

Preschool Curriculum

Targeted Area: Circle Time

Benefits/Readiness Skills: Circle time is a time to review basic learning skills and to target concepts and ideas relating to the theme and unit. Circle time will provide children the opportunity to learn to recognize their name in print by being shown their picture and name, and be able to recognize themselves and answer if they are in school. As skills emerge, we will ask questions about gender, age, and count the number of children in school, working up to how many boys vs. how many girls and which one has MORE or LESS, as well as how many are ALL TOGETHER. We will count on our calendar, which works on number skills, predicting what number comes next, and learning them in sequence, and learning the days of the week through a song. Children have a chance to help the teacher with calendar and weather, allowing them to participate and answer in a group. We will work on skills relating to our theme, but also relating to the letter of the week. Sorting games, classification games, number and counting games, letter games, and listening and following direction games are all presented in circle time instruction. For example, we may play an apple sorting game with three baskets and children have a chance to come up and put their apple with other ones that are the SAME as their apple. Games will vary in difficulty and length as the children's skills emerge. The same apple activity can then be extended to include counting the apples, comparing more/less, involving different color apples, and sorting them using different characteristics. Every two weeks or so as we start a new theme, we will begin by discussing what we already know about this theme, and maybe what we'd like to know or do as we go along. We will introduce general concepts about this theme, and introduce the projects we will do during this time. We use circle time to explain the project/art activity that we will work on at table time. We share songs that involve basic skills and share news about ourselves and our families. On Monday, our "weekend news" will

allow each child to share something special about their weekend with the class. Circle time is a time when any important information can be shared with the children, such as field trips, special events, fire drills, classroom rules, changes to the schedule or room, etc. Children have the opportunity to ask and answer questions and participate in a whole group setting.