Machines.....	26
Living Things.....	26
Environment and Climate	27
Habitats and Human Impact	27
Social Studies	28
Community	28
Economics.....	28
Geography	29
Kansas, United States and World History.....	29
Creative Arts.....	30
Dance.....	30
Music.....	30
Dramatic Play	31
Visual Arts	31

Activities to Support the Kansas Early Learning Standards

Introduction



The Kansas Early Learning Standards (KELS) is a document that provides information and guidance to early childhood providers and teachers, including early primary grade teachers, on the developmental continuum of learning for children from birth through kindergarten.

The KELS provide information regarding what young children should know and be able to do as a result of engagement with caring knowledgeable adults, evidence-based curriculum, and developmentally appropriate activities. It is a dynamic resource that providers and teachers can use as they plan activities, choose and implement curriculum, and engage in conversations with young children and their families around early learning.

The following document gives examples of practices that support children's development in each of the content areas. This document is not a curriculum. These are just a few examples of activities adults can do with early learners. Early Childhood Care and Education Professionals should use their expertise, professional tools and curriculum to expand upon these suggestions as they create activities that work best for the young children with whom they work.

Approaches to Learning

Persistence and Engagement in Learning- Engagement and Attention

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Talk about experiences, particularly if the child points or seems interested in an activity.
- Use age-appropriate toys to capture their attention.
- Play peek-a-boo.
- Encourage engagement with other children such as playing with blocks.
- Read books with creative voices to capture their attention.
- Join children in their play.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Choose activities and topics the students have shown interest in.
- Play games that require following directions like “Mother May I?” or “Simon Says.”
- Provide memory and matching games.
- Have the children do jigsaw and spot the difference puzzles.
- Read books with creative voices to capture their attention.
- Have children tell you about activities they’ve done before.
- Join in with children as they play.

Persistence and Engagement in Learning- Persistence

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Hold favorite toys within reach and praise 'close enough' attempts by moving the toys closer.
- Offer containers to fill with small objects such as blocks, etc.
- Help with shape sorter games starting with circles and moving to more difficult shapes.
- Use blocks to stack (modeling more difficult arrangements as they master basic stacks).
- Start a zipper and encourage them to finish zipping up.
- Put a sock on partially and let them pull it up.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Read books where characters overcome an obstacle like “The Little Engine that Could.”
- Do activities that have several steps that may not all be finished in one setting.
- Offer encouragement on the skills a child is using and not on the final product of a project; for example, “Look how you keep going even when things get tricky!”
- Offer toys with various closures and fasteners (buttons, zippers, hook and eye, latches).

Initiative- Curiosity and Initiative

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Bring attention to new experiences, environments and toys.
- Fill the environment with toys and materials for children to choose and access on their own.
- Fill a sensory table or low-sided plastic totes with sand, torn paper, water, small pitchers, large spoons for filling and dumping.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Provide opportunities to create plans for play.
- Ask children "what are you going to do next," "how can you find out," or "what do you think would happen if...".
- Encourage children to invite friends to join them in play.
- Read books about new experiences and related activities (a book about a trip to the mountains, then build a play dough mountain and drive small cars around the mountain).

Initiative-Sense of Competence

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Play with "cause and effect" toys like rattles, sensory popper toys, push button pop-up toys, simple musical instruments.
- Respond to attempts at communication with interest such as talking about what they point at or pick up.
- Use a 'serve and return' response when they attempt communication (the baby holds his hands up and makes a noise, then the caregiver says, "I can pick you up" and picks the baby up).

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Include children in family and community activities.
- Acknowledge and name emotions to help them express themselves.
- Respond positively when they show you a new skill.
- Encourage children to try again if they are working to master a new skill and need more practice.

Creativity- Problem Solving

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Care for children's physical and emotional needs (feeding when they show hunger cues, comfort when they are startled or hurt).
- Encourage them to try new things and provide support if needed (without doing it for them).
- Play simple games and sing songs with them so they can mimic (follow the leader, peek-a-boo) or follow simple instructions (Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes).

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Help children talk through a plan to approach routine challenges that may come up (what could you do when you want a toy another friend has).

- When having a challenge with a peer, talk through some possible solutions. Calmly provide prompts and ask questions.
- After children conquer a problem, ask them how they solved it.
- Provide open-ended cooperative-use toys and materials like blocks, kitchen area, dolls with accessories, cars and materials to build ramps, that increase opportunities for social interaction.
- Create a physical space that encourages children to share space with others.

Creativity- Creativity and Flexibility

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Allow exploration of new objects and using objects in new ways. For example, hiding under a blanket, carrying blocks in a hat, wearing a dress up cape as a skirt, sensory play, block play, or nature exploration.
- Notice when children learn a new skill because they tried a different approach.
- Encourage child-directed play and exploration, even if it would be easier for the adult to do it for them.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Provide open-ended toys and materials for children to use in different ways.
- Allow students to move toys and materials to different areas of the classroom for use. For example, taking a plate from the kitchen area to use in the art area to make a circle.
- Practice using quiet or loud voices in different settings or songs.
- Let children take the lead on games and how they should be played.
- Follow children's lead on topics of study according to their interests.

Physical Health and Development

Gross Motor Skills

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Encourage infants to play on their tummies.
- Provide a tunnel for mobile infants and toddlers to crawl through.
- Place interesting objects just out of reach.
- Provide padded stair steps for toddlers to practice going up and down.
- Provide large balls to roll and throw.
- Help children walk across balance beams.
- Use hula hoops to hop over.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Provide opportunities for physical activities that encourage climbing, running, skipping, riding bicycles, pulling friends in wagons, dancing, jumping, balancing, throwing and catching.
- Join the children in gross motor play to encourage them.

Fine Motor Skills

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide smaller objects to pick up and transfer from one hand to another.
- Stuff scarves into empty containers (tissue, wipes box, etc.) and encourage children to pull them out and stuff them back in.
- Provide put in/take out activities.
- Provide small snacks like cereal or other finger foods to work on finger coordination.
- Provide musical instruments for children to play.
- Demonstrate and then have children stack blocks.
- Provide ribbons to play or dance with.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Have children thread beads, lacing cards, or other threading activities.
- Provide opportunities to write, draw, color or paint utilizing a variety of tools and media.
- Show children and allow them to practice using scissors to snip and cut paper or playdough.
- Have children pick up small items with tweezers or tongs.
- Provide opportunities to scoop and pour water, sand or other objects.
- Encourage play with playdough.
- Have children build with blocks.
- Have children practice zipping coats.

Physical Fitness

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Have infants practice tummy time with their caregiver.
- Dance together.
- Imitate animals and how they move.
- Provide activities using large balls.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Go on nature walks.
- Allow frequent opportunities to play on a playground.
- Provide opportunities for physical games like tag, relay races, the freeze game.
- Have children pull a friend in a wagon.

Nutrition & Healthy Eating

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Demonstrate baby sign or other cues for words like hungry, eat, and more.
- Caregiver holds the baby and provides one-on-one interactions while feeding.
- Have toddlers sit independently at the table during meal and snack times.
- Do family style dining where children and adults eat together.
- Have conversations during mealtime.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Serve a variety of foods during meals and snacks. Talk about the food, why it's good for us, and where it comes from.
- Read books about food and nutrition.
- Have students serve themselves family style.
- Set up a kitchen in the dramatic play area, use real (empty) boxes or containers.
- Access the myplate.gov website for lesson plan ideas around food groups and nutrition.

Self-Care

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Address cries in a prompt manner.
- Engage with each child in social interactions like smiling, laughing, and getting down on their level.
- Encourage and respond to the child's attempts to communicate wants through verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Practice and narrate handwashing steps with the children.
- Read books and sing songs about self-care routines.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Model and teach proper handwashing techniques and remind children when it's time to wash hands.
- Teach children how to properly brush teeth and then have them do it daily.
- Model and teach children how to cough into their elbows.
- Remind children to use tissues.
- Practice buttoning, zipping, and snapping their clothes, dress up clothes or dolls' clothes.

Safety

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Use pictures to discuss familiar caregivers.
- Give support for separation anxiety.
- Provide verbal or visual cues for recognizing danger or exercising caution. For example: saying "Stop, there is a car!" or "Don't touch, it's hot."
- Encourage children to stay nearby familiar adults during unfamiliar situations.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Provide a variety of emergency vehicles during block play and explain their purpose.
- Discuss familiar traffic signals. Use a stop sign for an environmental visual support.
- Practice alerting the caregiver when there is a dangerous situation.
- Participate in safety drills for tornado, fire, etc.
- Provide dramatic play clothes and read books about community helpers.

Social-Emotional Development

Character Development- Foundations of Character Development-Develop understanding of appropriate behaviors.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Engage in and demonstrate positive behaviors such as sharing, empathy, and kindness during daily interactions. For instance, show empathy when a toy is taken away by acknowledging your child's feelings and offering solutions.
- Arrange playdates or group activities with other children. Parallel play or group storytelling encourages interaction.
- Model cooperation, sharing, and understanding others' emotions, which are crucial for developing empathy and social skills by labeling turn-taking opportunities between young children. For example, "You had the block first, then you handed it to your friend. You both had a turn!"
- Provide opportunities for turn taking and working together on things like stacking blocks or creating a large mural.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Use stories and role-playing games to explore different scenarios involving problem-solving, empathy, and ethical behavior. For example, read books about kindness or courage and then act out the stories with puppets or costumes.
- Encourage age-appropriate chores or responsibilities, such as setting the table or sorting laundry. Make these tasks fun and rewarding by incorporating them into a routine or using a reward chart.
- Guide children through resolving conflicts with peers using strategies like taking turns, expressing feelings verbally, and finding mutually acceptable solutions. Use role-playing to practice these skills.

Character Development- Foundations of Character Development- Foster caring attachments between fellow children, staff and the community.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Engage in simple games like peek-a-boo, or pat-a-cake. This promotes bonding and helps children feel secure and connected to caregivers and peers.

- Set up sensory bins or mats with safe materials (e.g., soft blocks, water, soft fabrics) and invite a few children and caregivers to explore together.
- Organize small group story times where caregivers read to their children together. Use interactive books with flaps and textures to engage the children.
- Respond to social cues such as smiling, cooing, and babbling.
- Roll objects back and forth.
- Use greetings like high 5, hug, etc.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Play simple group games with rules like "Duck, Duck, Goose" or "Musical Chairs" that involve taking turns and following rules. Include staff and parents in the games to model positive interactions, cooperation, patience and understanding other's needs.
- Arrange visits from community helpers like firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses or librarians to the classroom. Allow children to interact with them and learn about their roles.
- During circle time, have activities that involve sharing stories about friends, expressing appreciation, or practicing greeting each other. Encourage children to share something positive about a peer.

Character Development- Foundations of Character Development- Demonstrate mutual respect and utilize strategies to build a safe and productive culture.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Play simple games to help with the concept of turn-taking and the importance of being gentle with others, fostering mutual respect from a young age.
- Use books that show facial expressions and engage in discussions about feelings. Encourage caregivers to make faces that match different emotions and help children mimic them.
- Practice responsive listening by having short, interactive conversations with children, acknowledging their attempts to communicate and responding thoughtfully. Use toys or puppets to facilitate the interaction.
- Use pictures of children and caregivers to build a class book.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Create simple scenarios for children to practice respectful behaviors, like greeting a peer politely, sharing toys, or helping a friend. Use role-playing with puppets in group settings.
- Present children with a group challenge, such as building a structure with blocks or solving a simple puzzle. Encourage them to discuss ideas, make decisions together, and respect each other's contributions.
- Use circle time to discuss what respect means, share stories about respecting others, and encourage children to talk about times when they felt respected or disrespected. Reinforce these concepts with praise and positive reinforcement.

Character Development- Foundations of Character Development- Demonstrate actions and facilitate experiences that promote empathy, positive interactions and respectful relationships.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Offer specific and sincere praise when your child exhibits positive behavior, such as sharing a toy or helping clean up. Use phrases like, "How kind of you to share with your friend!"
- Match emotion cards to promote understanding of feelings, empathy, positive interactions, and respectful relationships.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Engage in group activities that require teamwork, such as building a large structure with blocks or completing a simple puzzle together. Emphasize the importance of working together and acknowledging each person's contribution.
- Introduce tools like emotion cards or feeling wheels to help children identify and express their emotions.
- Practice calming techniques such as deep breathing or using a "calm-down corner" where they can go to regain composure.

Responsible Decision-Making & Problem-Solving- Begin to develop the skills necessary to recognize and acknowledge the feelings and needs of others and how positive choices contribute to a safe community.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Set up sensory play areas where children can explore materials like sand or water together. Model and encourage respectful behavior, such as using words instead of grabbing or pushing. This promotes a sense of safety and cooperation.
- Present children with a group challenge, such as building a structure or completing an art project together. Encourage them to discuss ideas, make decisions together, and respect each other's contributions.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Create simple scenarios where children practice respectful behaviors, like greeting a peer politely, or helping a friend in need. Use role-playing with puppets or in group settings.

- Use circle time to discuss what respect means, share stories about respecting others, and encourage children to talk about times when they felt respected or disrespected. Reinforce these concepts with praise and positive reinforcement.
- Practice respectful communication through activities like “Compliment Circles,” where each child gives a compliment to a peer. Discuss the importance of kind words and respectful listening.

Responsible Decision-Making & Problem-Solving- Demonstrates awareness of personal time and responsibilities within predictable routines.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Establish daily predictable routines to promote responsibility. For example, clean up routines and nap time routines.
- Utilize visual schedules to help promote awareness of personal time and responsibility.
- Respond to children’s personal needs.
- Use modeling and narrate routines.
- Use pictures of activities and “read” them while pointing to them.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Use a visual timer to encourage your child to manage personal time and complete daily jobs (e.g. cleaning toys).
- Use verbal prompts of time help children manage time to complete a task. For example, we have 3 more minutes of play time before we cleanup for lunch.

Responsible Decision-Making & Problem-Solving- Develop, implement and model effective problem-solving skills.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide simple, age-appropriate puzzles with large pieces. Guide children in fitting the pieces together and celebrate their successes.
- Use shape or color sorting toys to help children match items to their corresponding categories. Offer guidance and praise as they successfully sort the pieces.
- Use toys that demonstrate cause and effect, like a pop-up toy or a toy with buttons that produce sounds. Show how pressing a button makes something happen.
- Set up a small obstacle course using cushions, tunnels, or toys. Help children navigate through it, helping as needed and discussing ways to overcome obstacles.
- Prompts begin with the caregiver. Ask open-ended questions and narrate as you think through situations out loud. Start phrases with “I wonder why” or “I wonder if”.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Provide building blocks or construction toys and give children a simple challenge, like building a tower or a bridge. Offer hints if needed and celebrate their creativity. This enhances problem-solving skills through construction tasks and encourages spatial reasoning.
- Read a story with a problem (e.g., a character who loses a toy) and discuss possible solutions. Ask children how they would solve the problem and why.
- Promote critical thinking and problem-solving through Storytime discussions. Use playdough to create shapes or figures based on a given challenge (e.g., making an animal). Discuss the process of how to achieve the desired result and assist as needed. This helps with problem solving through hands-on manipulation.
- Encourage present simple, everyday problems (e.g., a toy is stuck under the couch) and guide children in finding a solution. Ask questions like, "What can we do to get the toy out?"

Personal Development- Self-Awareness- Expresses and develops an understanding of thoughts and emotions of self and others.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Use a mirror and make different facial expressions, such as happy, sad, or surprised. Encourage children to mimic these expressions and talk about what each face might be feeling.
- Read simple picture books that focus on emotions, such as "The Feelings Book" by Todd Parr. Point out and discuss the different emotions depicted in the book and relate them to children's own experiences.
- Use stuffed animals or dolls to act out various emotions. Show the animals expressing different feelings and ask children to identify the emotions and discuss how the animals might feel.
- Be reflective, mirror children's expression of feelings.
- Use mirrors to make faces and label what facial features are doing.
- Use toys and objects to make faces.
- Read books about feelings.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Play a game where children take turns acting out different emotions (e.g., happy, sad, angry) without using words, while others guess the emotion. Follow up with a discussion about what made them choose that emotion.
- Create an emotion wheel with your child using a paper plate divided into sections, each representing a different emotion. Have children draw or paste pictures that represent each emotion and use the wheel to talk about when they might feel those emotions.
- Set aside a time each day for a "feelings check-in," where each child shares how they are feeling using a feelings chart or simple phrases. Encourage children to explain why they feel that way and listen to others' feelings.

Personal Development- Self-Awareness- Develops and communicates a sense of self and positive identity.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Encourage children to act out different emotions, allowing them to identify and understand various feelings.
- Present various sounds and ask children to guess what they are, fostering their awareness of different auditory stimuli.
- Create individualized connections with each child in a loving manner.
- Intentionally greet children and families in a positive way as they arrive.
- Provide a space to display photos of each child and family to convey the message, "You belong here!"

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Create a safe and supportive environment where children can take turns sharing their personal experiences or favorite memories with the group.
- Provide various props, such as puppets or picture cards, to inspire children to create and narrate stories based on their imagination and experiences.
- Create a memory game featuring cards with different facial expression, helping children recognize and connect emotions with facial cues.

Personal Development- Self-Management- Understand and practice strategies for managing emotions and behaviors.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Set up a small, comfy area with soft toys and a favorite blanket. Guide children to this space when they're upset to help them calm down. This provides a comforting spot for self-soothing.
- Show pictures of different facial expressions and help children point to how they're feeling. Helps identify and name emotions.
- Rock children gently while speaking softly about their feelings. Use a rocking chair or just gentle rocking motions. This provides physical comfort and calmness.
- Remain calm and reassuring.
- Name the children's and your own feelings.
- Practice breathing techniques together.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Use a chart with different emotions and have children point to how they're feeling. This helps identify and communicate emotions.

- Act out common situations with toys or puppets, practicing how to handle emotions like frustration or sadness. This teaches emotional management through play.
- Provide a visual for calming down. For example, make a jar with glitter and water. Shake it and watch the glitter settle while talking about calming down.
- Offer two calming activities, like drawing or reading. Let children choose what they want to do when upset. This encourages decision-making to manage emotions.

Personal Development- Self-Management- Reflect on perspectives and emotional responses.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Establish consistent daily routines for activities such as mealtime, nap time, and playtime. Use visual schedules or simple charts to help children understand what comes next.
- Promote discussion about feelings and encourage children to think about and share their experiences.
- Imitate facial expressions and label them.
- Sing songs such as "If You're Happy & You Know It".
- Involve other children in offering hurt or upset children comfort-ice packs, band-aids, favorite toy.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Use hand or finger puppets with different facial expressions. Create short scenarios where the puppets experience various emotions, and have the children guess or describe the emotions. Let them use the puppets to act out their own feelings.
- Provide magazines, colored paper, and glue. Have children cut out pictures that show different emotions or situations and create a collage that represents their feelings.
- Create or buy a large dice with different emotions pictured on each side. Roll the dice and discuss a time when the child felt that emotion or act out a scenario that involves that emotion.
- Create a set of cards with pictures of facial expressions and another set with corresponding emotion words. Children match the facial expression cards to the correct emotion word cards.

Personal Development- Self-Management- Set, monitor, adapt and evaluate goals to achieve success in social settings.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Create a visual schedule with pictures representing different parts of the day, such as mealtime, playtime, and nap time. As children complete each activity, move the picture to a "completed" section.
- Set a small goal like picking up all the toys before moving on to a new activity. Use a timer or a song to make it engaging and discuss the goal before and after playtime.
- Use a feelings chart or faces to help your child identify and express their emotions at different times of the day. Discuss how they felt and what they might do to feel better.

- Offer two choices for activities or snacks (e.g., “Would you like to play with bears or cars?”). Help children understand that their choice is a goal and review it after completing the activity.
- Support decision-making and goal setting by allowing children to set simple goals and reflect on their choices.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Set a small, achievable goal with children, such as cleaning up toys. Use a visual chart to track progress and celebrate when the goal is achieved with a high five. This helps children understand goal setting and monitoring and provides a visual representation of their progress.
- Create role-playing scenarios where children set goals for their interactions, such as sharing toys or using polite words. Discuss what they want to achieve and reflect on how it went afterward.
- Use a timer for different activities, such as how long they can use a preferred item. Discuss the concept of time and review how they managed the time after the activity ends.
- Set a series of small, progressive tasks related to a larger goal, such as cleaning up a play area, step by step. Discuss the steps, monitor progress, and adapt the plan if needed.

Social Development- Social Awareness- Demonstrate awareness of the thoughts, feelings and perspectives of others.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- During story time, pause and describe how the characters feel and ask children what they think about it.
- Show cards with different facial expressions and have children match them to similar expressions on people or toys.
- Read a book with pictures of different facial expressions. Point to each face and describe the emotion (happy, sad).
- Help children recognize and name basic emotions.
- Use self-talk to label your own emotions to model the use of feelings words for young children. For example, “Wow it’s so loud in here I am feeling anxious. How can you help me?”
- Point out when a child is helpful with others.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Read a story and pause to discuss how different characters might be feeling and why. Ask children how they would feel in a similar situation.
- Create simple role-playing scenarios, such as a friend who is upset. Ask children how they would comfort the friend and what they might be feeling. This helps to develop empathy and understanding of others’ emotions through interactive play.
- Act out different emotions (happy, sad, angry) and have children guess what you’re expressing. Then switch roles.

Social Development- Social Awareness- Express comfort and joy in human diversity and develop accurate language for differences.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Use dolls or stuffed animals of different skin colors and features. Talk about each doll's unique traits and show excitement about their diversity. This introduces the concept of diversity and helps children recognize and appreciate differences.
- Read picture books that showcase different cultures and traditions. Point out and discuss the various celebrations and practices.
- Provide dress-up clothes from various cultures or with different patterns. Let children explore and discuss the unique aspects of each.
- Play music from different cultures and dance along. Talk about how people around the world have different music and dance styles.
- Allow safe exploration.
- Ensure pictures, books, and materials reflect families and children from different ethnicities, ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Create art using materials from different cultures (e.g., colorful beads, fabrics). Talk about the origins of these materials and their cultural significance.
- Share stories or use picture books that show families from various backgrounds. Discuss the unique features and similarities among them.
- Explore different cultural festivals using simple, child-friendly descriptions or visuals. Discuss the joy and traditions of each festival.
- During group play, encourage children to talk about what makes each friend unique and special. Use specific, positive language about differences.
- Ensure pictures, books, and materials reflect families and children from different ethnicities, ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Social Development- Interpersonal Skills- Demonstrate communication and social skills to interact effectively.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Play basic turn-taking games like rolling a ball back and forth or taking turns with a toy.
- Use simple gestures like waving or clapping and encourage children to mimic these gestures.
- Use toys or actions to model simple activities (e.g., feeding a doll). Encourage children to imitate these actions.
- Practice simple greetings like "hello" and "bye-bye" with children using stuffed animals during play.

- Provide small group/pair activities with same objects.
- Sit with children and model play and narrate actions.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Act out everyday situations like going to the store or having a meal with dolls. Discuss and practice polite phrases and actions. Build social skills through interactive role-play.
- Use picture cards with various scenarios (e.g., taking turns) and practice starting conversations about what to say in each situation.
- Play simple group games that require communication, such as “Simon Says” or “Duck, Duck, Goose.” This enhances listening and following directions in a social context.
- Encourage children to give and receive compliments with peers. Guide them on how to give specific, positive feedback. This teaches the art of giving and receiving positive feedback and promotes social interaction.

Social Development- Interpersonal Skills- Develop and maintain positive relationships.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Build a tower or structure together. Encourage children to work alongside you or a peer to complete the project.
- Sing group songs with simple actions, like “The Wheels on the Bus” or “If You’re Happy and You Know It,” involving all the children.
- Play with playdough together, creating shapes or figures. Encourage children to share tools and work on projects together.
- Read books together, allowing children to turn pages or point out pictures. Invite another child to join in for shared reading time.
- Follow the lead of the child while playing or doing an activity.
- Play Peek-A-Boo together.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Play cooperative games where children need to help each other, like a relay race or building a puzzle together.
- Create a Kindness Bulletin Board. For example, a “Kindness Tree” which children add leaves with notes about kind acts they’ve done or seen.
- Reinforce positive behavior and the importance of recognizing and appreciating others’ kindness.
- Encourage collaboration and creativity, fostering positive group interactions.

Social Development- Interpersonal Skills- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage and resolve interpersonal conflicts.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Draw or use stickers to create faces showing different emotions (happy, sad, angry). Discuss how to handle these feelings if they arise during play.
- Use pictures, songs, and fingerplays for transitions.
- Label and define spaces with visual objects like tape, stop signs, carpet squares, footprints on floor, or names & pictures at tables
- Teach children about cooperation, sharing, and understanding others' emotions, which are crucial for developing empathy and social skills.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include for example.

- Sit in a circle and present a small, hypothetical conflict. Discuss and brainstorm different ways to resolve it, encouraging each child to contribute ideas. This promotes group discussion and collaborative problem-solving skills.
- Use cards with different emotions and possible solutions. For example, "I'm angry" and "Take a deep breath". Match the emotions to appropriate solutions. This teaches children to connect feelings with appropriate conflict resolution strategies.

Communication and Literacy Skill Development Speaking and Listening-Conversation and Comprehension

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Talk to infants while looking at them, pause to allow them to make a noise, then speak again. By doing this, children are learning how to take turns during conversation. As the children get older the babbling or language they use will become more "word like".
- Give simple instructions such as, "get your bottle", wait for the child to respond. If the child does not respond provide support by showing them the bottle and repeating the direction.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Ask children open ended questions, encouraging "serve and return" by continuing feedback loops and drawing out longer conversations.

Speaking and Listening-Expressive Language

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Consistently respond to children when they cry, babble or make noises to get your attention. This will help encourage the child to continue to make attempts at communication.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Describe the things you see in the environment. Using a variety of descriptive language will encourage children to use more descriptive language when they are talking about what they are seeing. For example, "Oh wow! That big red fire truck, it is loud!"

Language-Conventions of Language

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Respond to the children's verbal and non-verbal cues consistently while naming what it is you think they need/want. Verbal cues may include crying, grunting or even 1 or 2 words. Non-verbal cues may include pointing or reaching for an object while grunting.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Offer children many opportunities in the day to talk to both the adults in their life as well as the other children they come into contact with helping them to take turns during conversation.
- Model listening to what others are saying, responding to questions, asking questions and making comments about the environment.

Language-Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide toys that are interesting to the children in your care.
- Join in play with the children, model new words, sounds and play themes that a child may find interesting.
- Change toys out to allow children to explore new and different toys.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Provide an environment that utilizes a wide range of vocabulary.
- Encourage children to be a part of discussions that are taking place.
- When reading books to children, introduce the new language they will hear in the book prior to reading it.

Literature- Identifying and finding meaning, details and ideas from literature.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Encourage children to handle books that are appropriate to their age such as cloth or board books that will not be easily damaged.
- Read books with children by pointing to the pictures, and naming items found in the pictures.
- Re-read books that are familiar to the children.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Read books aloud to children. Pause reading to talk about the pictures in the book, ask questions about what they think is going to happen, how the characters feel, what they might do if they were in the book, if anything like that has happened to them in real life, etc.
- Allow the books that are read out loud to be handled by the children on their own time.

Literature- Structure and Format

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide children books that are located in their play environment that they can have access to at any time.
- Encourage children to help turn pages, hold the book upright, etc.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- When reading with children, talk about the cover of the book, the beginning, end, top of the page, bottom of the page, the author and illustrator.
- Point to the words as you are reading them to help show the children how to read from left to right and top to bottom.

Literature- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide books that reflect the children you are working with, their families and their culture.
- Create books with pictures provided by the family. Talk about the pictures, specifically who is pictures and what they are doing.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- When reading with the children, invite them to share about a time a similar thing happened to them.
- Ask how their family does similar activities to what is happening in the story.
- Connect what is happening in the book to real life.
- Have children act out what happens in a story. Provide props, costumes, or puppets in the dramatic play area along with the book for the children to recreate.

Literature- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Read books that are repetitive to children and encourage them to join in when reading.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Read books that have a variety of topics and genres.

Foundational Reading Skills-Print Concepts

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Allow children to play with toys that have colors, letters, numbers and pictures on them. When children are playing and touching the letters on the toys name them for the child.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Point out and name letters that are found in the environment. Children often find their name to be really interesting. Allow children to see their names in print around the room.

Foundational Reading Skills- Phonological Awareness

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Sing songs, do finger plays, and read books and nursery rhymes that feature rhyming words.
- Encourage sound repetition in infants by saying a sound repeatedly and encourage them to imitate you. For example, “d-d-d” or “m-m-m”.
- Clap for each word in a simple sentence to encourage word awareness.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Read books that play with sounds and feature playing with syllables, rhyme and alliteration.
- Practice clapping out syllables together with different words and names.
- Practice and recite tongue teasers together.
- Practice beginning sounds by having a sound scavenger hunt. For example, find something in the room that begins with the “s” sound.

Foundational Reading Skills- Fluency

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Model reading to children to help them understand print has meaning and, what it sounds like when someone reads.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Play with words by singing rhyming songs, making up new words, repeating chants, and rereading familiar books.
- Sing and dance to silly songs while playing. It helps children begin to make sense of words that will eventually lead to them reading fluently.

Writing

For all ages, activities that support writing standards involve building fine motor skills, finger, hand and upper body strength, and hand eye coordination.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Tape a piece of paper to a table and provide washable markers, crayons, or finger paint to children to explore making marks of their own.
- Activities like finger painting, eating with utensils and finger feeding, playing with beads that are an appropriate size for children's age, crawling on the floor and manipulating blocks all help the child to gain the strength children will need to write as they grow.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Play with lacing cards.
- Bead large pony beads on pipe cleaners or shoestrings.
- Play with playdough or clay activities.
- Use scissors to snip and cut.
- Use tongs, tweezers or clothespins to pick up objects.
- Draw, write and paint using their fingers.
- Draw, write and paint using a variety of classroom tools.
- Scoop and pouring activities.
- Practice drawing basic lines, circles, and shapes.
- Play with blocks.
- Throwing and catching activities.

Mathematical Knowledge

Counting and Cardinality-Know number names and counting sequence.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Count items out loud, showing the appropriate number of fingers or objects to reinforce the number word.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Sing number songs like, 5 Little Monkeys, 5 Green and Speckled Frogs, 10 in the Bed, or Hickory Dickory Dock.
- Match manipulatives to number cards.
- Read counting books.
- Display and reference a 1-10 number line that uses dots plus numerals.

Counting and Cardinality- Count to identify the number of objects.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Encourage toddlers to help set the table by laying out and counting plates/cups /utensils for each person eating at a table or designated spot together.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include:

- Have a number scavenger hunt. For example, bring me 3 crayons.
- Count and record numbers.
- Count place settings as children set the table.
- Roll a dice and build a unifix cube tower with that number of blocks.
- Count children as they line up and then ask, "how many children are in our line?"
- Count objects then rearrange them and count them again.

Counting and Cardinality- Compare Numbers

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Parallel talk. Use numbers in everyday activities and chores. For example, "This pile of blocks is bigger than that one." or, "There are more books on the shelf than in the bucket."
- Use words during snack time like "you have more crackers over here."
- Use everyday items like blocks, stuffed animals, or fruits. Count them together and then talk about which group has more or fewer.
- Incorporate numbers and quantity words during naturally occurring parts of the day. For example, counting snacks, steps, blocks, fingers, etc.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Ask questions like, "Who has more/less? Which is bigger/smaller? Which is longer/shorter?"
- Play number matching games. Give children a tower of unifix cubes and have them count and replicate it or, match manipulatives to the number on a rolled dice or playing card.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking- Understand addition as putting together and subtraction as taking from.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Create simple patterns using toys, food, blocks, etc. so the pattern can be extended.
- Provide simple shape puzzles for play and exploration.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Add to and take away from sets using toys, blocks, manipulatives, or even children.
- Play with pattern cards and beads or shapes.
- Have students build sets in different ways for example, $1+4=5$, $2+3=5$, $3+2=5$, $4+1=5$.
- Use paper clips or dot stickers to match number sentences.

Measurement and Data- Describe and compare measurable attributes.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Use every-day routines and play exchanges as opportunities to narrate and describe physical attributes (shape, size, color, same, different), positions (below, between), categories (toys, clothes, food), and measurement (long, short, full, empty).

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Order toys, manipulatives, and even people based on length, height, number, etc.
- Do polling activities where children vote on their favorite thing (game, toy, cookie, flavor, color, etc.) then create a graph to count and discuss what item had more votes.
- Compare which cups or scoops hold more or less at the water table or sand box.
- Use a balance scale to compare weight.

Measurement and Data- Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Encourage toddlers to help sort items during household chores like laundry or setting the table.
- Place toys in separate bins. For example, stuffed animals in one basket and blocks in another. Ask children where each item belongs.
- Play a matching game where you hold an object and ask the child to find a match. For example, matching cars, blocks, or even shoes.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Sort objects into sets. For example, sort cars by color, size, number of wheels or type of car.
- Provide matching activities. For example, find the matching shapes, match socks or mittens, match picture cards or toys that have the same pattern, color, etc.
- Sort people. For example, everyone who is wearing red today stand on this side, or has tying shoes on, or has an "s" in their name.
- Have students watch you sort or match items and then have them guess how you sorted that set.

Geometry- Identify and describe shapes.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Read books that involve counting, shapes, puzzles or patterns pointing at pictures along the way.
- Sing number songs and fingerplays like “Five Little Ducks,” “The Ants go Marching,” or “Five Little Monkeys.”

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Have children use pattern cards and name the shapes while they repeat the pattern.
- Provide a scavenger hunt for shapes around the room.
- Have children make shapes with playdough, pipe cleaners, and even bodies.
- Point out shapes in books and the environment.

Geometry- Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Encourage the children to play with shape sorters.
- Provide simple shape puzzles for the children to do.
- Read books about shapes.
- Provide balls and blocks for the children to play with.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Have the children construct with blocks .
- Encourage the children to play with magnet tiles.
- Guide the children to do tangram and pattern block puzzles.
- Have the children create pictures out of shapes.
- Show the children how to create shapes using playdough, sticks, or pipe cleaners.

Science

Scientific Inquiry

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide an interesting environment for children to explore.
- Change toys and materials in the environment regularly.
- Provide items with different textures, tastes, colors, sounds and smells that allow children to use all of their senses.
- Label items that children see in the environment.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Take the children on a nature walk and encourage them to observe different plants, insects, and animals .
- Show the children how to use simple flashlights, magnifying glasses or binoculars for closer inspection of items.
- Discuss things they observe. Ask questions like "What do you notice?" or "How do you think this bug moves?"

Movement and Simple Machines

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide cause and effect toys and materials like balls and ramps, push button toys, busy boards, seesaw or teeter-totter toys etc.
- Show children how to use materials in different ways.
- Follow the children's lead in play labeling and describing unique or new movement.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Have the children perform sink or float experiments.
- Provide materials for children to build and test ramps.
- Encourage play with magnets.
- Provide materials for children to experiment and build with loose parts like screws, gears, wheels and other simple machines.
- Pose different challenges for children to find a solution to using simple machines. For example, "How can we lift this really heavy basket of books?" Provide tools to build a solution.

Living Things

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Take the children on nature walks and point out plants and animals.
- Read books and sing songs about animals.
- Lead games with body parts like "Head Shoulders, Knees and Toes" or Balance a beanbag on your head, etc.
- Play animal sounds and encourage children to mimic them.
- Help children to care for a classroom plant, pet or pretend to care for a doll.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Show children how to plant and grow things.
- Do life cycle exploration with books to support understanding.
- Have children help care for class pets.
- Read books about plants and animals.
- Lead the children on nature walks and discuss the living things you see.
- Help the children sort living and non-living things like toy animals, rocks, plastic flowers, and sticks.
- Set up your dramatic play area like a veterinarian office, farm, or doctor's office.

Environment and Climate

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Take children for walks in different types of weather. Talk about what kinds of clothes we need before going out.
- Allow children to safely experience different types of weather.
- Bring in natural items like sand, rocks, leaves, pinecones, or snow and place in sensory bins or bowls for children to play with and explore.
- Read books and sing songs about different types of weather.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Read books about weather, seasons and climate.
- Do daily observations of weather and climate together, doing experiments to show warmth of sun, and discussions about how people can protect themselves from weather.
- Play a sorting game together with recyclable materials by gathering items like paper, plastic, aluminum cans, and cardboard and have discussions about why recycling is important for the environment and how it helps conserve resources.

Habitats and Human Impact

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Point out animals and plants that children see in real life, in books, and toys.
- Provide toys and books that depict animals and plants.
- Talk about different animals and plants, where they can be found and what they need.
- Model, talk about, and allow children to practice cleaning up, watering plants, or caring for animals.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Help the children plant and tend to plants, a garden or trees.
- Take part in a neighborhood clean-up day with the children.
- Take children on nature walks and have discussions about the living things you see.
- Have discussions about where foods come from during meals/snacks,
- Read books about caring for nature.
- Provide animal sorting activities around small toy animals and their different habitats, help students sort the animals into groups based on their habitats. For example, animals who live on land, water, or both. Discuss why each animal belongs to its specific habitat and how they are adapted to live there.

Social Studies

Community

For all ages, ensure your learning environment is inclusive and representative of diverse family backgrounds of your community.

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Name people that you see and ask older infants and toddlers who they see.
- Create a book out of pictures of family members and friends the children know then read the book and name the people together.
- Read books about different people in the community.
- Provide cooperative play opportunities like giving and receiving wagon rides or seesaws.
- Place family photos in the environment.
- Read books about other families, communities and cultures.
- Have special events where family members are invited into the program.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Take the children on a community walk or field trip around the neighborhood or nearby community locations like the fire station, police station, or post office. Point out different buildings and landmarks.
- Discuss roles of community members and encourage children to observe and ask questions about what they see.
- Create puzzles or matching games featuring pictures of community helpers and their tools. For example, a stethoscope for a doctor or a hose for a firefighter. Have children match the pictures or pieces together while discussing the roles of each helper of the community and why they are important.

Economics

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Talk about what the children see, naming things they point at.
- Provide multiples of toys so young children can play together.
- Play a ball rolling game with the children. Encourage them to roll a ball back and forth to each other
- Use large blocks to build a tower with them and knock it over together.
- Have children take turns going down a slide.
- Help children connect to personal items by vocalizing everyday experiences such as, "This coat has your name in it. It belongs to you!"
- Provide ample materials so children can play independently.
- Provide opportunities for children to cooperate with each other.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Set up your dramatic play area with shelves, play food, cash register, and shopping baskets. Encourage children to take turns being customers and discuss concepts such as buying and selling, money, and the roles of the workers in a store.
- Do a "needs vs. wants" sorting activity by providing pictures or cards depicting different items like food, toys, and clothing. Help children sort the items into two categories: needs (things we must have to live) and wants (things we would like to have) and discuss why certain items are considered needs or wants.

Geography

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Cover objects and prompt the child to uncover them.
- Play "peek-a-boo." This helps very young children begin to understand object permanence.
- Name and talk about people they see or people they know in their lives. For example, "What did you and brother play last night? Mom is here to pick you up! Look, Miss Kim is bringing you your snack!"
- Take children on walks through your home, building, and/or neighborhood.
- Narrate what you are doing through the day. For example, "We are going to walk down the hall to visit the kitchen."
- Read books and pictures about familiar and new places.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Set up a sensory bin with materials such as sand, rocks, water, and toy animals and have children create different landforms such as mountains, rivers, and lakes, discuss the characteristics of each landform.
- Choose a cultural celebration from around the world (ex: Chinese New Year), read stories, show pictures, or watch videos related to the celebration and encourage children to create crafts/artwork inspired by the celebration's geography and traditions.
- Provide age-appropriate maps, show children different features on them such as continents, oceans, countries, and cities; use simple language and discuss where things are located and how maps help us understand the world.
- Help the children create their own maps of things like the classroom, playground, school, bedroom or community.

Kansas, United States and World History

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Provide consistent routines.
- Make picture schedules to show what will come next during the day.
- Use sequencing or time order words through the day to narrate what you are doing. For example, "first we will... then we will..., or "all done"
- Include transition techniques like sand timers and picture schedules. Plan consistent/fun routines to change activities

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Introduce children to Kansas state symbols such as the state bird (western Meadowlark), the state flag, and state flower (sunflower), create picture cards or use stickers of these symbols, and let children match each symbol to its names and discuss its significance
- Introduce children to notable Kansans (Amelia Earhart and Dwight D. Eisenhower), show pictures or read simple stories about their achievements, encourage children to draw pictures or act out scenes related to these famous individuals.
- Have children create their own American Flag with appropriate materials, discuss the colors and symbols (stars and stripes) and talk about the meaning of the flag and its history.
- Discuss traditions, food, music, dance, of different Native American tribes from your area.
- Share pictures or videos representing different cultures and countries, discuss cultural diversity and how people around the world have different traditions.

Creative Arts

Dance

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Hold infants close to you as you sway to music.
- Add movement to fingerplay songs.
- Explore different tempos of music to dance to.
- Imitate the movements of animals.
- Dance with ribbons or scarves.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Play dancing games like the freeze game, Hokey Pokey, or other interactive songs.
- Provide scarves for children to dance with.
- Have children dance while trying to balance beanbags on different body parts.
- Have a dance party with a variety of music styles

Music

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Show children how to use their bodies to make noise by clapping, stomping, or clicking their tongues.
- Sing to and teach the children songs and simple rhymes.
- Play music from different genres.
- Allow the children to explore various musical instruments or objects that produce sound.
- Demonstrate and encourage children to tap the beat of music.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Allow children to explore various musical instruments or objects that produce sound.
- Help children create their own instruments.

- Sing and encourage the children to sing songs or simple rhymes.
- Play musical chairs.
- Have a parade and march with instruments.
- Provide materials for the children to create and explore different sounds.
- Do group musical activities that encourage cooperation.
- Have the children repeat a rhythmical pattern.

Dramatic Play

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Engage in healthy pretend play by adding materials to the environment that foster it. For example, play food, people figures, baby dolls, animal playsets, puppets, vehicles, or dress up clothes.
- Use a toy phone to “talk” to children.
- Look at picture books together.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Encourage children to engage in healthy pretend play by adding materials to the environment that foster it. For example, play food, people figures, baby dolls, animal playsets, puppets, vehicles, or dress up clothes.
- Set up new creative themes to explore on a regular basis. For example, grocery store, flower shop, bakery, library, restaurant, post office, or vet clinic.

Visual Arts

Activities to do with children **ages 0-3** might include the following.

- Help the children make collages by having them choose and arrange items on clear contact paper.
- Allow children to explore paint in different ways. For example, with a variety of objects, with different size brushes, or with different types of paint.
- Provide a variety of art supplies that are safe for young children to experiment with like chunky crayons, playdough, paint daubers, or contact paper and tissue paper.
- Have children create using textures by providing a sensory basket with materials of a variety of textures.

Activities to do with children **ages 3-5** might include the following.

- Help children create art with natural materials.
- Allow children to freely explore paint in different ways with a variety of objects.
- Have available a variety of art materials available for children to use in their own way like pipe cleaners, playdough, scissors, tape, crayons, markers, construction paper, stickers, crayons, beads, feathers, contact paper, or magazines.
- Show the children how to do photography with children’s camera.
- Allow children to construct with boxes.