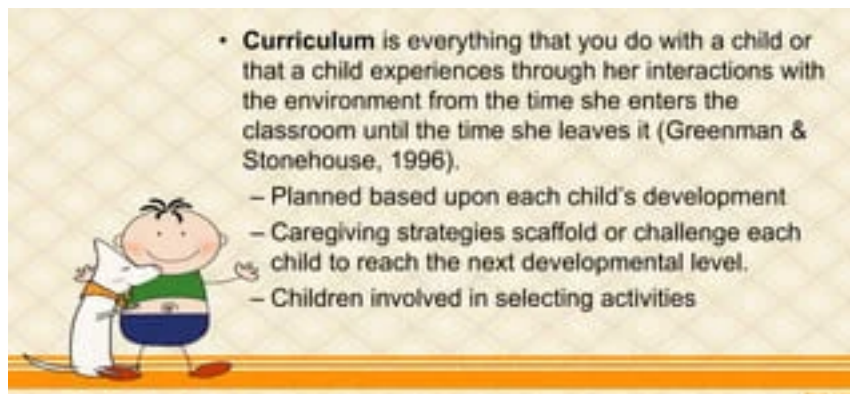




# Blackstone Valley Early Learning Center

## Curriculum Concepts

September 2023-August 2024



**\*\*Differentiated instruction** is an approach to teaching where you actively plan for student's differences so that they can best learn. In a differentiated classroom, you will be able to provide and effectively teach students who have various backgrounds, readiness and skill levels, and interests. Within these concepts, always keep in mind age appropriateness and modify it to age level.

**\*\*Enrichment activities** extend children's learning through new experiences and opportunities that are key to academic success, personal and social development. Enrichment activities are just as important as academics. They both compliment each other to develop well-rounded students and teach them life skills that will prepare them for the future.

**\*\*Family participation activities** are monthly-encouraged and strengthened by parent/teacher communication.

**\*\*If there is a theme you would like to extend or modify, please see the education coordinator**

**\*\*Color of the month usually falls on the second Friday of the month (there are a few exceptions)**

# September 2023

## **Themes**

Getting to know YOU, Favorite things/toys  
All About Me! Head to toe body parts  
Back to school (friends, rules, classroom, names, manners)

## **Social Focus RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS**

**Infant:** Becoming comfortable with caretakers/developing trust  
**Toddler:** Becoming familiar with teachers and friends, developing friendships with caretakers/friends, encouraging an interest in what other children are doing to support parallel play  
**Preschool:** Engaging in positive relationships and interactions with teachers and friends, encouraging cooperative play

## **STEM Activity APPLE SCIENCE**

**Infant:** Observing and holding various types of apples discuss colors  
**Toddler:** Observing and holding various types of apples discuss colors, texture, size, and names of apples  
**Preschool:** Observing and holding various types of apples discuss colors, texture, size, and names of apples  
**How various liquids affect apples (Pinterest)**  
Process of apples rotting-cut and leave out for observation/discuss and record changes

## **Math Concepts SHAPES**

**Infant:** Exploring the shapes in the environment by seeing and touching  
**Toddler:** Point out and name shapes in the environment and toys we play with (box is square) measuring shapes (which one is big?) matching simple shapes (can you find a circle like this one?)  
**Preschool:** Identifying shapes in the environment of various sizes. Sorting by shape, comparing shapes, ordering shapes, shape patterns, measuring shapes, counting shapes

## **Dates/Events/Special Weeks:**

9/4 Labor Day Closed  
**9/5 First Day of School**  
9/6-9/8 Make a special card for  
**GRANDPARENTS TEA**  
**9/8 Grandparents Tea (more details to come)**  
9/15-9/17 Rosh Hashanah/Jewish New Year

**Letters:** S, A, T

**Numbers:** 1, 2, 3

**Color:** **Yellow** (WEAR YELLOW DAY 9/8)

**Shape:** Circle

**Sight Words:** a. and

**Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books:** If You Take a Mouse to School, Froggy Goes to School, David Goes to School, How Do Dinosaurs go to School?, The Kissing Hand, I Like Myself, The Skin You Live In, Amazing You, Five Senses

**Around the World:** Discover how children dress around the world (matching game provided) Pairs of children from the same country dressed alike

**Enrichment: Circle Workout:** Bodies in motion make circles with arms, legs, hands, head, hips, shoulders, etc. Use hula hoops, pair up with a partner using a hula hoop to create circle motions and rocking motions, etc.

**Spanish and Sign Language:** apple, friend, circle, grandma/pa, crayons

**Family Participation Activity:** Welcome! Please take a minute at drop off during the month of September to assist your child to sign in just like you do by placing their apple on our apple tree! This is a great way to encourage your child to recognize their name and create a routine for drop off to help your child settle in!

**Culinary:** Apple tasting with yogurt dip (Granny Smith, Macintosh and Golden)

**Art Medium:** Fall artificial flowers to paint with

# October 2023

## Themes

Pumpkins and Pies  
Fall colors, leaves, squirrels, acorns, trees  
Halloween/Scarecrows/Costumes  
Differences/Disability awareness  
**10/9-10/13: Community Helpers (Fire Safety Week) (FIREMAN VISIT TBD)**

## Social Focus **ADJUSTING TO SCHOOL**

**Infant:** Separating from adults with ease, bonding with teachers, introduction to tummy time circle  
**Toddler:** Adjusting to daily routines/beginning to clean up after self, introduction to group time  
**Preschool:** Adjusting to daily routines/handling one's emotions/gaining self control/cleaning up after self by putting toys back in correct areas/bins/putting coat away, cleaning up after snack/lunch/project

## STEM Activity **PUMPKIN EXPLORATION**

**Infant:** Exploring pumpkins of various sizes and textures by touch and rolling  
**Toddler:** Exploring pumpkins of various sizes and textures by touch. Observe the outside of the pumpkin, hold it to feel the weight cut open and examine the inside (touch seeds, pulp, smell it)  
**Preschool:** Exploring pumpkins of various sizes and textures by touch. Observe the outside of pumpkin, hold it to feel the weight, cut open and examine the inside (touch seeds, pulp, smell it) Use a spoon to scoop out seeds and save for later. Leave out to watch the rotting process/record observations. Dissect a pumpkin, separate in divided dish and label parts.

## Math Concepts **COMPARE AND SORT LEAVES**

**Infant:** Explore various types of leaves by using your senses (touch, hearing, smell, sight.) Feel the smooth one, hear the crunchy one, smell them, crumble, see the fall colors.  
**Toddler:** Pass various types of leaves around to hold and feel. Discuss the colors, textures and size (smooth, crunchy, small, big) What colors do you see? Which one is red? Look at this big one!  
**Preschool:** Pass various types of leaves around to hold and feel. Discuss the colors, textures and sizes and sort them by various attributes. Discuss which trees produce what leaves/shapes etc.

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks:

Wagon Hayrides All Month  
**10/6 Fall Assessments Due**  
10/9 Indigenous People's Day BVELC Closed  
**10/13 Assessments out to Families**  
10/23-27 Begin decorating class pumpkin for contest on 10/27: Each class will participate, please have ready for display at party  
10/27 Halloween Party! Children are able to wear their Halloween Costumes to School  
**10/30 Halloween Pajama Day!** Room on a Broom Presentation!

**Letters:** I, P, N, C

**Numbers:** 4, 5, 6, 7

**Color:** **Orange** (WEAR ORANGE DAY 10/13)

**Shape:** Square

**Sight Words:** away, big

**Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books:** Fall Season, Leaves, Trees, Harvest, Pumpkins, Halloween, Disabilities/Differences, Perfect Square by Michael Hall, Spookley the Square Pumpkin by Joe Troiano, Same Same But Different by Jenny Sue Kosteck-Shaw

**Around the World:** Say Hello in 15 Different Languages (provided on poster)

**Enrichment: Multicultural Instruments/Movements** Children follow rhythmic patterns and movements listening to the multicultural styles and rhythms while experimenting with various musical instruments

**Spanish and Sign Language:** pumpkin, leaves, music, square, count 1-5 in Spanish

**Family Participation:** Decorate or paint a mini pumpkin and return it to school to be placed in the BVELC fall pumpkin patch in the front of the school to display it. You can also donate other Halloween decorations for our lobby!

**Art Medium:** Pumpkin tops/stems to dip in paint and stamp with

# November 2023

## Themes:

Harvest, growth cycle of crops, farming, corn  
Fuzzy furry animals (bunnies, guinea pig, hamster)  
Family and Loved Ones

**11/20-11/24:** Early settlers, Ingenious people, turkeys,  
Thanksgiving, cornucopia

## Social Focus **KINDNESS & EMPATHY**

**Infant:** Make sure to find plenty of opportunities for your children to see you being kind and supportive, provide opportunities to connect with others, develop infant's trust in meeting their needs

**Toddler:** Encourage kind hands and words, demonstrate kind acts and helping others, provide words for children to express themselves "I'm mad", let children help with small tasks

**Preschool:** Help children deal with conflicts in less aggressive ways, help and support others. Encourage kind words and explain others' feelings because of a situation.

## STEM Activity **FALL CINNAMON SLIME**

Children will help add ingredients to Cinnamon Slime Recipe  
Ingredients:

In a bowl, pour the entire 5oz bottle of clear glue

Add in 1/2 cup water

1/2 teaspoon baking soda-stir

Add in glitter, red and gold for fall finish (optional)

Add a couple drops of cinnamon essential oil (ONLY A COUPLE, SERIOUSLY)

Pour in some of the fall leaves

Add 1 tablespoon contact solution-it will instantly form

Knead the slime until it is no longer sticky-play and discover

Store in an airtight container

Younger: Add cinnamon scent to slime

## Math Concepts **COUNTING & EXPERIMENTS**

**Infant:** Counting 1-5 with real gourds, mini pumpkins, apples with teachers

**Toddler:** Counting 1-10, 1-20 with real gourds, mini pumpkins, apples with teachers/simple matching (which one is big like this one?) group same together (apples with apples, gourds with gourds)

**Preschool:** Count the gourds, mini pumpkins, apples (one to one) 1-20. Measuring gourds with a ruler (standard), Unifix cubes (not standard), group same to gather by shape, weight, color

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks:

11/1 Adopt a Soldier Collection Begins

11/6-11/9 Cards for Veterans

11/10 Veteran's Day BVELC Closed

11/20 Adopt a Soldier Items Due

**11/22 Thanksgiving Friends Feast**

11/23-11/24 Thanksgiving Recess BVELC Closed

**Letters:** K, E, H

**Numbers:** 8, 9, 10

**Color:** **Brown** (WEAR BROWN DAY 11/17)

**Shape:** Rectangle

**Sight Words:** blue, can

## Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books

Turkeys, Harvest, Crops, Family, Early Settlers, Scarecrow, Squirrels, Harvest, Thanksgiving, Kindness, Empathy, Fruits/Vegetables

**Around the World** Thanksgiving is about being generous and grateful for the people you have in your life. Even though the idea behind the festival is similar across the world, every country has a unique way of celebrating it. Explore [Thanksgiving Traditions Around the World](#) with the children. (7 Thanksgiving Traditions & Celebrations Around the World: Leverage Edu)

**Enrichment** Read "How to Catch a Turkey" by Wallace and Elkerton, then introduce the activity: Draw, color and cut out a turkey provide building material options for children to design a hiding place for Turkey. Use materials such as magnetic blocks, wooden blocks, foam blocks, etc. Create a for or house for the turkey to hide/live in. It can be the pretend classroom pet!

**Spanish and Sign Language** turkey, brown, family, friends.

**Family Participation** Everyone has a story. Help your child draw a picture that helps tell their story! We will create a school wide book with everyone's photos and stories of their own! Return to school by Thanksgiving for display!

**Culinary** Taste test and chart holiday pies! Children taste test apple, pumpkin and cherry pies, then vote on their favorite. Teacher will create a graph organizing their answers: grouping, sorting, counting, organizing data

**Art Medium** Feathers, use as a spreader or write with

# December 2023

## Themes

**12/4-12/8 Gingerbread Community Week!** All classrooms will create a gingerbread house to display for voting! Due by 12/8.... Voting starts Monday 12/11

Seasonal traditions (stockings, wreaths, decorations, cocoa, red ribbons, green garlands

Elves, reindeer and snowmen

## Social Focus **TEACHABLE MOMENTS/CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

**Infant:** Model empathy, talk about feelings, label emotions with words, comfort and include the child, model gentle hands, reassure child

**Toddler:** Let children know through your calm approach that conflicts are okay and that they can be resolved with help. Describe each child's facial expressions and make the same expression yourself. This can help toddlers feel more understood. Name feelings and talk them through the conflict. Calm them with gentle touches and a soft voice.

**Preschool:** 1. Help identify the conflict (let each child state the problem. 2. Find potential solutions by asking each child how we can solve it. 3. Reach a consensus and implement the agreed upon solution. In this approach, the teacher facilitates the problem-solving process by asking open-ended questions and allowing the children to generate their own solutions. "When do you want to share?" "When can Tommy have a turn?" "How will Tommy know when you are done?" Kids become better problem solvers when they learn how to find solutions on their own.

## STEM Activity **MELTING SNOWMAN**

**Infant:** Child holds snowball in their hand and lets the warmth melt the snow (solid to liquid)-tell the child what is happening

**Toddler:** Child holds snowball in their hand and lets the warmth melt the snow (solid to liquid)-tell the child what is happening. Offer different size snowballs (small, medium, large)

**Preschool:** Child holds snowball in their hand and lets the warmth melt the snow (solid to liquid)-tell the child what is happening and explain melting. Offer different size snowballs (small, medium, large) Extend the experiment by demonstrating the impact temperature has on melting rates. Place one in freezer, one in the refrigerator, one at room temperature on a table. Ask where they think the snowballs will melt the quickest and where the child thinks the snowballs will melt the slowest. They can write their predictions down, make a class chart.

## Math Concepts **SORTING CHRISTMAS BOWS**

**Infant:** Use "Math Talk" while introducing various Christmas bows by size and color. "This bow is big and red" "This bow is small and green" etc.

**Toddler:** Use "Math Talk" while introducing various Christmas bows by size and color. "This bow is big and red" "This bow is small and green" etc. Toddlers stick the colored bows on matching-colored placemats or paper with encouragement and guidance from teachers

**Preschool:** Children take out bows, organize in piles by color or size or both and then graph them by sticking them in correct columns on the board. Children will then identify small, medium, large bows and count each category

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks

12/5 & 12/6 School Picture Day

12/7-12/8

12/11-12/15

12/18-12/22

**TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!**

12 DAYS OF STAFF SURPRISES BEGIN (STAFF CHECK MAILBOXES DAILY)

12/8 Classroom Gingerbreads due

12/8-12/15 Hanukkah

12/11 Gingerbread Voting

12/11 Start Ornaments for Parents

**12/13 Reindeer Pancake Breakfast**

12/13 St. Lucia's Day (Festival of Lights)

12/19 Staff Secret Santa Sock Swap & Lunch

12/25-12/26 Christmas Break BVELC Closed

12/29 PD Day BVELC Early Release 12:00pm

**SANTA VISIT TBD**

**Letters:** Review letters

**Numbers:** Review 1-10

**Color:** **Red** (WEAR RED DAY 12/8)

**Shape:** Triangle

**Sight Words:** come, down

## Suggested Author/Concepts/Books

Christmas traditions, giving, seasonal decorations, gingerbread, snowmen, elves, polar express, Santa, reindeer, holiday gatherings, holiday foods, Santa's workshop, North Pole/Ezra Jack Keets, Mark Beuhner, Wilson & Chapman, Anna Dewdney, Norman Bridwell, James Dean

**Around the World** Christmas, Hanukkah, North Pole, New Years, Symbolic Decorations, social gatherings, family traditions, scenery, cold climates, holiday sounds, icebergs

**Enrichment** Red and green holiday icy cold popsicle stick painting

**Spanish and Sign Language** snow, deer, bow

**Family Participation** Children will receive a tree cut out with some decorations, help your child

**Culinary** Decorate Christmas cookies on Pajama Day 12/13

**Art Medium** Christmas package bows or ribbons to use for painting, gluing or dragging

# December 2023 Continued...

12 Days of Christmas Outfits!!!! 12/7-12/8, 12/11-12/15, 12/18-12/22  
STAFF PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED

12/7	Day 1	HOLIDAY PAJAMA DAY!
12/8	Day 2	GROUCHY GRINCH-WEAR GREEN
12/11	Day 3	TRIM A TREE! WEAR GARLAND, RIBBONS, BOWS, BEADS AND BANGLES IN YOUR HAIR OR WEAR AS GEAR ON YOUR PERSON!
12/12	Day 4	SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS: DRESS LIKE AN ELF
12/13	Day 5	RUDOLPH THE RED NOSE REINDEER WEAR HOLIDAY RED AND A RED NOSE! (ANTLERS OPTIONAL)
12/14	Day 6	BE GLAD AND WEAR CHRISTMAS PLAID!
12/15	Day 7	HOHOHO WEAR A SANTA HAT
12/18	Day 8	LONG WINTER'S NAP-WEAR PAJAMAS AND COZY CHRISTMAS SOCKS
12/19	Day 9	FEELING FROSTY? WEAR SNOWY WHITE OR BABY BLUE
12/20	Day 10	HOLIDAY SHIRT OR FESTIVE OUTFIT OF YOUR CHOICE!
12/21	Day 11	CRAZY HOLIDAY HAIR: WEAR HAIR ACCESSORY, WINTER HAT OR SPRAY COLOR YOUR HAIR!
12/22	Day 12	POLAR BEAR, POLAR BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE? WEAR SOMETHING WHITE, FLUFFY AND WARM

## **Staff Secret Santa Stocking Exchange!**

Buy a pair of holiday/patterned socks and stuff them with an assortment of goodies (gift cards, treats, anything that may fit in the stocking) Tie them together with a bow and leave them under the staff Christmas tree on 12/19, for the exchange party. Your stocking will be tagged with a number. Every staff member will choose a number from a Santa hat and the sock having that number is yours!  
**Lunch will be provided for the celebration!**

**Holiday staff AFTER Christmas Party**

**Friday 1/19/2024!**

## **ALL CLASSROOMS**

Create a Christmas ornament for families by placing the child's picture in the center of a doily. The child decorates around the picture with glitter, buttons, jewels, paint, etc. Add child's name, date-laminate and add string for hanging on the tree!

# January 2024

## Themes

Snowy Day Attire (mittens, coats, hats, boots)  
Winter Teddy Bear Tea Party  
Winter in the Woods (woodland animals, snow, trees, berries, log cabins)  
Dynamite Dinos and Dragons  
Arctic Animals

## Social Focus CONFIDENCE AND HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

**Infant:** Encourage and provide attempts, "you can do it!" Statements, smile, clap, show excitement when child reaches a goal or completes a task, comfort and promote effort

**Toddler:** Encourage and provide attempts, allow chances to try new things, "mistakes are okay", try again, clap, smile, be specific, with the compliment, "you carried your own lunchbox!", instead of "good job" It is okay if it doesn't work, try something else

**Preschool:** Build on their strengths, encourage them to complete a task, try again and again, never give up, never compare them to others, teach and role model positive self-talk, be flexible, mistakes are okay, give specific praise, "I like how you chose to use that tube as a ramp for the marbles"

## STEM Activity THE SNOWY DAY SENSORY WALK

**Infant:** paint infants' feet light blue/white, press feet on large paper (walkers can walk on large paper with support so they don't slip) create footprints in the snow like in the story, "The Snowy Day"

**Toddlers:** Paint bottom of toddlers' feet light blue/white-have toddlers walk all along paper tracking snow prints in the snow like the story, "The Snowy Day"

**Preschool:** Children dip feet in light blue/white paint in tray/plate, children can walk across a large sheet of paper. They can also paint the bottom of each other's feet. When complete, they step in a sudsy bucket to wash feet, towel dry!

## Math Concepts ICE CUBE SNOW BLOCKS/SUGAR CUBE DESIGNS

**Infant:** Ice cube tray snow blocks can be prepared ahead of time. Scoop snow into ice cube trays outside and bring it in for play. Dump snow blocks out on tray or table and let the child explore by touch and taste. Demonstrate stacking snow blocks on top of one another. Offer vocabulary such as "cold, snow, white"

**Toddler:** Ice cube tray snow blocks can be prepared ahead of time. Dump the snow blocks out on tray or table and let the child explore. Encourage vocabulary such as "cold, snow, white". Encourage stacking snow blocks one on top of another-add food coloring to extend interest and imagination.

**Preschool:** Thinking about the location and dimensions of objects and how they relate to one another will be developed while preschoolers stack and layer either ice cube tray snow blocks or sugar blocks to form igloos and snow structures. Add food coloring, toothpicks, straws, etc. to extend learning and design possibilities.

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks

1/1 Happy New Year! BVELC Closed  
1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day BVELC Closed  
1/29-2/2 Portfolios Due for review in office all week!

**Letters:** R, M, D, G

**Numbers:** 11, 12, 13, 14

**Color:** White (WEAR WHITE DAY 1/12)

**Shape:** Diamond

**Sight Words:** find, for

## Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books

New Year's Celebrations, The Mitten, Arctic Animals, teddy bears, tea parties, dinosaurs, prehistoric animals, favorite winter books & characters, snowy weather. The Mitten, The Hat by Jan Brett, Dinosaurs Galore by Giles Andrea and David Wojtowycz, Dinosaurs Roar by Paul and Henrietta Stickland, The Snowy Day by Keats, I Like Me by Carlson, I Like Myself by Beaumont

**Around the World** What is an igloo? A type of shelter or hut built of compacted snow, typically built when the snow is too deep to survive the extreme cold as well as for shelter in the winter months in small villages. The Inuit, better known as Eskimos invented the igloo centuries ago. The igloo was means for hunters to survive brutal winters in a small vast area spanning more than 3,500 miles, including Eastern Siberia, Greenland, Alaska and parts of Canada.

**Enrichment** Bring snow inside and add ice cream scoopers and plastic dishes. Pretend ice cream shops can be so fun and creative. Add cool aid mix for smell and color. Older-create a menu of flavors and sizes to purchase from the ice cream shop.

**Spanish and Sign Language** dinosaur, mittens, hat, animal

**Family Participation** Snowman paper bag people! A white paper bag and supplies will be available for your family to take home to create a face and snowman! We will display in our lobby winter wonderland!

**Culinary** We will have an ice cream sundae day! (Relates to our enrichment activity)

**Art Medium** White snowballs (white balloons dipped in paint or cotton balls clipped on clothespins) or white play dough and rollers.

# February 2024

## Themes

Dental Health Month!/Caring for our bodies, dentists, doctors, nurses  
One week teacher's choice theme  
Valentine's Day  
Animal Crackers  
2/26-3/1 Dr. Seuss Spirit Week! 3/2 Dr. Seuss Happy Birthday!

### Dr. Seuss Wacky Week!

- Monday: Horton Hears a WHO- Crazy Hair/Hat
- Tuesday: I Can Read With My Eyes Shut- Wear a shirt that others can read (has a saying on it)
- Wednesday: Fox in Socks- Wear crazy socks
- Thursday: There's a Wocket in my Pocket- Wear clothes with pockets
- Friday: My Many Colored Days- **Infants RED** **Toddler 1 ORANGE** **Toddler 2 Green**  
**Toddler 3 Blue** **Preschool Pink** **Pre-K Purple** **K-Prep Yellow**

**Social Focus Self Care** The goal of self-care is for your child to begin to explore independence and what I tools like to care for their own needs in a self-directed manner

**Infant:** Introduce developmentally appropriate activities to begin feeding the infant's natural desire for learning and independence. Provide opportunities to foster growth by providing a comfortable environment to feed, sleep, groom, explore, grasp, climb, crawl, walk, and balance. Allow for child-directed exploration.

**Toddler:** Introduce developmentally appropriate activities to use the toilet, wash hands, put on and take off coats, clean up after self, wipe nose, use a spoon and generally function in a classroom environment.

**Preschool:** Introduce developmentally appropriate activities to encourage independence in getting own lunch box, hanging up coat, dressing self, using the bathroom, cleaning up toys, washing hands/face, blowing nose, filling own cups, preparing bedding on cot for nap, using scissors, getting own silverware, opening own snacks, etc.

## STEM Activity Types of Landforms (volcanos, hills, islands, canyons, deserts, oceans, jungles, mountains, marshes, rivers, waterfalls, plains)

**Infant:** Touch and feel various rocks (bumpy, smooth), finger-paint a landform

**Toddler:** Touch and feel various rocks (bumpy, smooth) use play dough to form a mountain, volcano or hill, place out felt pieces as body of water blue (water) and green (grass) with play animals. Water table, sand table with animals or people. Paint a landform using hands, brushes, sponges, etc.

**Preschool:** Discuss types of landforms, how they form and locations. Geology activities can include an erupting volcano, land form diorama, or making a landform scene with your class using sand, clay, play dough, various collage materials

**Fizzy Waterfall Activity:** line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Flip mega blocks over so that you can fill them with baking soda. Let kids squirt vinegar onto the blocks using a squirt bottle or eye droppers.

**Art Medium** Watercolors to form landforms and scenery

**Culinary** Children will make chocolate candies for their Valentines

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks

Black History Month  
2/2 Groundhog Day  
2/6 100th Day of school!  
2/7 I <3 the 80's Valentine Dance (5:30-7:30)  
2/13-2/14 Valentine Gifts for Families  
2/13 Mardi Gras  
2/14 Valentine's Day Dress your best!  
2/19 President's Day BVELC Closed  
2/26-3/1 Dr. Seuss Spirit Week!  
2/29 Leap Day-Leap Year!

Letters: O, L, F

Numbers: 15, 16, 17

Color: Pink (WEAR PINK DAY 2/9)

Shape: Heart

Sight Words: funny, go

**Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books** Snow, Valentines, dental health, body systems, nutrition, eating healthy, space/astronomy

**Around the World** Types of houses to build using popsicle sticks (skyscrapers, castles, cottages, villas, condos, apartments, detached house, tents, etc.)

**Enrichment** (Architecture) using popsicle sticks, stacked cups and foam blocks

**Spanish and Sign Language** love, pink, heart, toothbrush, tooth

**Family Participation** Sticky notes will be provided in the front hall at drop-off time. Please take a minute to write your answer down to the question... I LOVE MY CHILD..... Share the love <3 for your child with others!

## Math Concepts Size

**Infant:** Infants begin to learn about size by recognizing that some things are small and some are big by sight and touch. Provide materials for exploration

**Toddler:** Toddlers can learn about size by exploring and using sorting cups (graduated sizes, stacking toys, various size balls, nesting toys. "Which one is big? Which one is small?")

**Preschool:** Preschoolers use materials of various sizes: counters (bears, dinosaurs, etc.) sorting by size, puzzles, tangrams, measuring cups, unit building blocks, legos (ordering by size, ordering by short/tall, small, medium, large)



## Themes

Birds, bees and butterflies

Kites/windsocks, mobiles

St. Patrick's Day (Make a leprechaun trap 3/15)

3/25-3/29 Easter, eggs, bunnies, baskets

## Social Focus Empathy Towards Others

**Infant:** Babies illicit a natural sense of empathy, so give a voice to those who can't speak for themselves. Explore with them different human emotions. "You seem sad, your friend is mad, you seemed scared, you look so happy!" The first step to successfully empathizing with others is being able to identify one's own feelings!

**Toddler:** Kids can't empathize with what others are feeling if they don't know how to put words to their own emotions (vocabulary) "You seem sad, your friend is mad, you seemed scared, you look so happy!"

**Preschool:** Use the six steps of conflict resolution to guide children to understanding others' perspectives during conflict and how to value other people's opinions and ideas just as they value their own.

1. Neutralize the situation 2. Gather information 3. Define the problem  
4. General solutions/ideas 5. Evaluate ideas 6. Decide on a solution or plan and follow through

\*All ages read books that build empathy. Empathy describes a person's ability to emotionally understand what someone else is going through. An empathetic person can see things from another person's point of view.

## STEM Activity Oobleck

Oobleck with cornstarch and water is a classic science activity every kid needs to experience. This Easter oobleck experiment explores the question: "What are the properties of a non-newtonian fluid? Oobleck is a combination of cornstarch and water. The oobleck recipe is one cup of water and one cup of cornstarch, sometimes an additional 1/2 cup of cornstarch is needed to thicken mixture. Add plastic Easter eggs to explore the properties of the oobleck substance

## Math Concepts Math

Children form ideas about math through everyday experiences and, most importantly, through interactions with trusted adults. Language-how we speak with children about math ideas, like 1/2 empty vs. 1/2 full

**Infant:** "I'll put the blocks in the bucket, you dump them out! I put the blocks back in the bucket, you dump them out"

**Toddler:** "Let's sort! Lets put the blocks in the bucket and cars in the basket!"

**Preschool:** "I have more crackers than you do. See, I have 1, 2, 3 and you have 1, 2. I'm going to eat one of mine. Now I have the same as you!"

**Art Medium** Plastic Easter eggs (use in sand, water, play dough, oobleck)

PRE-K/K-PREP ORDER PUBLISHING  
KIT FOR GRADUATION BOOKS BY  
3/1

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks

3/2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday

3/8 International Woman's Day

3/17 St. Patrick's Day

3/20 First Day of Spring

3/22 Parent Appreciation Day (National Day 23rd)

3/28 Easter egg hunt

3/29 Good Friday BVELC Closes 12:00pm

3/31 Easter Sunday

**Letters:** B, Q, U

**Numbers:** 18, 19, 20

**Color:** Green (WEAR GREEN DAY 3/15)

**Shape:** Oval

**Sight Words:** help, here

**Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books** Any title of books beginning with B, Q, U, Easter, Birds, Bees, Bunnies, St. Patrick's Day

**Around the World** The three types of bees in our area that most people encounter are:

**Bumble bees:** They have plump, furry bodies with a few wide black and yellow bands. These social insects nest underground or in cool, shaded areas like rodent burrows.

**Carpenter bees:** Easily mistaken for bumble bees, this species has dense white or golden hair on their upper bodies with smooth, dark abdomens. Carpenter bees do not form colonies, but they do dig tunnels into unfinished wood to lay their eggs

**Honey bees:** The smaller of the three common bees in Rhode Island. These insects have short, tan fur with slim stripes on their lower bodies. Colonies create hives and produce beeswax as well as honey.

**Enrichment** Using Easter baskets in the block area, children will learn about weight by filling the basket up and carrying it. Offer various sized baskets-add a scale to weigh the baskets

**Spanish and Sign Language** eggs, basket, birds, bees, spring

**Family Participation** Bring a green shamrock home and decorate with your family! You can use stickers, sparkles, gems, and all sorts of different things! Return your shamrock to school before St. Patrick's day to display in our lobby!

## Themes

All Things Sticky (glue, honey, syrup, stickers, sticky notes, contact paper, tape, jelly, wallpaper, slime, velcro, lollipops)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Clean Earth

Planets, space, astronauts, rocket ships, moon, sun, stars

Tropical climates and tropical animals (mountain gorilla, jaguar, capybaras, three toed sloths, macaw birds, howler monkey lemurs, anaconda, tapir)

4/8-4/12 Week of the Young Child (NAEYC)

## Social Focus Self Regulation

Self regulation is the ability to understand and manage your behavior and your reactions to feelings and the things happening around you.

**Infant & Toddler:** Infants and young children cannot regulate their emotions on their own. They need loving adults to help them immediately regulate their emotions and behaviors and also learn skills to do so independently. As an adult, model behavior such as responsiveness. Be patient, talk about emotions, soothe and help them self soothe and keep a routine.

**Preschool:** Role model and provide "calm down" strategies (tools to manage behavior) Encourage taking deep breaths and counting backwards from 5. Have clear rules and expectations that help your children understand what behavior is expected of them, ex. "Use your words to show your feelings." Praise your children when they show self-control and follow the rules, ex. "I liked the way that you shared with Sam when he asked."

## STEM Activity Recycle and Reuse Natural Items

**Infant:** Finger paint large shells (6mo+) or drop and drag shells in paint trays (Infant 2)

**Toddlers:** Finger-paint or use brushes to paint shells, a large branch or large rocks. Offer many color choices and tools to try. Add glitter or paste on items.

**Preschool:** Go on a nature walk to find natural items (branches/rocks) Paint them using sponges, brushes, toothbrushes. Add glitter, glue and gems. Turn branches into a mobile when dry by hanging painted shells.

## Math Concepts Asteroid Velocity Throw

**Infant:** Place a large bucket with a wide opening or a low laundry basket on the floor. Have balls of aluminum foil (asteroids) prepared for the child to throw into the basket. The younger infants will need help from teachers to hold and guide the ball into the basket. Make sure balls are large enough to not cause any safety issues and remove after game.

**Toddler & Preschool:** Place a large bucket with a wide opening or a low laundry basket on the floor. Have balls of aluminum foil (asteroids) prepared for the children to throw. Older children can use a cardboard with a large hole cut out from it as a target to aim (prepared ahead) Use speed, motion and direction vocabulary words with the children such as, "throw fast, slow, hard, gentle." etc.

## Week of the Young Child (WOYC) NAEYC

**Monday:** Music Monday

**Tuesday:** Tasty Tuesday

**Wednesday:** Work Together Wednesday

**Thursday:** Artsy Thursday

**Friday:** Family Friday

More Information to  
Come :)

## Dates/Events/Special Weeks

4/2 Autism Awareness Day **WEAR BLUE**

4/22 Earth Day

4/22-4/26 **Portfolio Review All Week**  
**Project Chick Presentation This Month!**  
(Date TBD)

**Letters:** J, Z, W, V

**Numbers:** 21, 22, 23, 24

**Color:** **Blue** (WEAR BLUE DAY 4/2)

**Shape:** Star

**Sight Words:** I, in

## Suggested Author/Concepts/Books

Planets, space, astronauts, color blue, Earth, Hawaii, Hawaiian flowers, tropical climates and places, tropical animals & reptiles

**Around the World** Types of flowers and plants found only in Hawaii. Hawaii is home to some of the most beautiful flora on the entire Earth. With its tropical climate, it's also home to many different flower types, some of which are very rare and endangered.

**\*\*Choose one of the flowers (attached) to drawn, cut out and color\*\***

**Enrichment** Movements in the garden (balance, stretching, focus)

**\*\*Garden yoga for kids (attached)\*\***

**Spanish and Sign Language** Earth, planet, rocket, blue, flowers

**Family Participation** April Showers Brings May Flowers! Decorate a paper umbrella at home and bring it back to school to add to our school mobile! We will place umbrellas over our lobby's garden to represent the saying!

## Themes

Rocks and Flower Gardens (every child in each classroom will paint a rock to add to our rock garden!)

Farm, farm animals, & sounds

Flowers/Planting/Gardening/Vegetables

5/27-5/31 Caterpillars and Butterflies

### Very Hungry Caterpillar Counting Week!

Read the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

**Tuesday:** Apples- Make 1 paper plate apple with a hole in it

Pears- Make 2 pears from playdough & paint them green

**Wednesday:** Plums- Create a plum tree and use 3 purple

thumbprints to represent the 3 plums, add leaves

**Thursday:** Strawberries- Cut out 4 red hearts and paste down, add stems and seeds

**Friday:** Oranges- Make a fist and dip it into orange paint 5 times to represent 5 oranges.

## Social Focus Pretend to be a Farm Animal

**Infant:** During tummy time stories, read books about the farm and make the sounds of the animals. Place pictures of animals on the walls at the children's eye level to observe. Offer animal toys and musical animal sound spinners. Sing "Old MacDonald Has a Farm"

**Toddler:** Read books about the farm and encourage making the sound of the animals. Ask the children what animals they see and what sound that animal makes. Place pictures of the animals on the walls at children's eye level to observe. Offer animal toys and musical animal sound spinners. Sing "Old MacDonald Has a Farm"

**Preschool:** What animals live on a farm? Can you name some? What sounds do they make? Can you make the sound? Follow up with the children drawing a barn and some farm animals they are able to recall-journal with the prompt: "If you had a farm, what would it look like and what animals would be found living there?"

## STEM Activity Nature Stroll

**Infant:** Take a walk in the strollers and observe nature (birds, trees, clouds, flowers, bugs, etc.) Point out items and let them listen for nature sounds. Stroll by the gross motor room and see the garden planted by our "upperclassmen"

**All Other Groups:** Collect items on your walk around the play yards to contribute to the sensory table in your classroom. Wood chips, sticks, dandelions, leaves, grass, etc.

**Arts Medium** Play dough: Create caterpillars, offer jewels, buttons, other decorations to design the caterpillar.

## Dates/Weeks/Special Events

5/6-5/10 Teacher Appreciation Week

5/5 Cinco de Mayo

5/6 BVELC Rock Garden Begins

Start Mother's Day Gifts

5/12 Mother's Day

5/27-5/31 The Very Hungry Caterpillar Week

5/28 Caterpillar Foods Picnic Feast (picnic outside with snacks provided)

5/27 Memorial Day BVELC Closed

5/31 Assessments Due to Stephanie

Letters: Y, X

Numbers: 25

Color: Purple (WEAR PURPLE DAY 5/10)

Shape: Pentagon

Sight Words: is, it

## Suggested Authors/Concepts/Books

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Bear and the Big Red Ripe Strawberry, The Big Red Barn, Mother's Day books, gardening, planting

**Around the World** 10 Scariest Spiders in the world.-Depth World

Spiders belong to the arachnid family and are categorized into arthropods. The scariest spiders in the world consist of eight legs with tiny hair-like structures all around the legs. Scariest spider catches its prey with the help of their natural capability of web making. They feed on other small arthropods and other spiders. Show photos of spiders & discuss their characteristics: camel spider, yellow sac spider, six-eyed sand spider, black widow, armed spider, mouse spider, wolf spider, hobo spider, Sydney spider, and zebra spider.

**Enrichment** Flannel Board Stories (Language/Literacy) Interactive flannel board and storytelling of the Very Hungry Caterpillar-encourage involvement and participation in placing pieces on board. Encourage language by asking questions-tell me about it... what happened when...

**Spanish and Sign Language** pear, mother, strawberry, orange, caterpillar

**Family Participation** Participate in painting/decorating a rock to add to our rock garden outside!

We will begin planting different fruits/flowers/vegetables in our gardens this month with Miss Stephanie!

# June 2024

## Themes

Diversity-A world made of differences-gender, culture, family structures, skin tone, physical abilities and characteristics, clothing  
Under the Sea Creatures  
Beach  
Cars/Trucks/Construction  
6/24-6/28 Fourth of July, American Flag, Fireworks, Stars & Stripes

## Social Focus Self-Control and Self-Regulation (Positive Phrasing)

**Infant & Toddler:** Encourage the first step, the attempt to dress self, the child that throws away their own trash, the child that sat through a story, the child who used the potty, etc. Compliment every child when you catch them following directions, playing cooperatively, sharing, saying nice words to others, treating others with kindness, etc. Always phrase guidance in a positive way and tell child what you want them to do. "Nice hands, inside voices, sand in the bucket, we throw balls, not toys."

**Preschool:** Praise every child when you catch them following directions, playing cooperatively, sharing, saying nice words to others, treating others with kindness, etc. Be specific in your praise, instead saying "Good job!", try saying "I saw that you shared your blocks with Sally, that was kind of you." Always phrase guidance in a positive way and tell a child what you want them to do or what is expected. "Walking feet" vs. "no running", "Quiet voices" vs. "no yelling", etc.

## Math Concepts:Relationship between numbers and the quantity they represent

**Infant:** Focus on the concept of 1. "Here is 1 cookie", "I see 1 block"

**Toddler:** Focus on 1-5, older 1-10-count blocks, crackers, fingers, search for numbers for number recognition-familiarize children with numbers and that they represent a set amount

**Preschool:** Recognize numbers 1-20+ by sight, count the number of objects they represent by having children count blocks one to one (each block is a number) Trace numbers, number bingo, number puzzles, number spots on the floor to stand (child tells you what number they are on)

## Stem Activity: What is a rainbow?

**Infant:** Colors in the sky-name the colors that make up a rainbow and point to some rainbows in books, if one is in the sky, show the children

**Toddler:** A rainbow is an arc of color in the sky that can be seen when the sun shines through falling rain. The pattern of colors starts with red on the outside and changes through orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet on the inside. Review colors that make up a rainbow and point to some rainbows in books, if one is in the sky, show the children.

**Preschool:** A rainbow is a meteorological phenomenon that is caused by reflection, refraction (bending of light) and dispersion of light in water droplets resulting in a spectrum of light appearing in the sky.

## Dates/Weeks/Special Events

6/7 Evaluations out to parents  
6/10 Start Father's Day Gifts  
6/16 **Father's Day**  
6/19 Juneteenth **BVELC Closed**  
6/20 First Day of SUMMER!!!  
6/21 **K-Prep Graduation Time TBD**  
6/24 First Day of Summer Kick Off Party!  
(Official Start of Water Play!)

Letters: Review

Numbers: Review

Color: Review (RAINBOW!)

Shape: Octagon

Sight Words: Review

## Suggested Authors/Books/Concepts:

Diversity, inclusion, cultures, abilities, sea creatures, beach, rainbows, Fourth of July, transportation

## Around the World:

Children can explore attire worn all around the world. They can learn new vocabulary, styles, and traditions. Follow up by making an African-Kenya Maasai necklaces using paper plates, markers, stickers, and pipe cleaners.

## Spanish and Sign Language:

Father, rainbow, summer, fish

## Family Participation:

Parent Pride: What has your child learned this year? What accomplishments have they achieved? Tell us on a sticky note and place it on the white board near the sign-in area.

## Art Medium:

Sensory shaving cream with rainbow sprinkles

