



Blackstone Valley Early Learning Center

Curriculum Concepts

September 2025 -August 2026

**** Differentiated instruction** is an approach to teaching where you actively plan for students' 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 complement each other to develop well-rounded students and teach them life skills that will prepare them for the future.

****Family Participation activities** are monthly and encouraged and strengthened by daily parent/teacher communication

****Dates and events in this curriculum are subject to change depending on the needs of the center**

****Themes** may be extended into a unit or modified at the director's discretion

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

September



Themes:

9/1-9/5: All about me /Getting to Know You
9/8-9/12: Friendship/ Manners
9/15-9/19: My Family
9/22-9/26: Apples
9/29-10/4: Fall Changes (tree, leaves, acorns, squirrels)

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
Toddlers: 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 (that box is a 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 and Special Events:

8/27 First Day of School
9/1 Labor Day closed
9/2- 9/5 Make a special card to give to grandparent's tea
9/5 Grandparents Tea Event (details to come)
9/19 Music and author Greg Lato (story and music) 10:00-11:00
9/22-24 Rosh Hashanah /Jewish New Year
Pie Fundraiser 9/29-10/13 delivery 11/20 (11:45am)

Letters: M, A, P

Numbers: 1,2

Color: Yellow day 9/12

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 Dinosaur to School The Kissing Hand, I Like Myself, The Skin You Live In, Same, Same but Different by [Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw](#)

Around the World: Discover how children dress around the world

[Children of the World Matching.pdf](#)
([d2gsqys7w94qr8.cloudfront.net](#))

Matching game - pairs of children from the same country dressed alike. Download and print cards.

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 -friend-amigo (masculine)
amiga (feminine)

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Painting with apples cut in half with a popsicle stick handles dipped in "YELLOW "paint" to display on the art room wall.

Culinary: Taste testing various apples and charting the results of children's favorites. Which one did you like the best? Macintosh, granny smith or golden delicious?

October



Themes:

10/6-10/10: Community Helpers (Fire Safety Week)

10/13-10/17: Pumpkins

10/20-10/24: Scarecrow, bats, ghosts

10/27-10/31: Halloween, costumes, theatre

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 them

Toddlers: 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.

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 and Special Events:

10/13 BVELC closed Columbus day/ Indigenous Peoples Day)

10/20 -24 All classrooms decorate a pumpkin for contest

10/31 Halloween- pajama day and trick or treat class to class

-Room on a Broom presentation with Ms. Elyn!

Center closes at 4:30 pm

Fire Fighter visit -safety program(older) and truck (all ages) Date TBD

Fall pictures date -October 24

Pie Fundraiser 9/29-10/13 delivery 11/20 (11:45am)

Letters: S, T

Numbers: 3,4

Color: **Orange** Day 10/10

Shape: Square

Sight Words: away, big

Suggested books/concepts Fall season, Leaves, Trees, Harvest, Pumpkins, Halloween, Perfect Square by Michael Hall, Spookley the Square Pumpkin by Joe Troiano

Around the world: Say Hello in 5 Different Languages

1. Spanish – ¡Hola! 2. French – Bonjour 3. German – Hallo 4. Italian – Ciao 5. Mandarin Chinese – 你好 (nǐ hǎo)

Enrichment: Multicultural Instruments /movements

Children follow rhythmic patterns and movements listening to the multicultural styles and rhythms while experimenting with various musical instruments in the music room.

Spanish -pumpkin- calabaza

Family Participation: Decorate or paint a mini pumpkin or paper shaped pumpkin and return it to school to be placed in fall pumpkin patch in front entrance. They will be displayed for all to see!

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall: Painting with pumpkin tops and stems using **ORANGE** paint. Children will create "Orange" art to display on the art room wall.

November



Themes:

11/3-11/7 Harvest, growth cycle of crops, farming

11/10-11/14 Warm and Fuzzy Animals

11/17-11/21 Giving Thanks

11/24-11/28 Thanksgiving and Family (Early Settlers, Indigenous people)

Social Focus: Kindness and 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. Example: "When you got angry and yelled at Lucy, how do you think she was feeling"

Stem Activity Alphabet Dough: Making dough is a good early science activity as you can learn about the properties of water and substances like flour. Encourage your children to add water if the mixture is too dry or more flour if it is too sticky.
Ingredients: 2 Cups flour, 1 Cup water, 1 cup salt

Expose your kids to the letters of the alphabet by making your own playdough and molding it into individual letters. Show a letter – preferably a large plastic or foam letter – and ask them to mold the letter out of the dough. A child who molds and touches a letter shape is more likely to remember the formation of the letter than by writing it on paper. This is real hands-on learning. The easiest letters to start with is the first letter of their name. Get kids to measure out the cups of flour, salt and water and make the playdough themselves. Mixing the dough is good for strengthening the finger muscles too. Making playdough is a good early science activity as you can learn about the properties of water and substances like flour. Encourage your children to add water if the mixture is too dry or more flour if it is too sticky.

Math Concepts: Counting and experiments.

Infant: Counting (1-5/ 1-10) real gourds/mini pumpkins/apples with teacher

Toddler: Counting real gourds/ mini pumpkins/apples with the teacher 1-10 ,1-20 /simple matching (which one is big like this one) Group same together

Preschool: Count the gourds 1-20 (one to one), measuring real gourds with a ruler (standard) Measuring gourds using Unifix cubes (non-standard) Group same together by shape, weight, color

Dates and Special Events:

11/3-11/7 Write and decorate cards for vets to be mailed out
11/11 **Veteran's Day Observed NSEL closed.**

11/14 – **Assessments Due** - 11/28– Assessments out to families

Pie delivery 11/20 (11:45am)

11/26 **Thanksgiving Friends feast -Center closes 4:30pm**

11/27-11/28 **Thanksgiving recess BVELC closed.**

Educational Program -Warm and fuzzy petting Zoo date TBD

Letters: B, H, G

Numbers: 5,6

Color: **Brown** Day 11/14

Shape: Rectangle

Sight Words be, can

Suggested Authors / Concepts/ Books: How to catch Turkey by Wallace and Elkerton, There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Turkey by Lucille Colandro, I am Thankful by Sheri Wall

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.

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 fort or house for the turkey to hide/live in. It can be the pretend classroom pet!

Spanish -Turkey- Pavo

Family Participation: Family pictures- Bring in a family picture or draw a family picture for our Family board

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall: Painting with feathers -Children will dip and drag feathers in **BROWN** paint on paper to create designs to display on the art room wall.

Culinary: Alphabet Dough: Making dough is a good early science activity as you can learn about the properties of water and substances like flour. Encourage your children to add water if the mixture is too dry or more flour if it is too sticky.

Ingredients: 2 Cups flour, 1 Cup water, 1 cup salt

Older Children- Take this activity a step further (see STEM activity on the left)



Candy Grams for sale from Dec. 12/1-12/5. Personalized candy messages will be available for teachers and friends! Surprise and delight someone special.

Themes:

12/1-12/5 Gingerbread and Christmas Treats
12/8-12/12 Santas helpers and toy workshop
 (Santa's Elves, ornaments, toy building, wrapping station)
12/15-12/19 Christmas Spirit Week (see below)
 Daily projects and activities based on theme)
12/22-12/26 Holiday Traditions
12/29-1/2 Teacher's choice

Social Focus: Teachable Moments/Conflict Resolution

Infant: Model empathy, talk about feelings, label emotions with words, comfort and include 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 hand and lets the warmth of their hand melt the snow. (Solid to liquid). Tell child what is happening....

Toddler: Child holds snowball in hand and lets the warmth of their hand melt the snow. (Solid to liquid). Tell child what is happening. Offer different size snowballs (small, medium, large) MATH

Preschool: Child holds snowball in hand and lets the warmth of their hand melt the snow. (Solid to liquid). Tell child what is happening explain melting /offer different size snowballs (small, medium, large) MATH. Extend 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 them where they think the snow will melt the fastest record their answers. Set timer, check 3 snowballs and record results.

Math Concepts:

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. Stick one on the child's clothing, see if they attempt to pull it off!

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 column on the board. Children then identify small, medium, large bows and count each category.

December



Dates/Events/Special Weeks:

12/4 12 days of Christmas begin

12/12 Classroom decorated Gingerbread houses due

Voting on Wednesday **12/15-17**

12/15-19 Christmas spirit week

12/16 Candy Grams

12/17 Start ornaments for parents

12/18 Secret Santa + festive staff lunch

12/19 Christmas Pageant -Children sing Christmas Songs 3:30
Parents welcome

12/23 SANTA visits BVELC 10 am

12/24 Christmas Eve -BVELC closes at 12:00 Noon

12/25- Christmas Day+ 12/ 26 Christmas Break BVELC Closed

12/29+ 12/30 Open full day, 12/31 -BVELC closes at 4:30

1/1 New Years Day + 1/2 New Year's Break BVELC Closed /
 Staff Professional Day – Staff report

Letters: D, N, R

Numbers: 7, 8

Color: Red Day 12/12

Shape: Triangle

Sight Words: come, down

Suggested Authors/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 Buehner, Wilson & Chapman, Anna Dewdney, Norman Bridwell, James Dean

Around The World: Explore the different holidays and family traditions all around the world.

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

Spanish -reindeer- Reno

Family Participation: Guess how many candy canes in the jar and win the whole jar of cand canes

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Shades or **RED** easel painting- burgundy, maroon, fire engine red, Ruby, Candy apple etc.; Paint with Christmas cookie

12/15-12/19 Christmas Spirit Week

Monday 12/15- Show us your favorite festive hat or headband

Tuesday 12/16- Crazy Christmas socks and Candy Gram delivery day

Wednesday 12/17 -Wear your favorite Christmas shirt or sweater

Thursday 12/18- Holiday Pajama Parade in the hallway all classrooms- wear your pajamas

Friday 12/19- Wear Santa hats for the Christmas pageant this afternoon

January



Themes:

1/1 **New Years Day** + 1/2 **New Year's Break BVELC Closed**

1/5-1/9: Winter Weather Attire

1/12-1/16: Snow and Ice

1/19-1/23: Arctic Animals / Hibernation

1/26- 1/30: Winter Activities (snowman building, sledding)

Social Focus: Confidence and benefit 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 ok", try again, clap, smile, be specific with the compliment "You carried your own lunchbox" instead of good job. It's ok 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 to others, teach and role model positive self-talk, be flexible, mistakes are ok, give specific praise "I liked 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.

Toddler: Paint bottom of toddlers' feet (light blue/white) have toddlers walk all along paper tracking snow prints in the snow like in the story the Snowy Day.

Preschool: Children dip feet in (light blue/white) paint in a tray, they then track snow prints across a large sheet of paper. They can also paint the bottom of their own feet and each other's feet. When complete they step in a sudsy bucket to wash feet, towel dry!

Based on: The Snowy Day by Keats

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 the snow blocks out on tray or table and let the child explore by taste, touch. Demonstrate stacking snow blocks one on top of another. Offer vocabulary such as "cold", "snow" and "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" and "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 cubes to form igloos and snow structures. Add food coloring, toothpicks, straws etc. to extend learning and design possibilities. Add food coloring and pretend people to

Dates and Special Events:

1/1 **New Years Day** + 1/2 **New Year's Break BVELC Closed**

1/2 Professional Day- Staff report

1/19 Martin Luther King Jr. BVELC closed

Audubon Society Owl story and owl visit date TBD

Letters: L, C

Numbers: 9, 10

Color: **White** day 1/9

Shape: Diamond

Sight Words: find, for

Suggested Authors/concepts/books: New Year's celebrations, Arctic Animals. Winter Attire. The Mitten, The Hat by Jan Brett, The Snowy Day by Ezra Keats, A Loud Winters Nap by Katy Hudson.

Around the World: What is an igloo? A type of shelter or hut built of compacted snow, typically built when the snow is suitable. They were often built by hunting parties to survive the extreme cold as well as for shelter in the winter months in small villages. The Inuit, better known to many as Eskimos invented the igloo centuries ago. The igloo was a means for hunters to survive brutal winters in a 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- mittens- manoplas

Family Participation: Letter "C" paper plates

Take a C shaped plate home, decorate and return to the center to hang up for letter of the month.

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Children use Q-tips dipped in **WHITE** paint to create polka dot snow designs on black paper.

Culinary: Icy Pops: One flavor of 100% fruit juice (apple, pineapple, grape, orange, etc.)

Method:

- Pour the juice into the container and close or place a wooden popsicle stick in the open end, standing upright.
- Place into the freezer until frozen and ready to eat.

Enjoy for snack!

February



Themes:

2/2-2/6: Dental health / Eating healthy.
2/9-2/13: Valentine's Day and Loved Ones
2/16-2/20: The Human Body/Healthy Foods
2/23 – 2/27: Five Senses

Social Focus: Self-Care

The goal of self-care is for your child to begin to explore independence and what it looks like to care for their own needs in a self-directed manner.

Infants: 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 feed, sleep, grooming, 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/after self, wash hands/face, blowing nose, filling own thermos, preparing bedding on cot, using scissors, getting own silverware, opening own snacks etc.

Stem Activity: Types of Landforms (volcano, hills, island, canyon, desert, ocean, jungle, mountains, marshes, river, waterfall, plain)

Infant: Touch and feel various rocks (bumpy, smooth), fingerpaint a landform

Toddler: Touch and feel various rocks (bumpy, smooth), use playdough 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, , playdough , various collage materials (Infant and toddler activities can also be used) Additional Fizzy Waterfalls 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 into the blocks using a squirt bottle or eye droppers.

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 learn about size by exploring and using sorting cups (graduated sizes) stacking toys, various size balls, nesting toys. Which one is big? 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, sorting by size, ordering by short to tall, sm./med./lg sorting

Dates and Special Events:

2/4 100'th day of school

2/9-2/13 Valentine gifts for families

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/16 President's Day NSEL closed.

Black History month

Nurse Donna Presentation: Brush your Teeth date TBD

Letters: J, F, O

Numbers: 11, 12

Color: **Pink** day 2/13

Shape: Heart

Sight Words: fun, go.

Suggested Authors/concepts/books: Just going to the dentist by Mercer Mayer, Me and My Senses by Joan Sweeney, Happy Valentines Day, Mouse by Laura Numeroff.

Around the World: Healthy eating is so important for our bodies. Explore what type of healthy foods people eat in different places around the world. In what ways is it similar to our healthy eating habits? In what ways is it different?

Enrichment: Architecture, using popsicle sticks, stacked cups, and foam blocks

Spanish: heart-corazon

Family Participation: Sticky notes will be provided in the front hall at drop off time. Please take a minute to write a love note to your child...Share the love for your child with others.

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Children use Q-tips dipped in WHITE paint to create polka dot snow designs on black paper.

March



Themes:

3/2-3/6: Dr. Seuss spirit week (see below)
3/9-3/13: Leprechauns, Clovers, St. Patrick's Day
3/16-3/20: Pond Life
3/23-3/27: Birds, Bees, and Butterflies
3/30-4/3 Easter, bunnies, baskets, eggs

DR SEUSS WEEK 3/2-3/6

Monday- Thing 1 and thing 2, show us your craziest hair!

Tuesday- Green Eggs and Ham, wear green to school

Wednesday- "Wacky Wednesday" Get wacky, wear your cloths backwards, inside out, or mismatched.

Thursday- Fox in Socks, wear crazy socks!

Friday- My Many-Colored Days Wear a color of the rainbow

Social Focus: Empathy Toward Others

Infants: 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... you 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!

Toddlers: - 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... you friend is mad...you look scared... you are 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** 6. **Evaluate ideas** 7. **Decide on 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.

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 Talk in the Classroom

Children form ideas about math through everyday experiences and, most importantly, through interactions with trusted adults. Language—how we talk with children about math ideas like more, empty, and full—matters.

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! Let's 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!"

Dates and Special Events:

3/2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday

3/2-3/6 Dr Seuss Spirit Week

3/6 Employee Appreciation Day

3/8 International Woman's Day

3/17 St Patrick's Day

3/20 First Day of Spring

Letters: X, I

Numbers: 11,12

Color: **Green** day 3/13

Shape: Oval

Sight Words: help, here

Suggested Authors/concepts/books: Dr. Suess books, Pete the Cat: The Great Leprechaun Chase by James Dean, Would you Rather be a Pollywog? By Bonnie Worth.

Around the World: Explore the three different types of bees that we encounter in our area. Bumble bees, carpenter bees, and honeybees. Discuss the differences of each. Allow conversation to open to discuss insects all around the world

Enrichment: Flannel Board Stories (Literacy/Language)

Interactive flannel board and storytelling of the Grouchy Ladybug- encourage involvement and participation in placing pieces on board. Encourage language by asking questions. Tell me about.... Or what happened when...

Spanish -Bee-Abeja

Family Participation: Bring a green shamrock shape home and bedazzle it with your family. You can use sparkles, gems, stickers and all sorts of sparkly things. Return your shamrock to school before St. Patrick's Day for us to display.

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall: Book:

Based in the book: In the Tall Tall Grass.

Place out a lg. sheet of paper on the table, children spread

GREEN paint using utensils like plastic spoons, forks or straws.

Create green grass, then children paste paper insect pictures or stickers of bugs in the grass. Save to hang in art room.

April



Themes:

3/30-4/3 Easter, bunnies, baskets, eggs
4/6-4/10: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
4/13-4/17: Teachers Choice
4/20-4/24: Planets, space, and astronauts
4/27- 5/1: Tropical Rainforest climate and animals

Week of the young child 4/6-4/10: Celebrate children, communities, educators and families

Monday-Music and Arts Monday

Tuesday- Wacky Art Tuesday

Wednesday- Work Together Wednesday

Thursday- Team work Thursday

Friday- Family Readers Friday- parents can sign up and volunteer

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.

Infants and toddlers: Infants and young children cannot regulate their emotions on their own, they need loving adults in their lives to help them immediately regulate their emotions and behaviors and learn skills to do so independently. As an adult model behavior such as be responsive, be patient, talk about emotions, sooth and help them self sooth 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 that help your child understand what behavior you expect – for example, 'Use your words to show your feelings'. Praise your child when they show self-control and follow the rules. For example, 'I liked the way that you shared with Sam when he asked'.

Stem Activity: Recycle and reuse natural items.

Infants: Finger paint large shells (6mo+) or drop and drag shell in paint tray(older)

Toddlers: Fingerpaint 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 etc.) Add glitter, glue on gems, etc. Turn branch into a mobile when dry by hanging painted shells.

Math Concepts: Asteroid Velocity Throw (motion, force, direction)

Infants: Place a large bucket with a wide opening or a low laundry basket on the floor. Have balls of aluminum foil(asteroids) prepared to use for the child to try to throw in the basket. Make sure balls are large enough to not cause any safety issues and remove after game.

Toddlers and preschoolers: Same as above. Older can also use a cardboard with a large hole cut out from it as a target to aim for (prepared ahead) Use speed, motion, and direction vocabulary words with the child such as throw "fast", "slow", throw "hard" gentle" etc.

Dates and Special Events:

4/1 Breakfast with the easter bunny and Easter egg hunt

4/2 Autism awareness day- Wear blue ribbon and/or wear Blue for blue day

4/3 Good Friday BVELC closes at 12:00

4/5 Easter

4/6-4/10 Week of the young child

4/22 Earth Day

Spring pictures- date TBD

Letters: Z, W, K

Numbers: 15, 16

Color: **Blue** Day 4/10

Shape: Star

Sight Words: I, in

Suggested Authors/concepts/books: The Life of a Little Plastic Bottle by Igloo Books, Don't Throw That Away! By Lara Bergen, We're Going on an Egg Hunt by Martha Mumford

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 which are very rare, and endangered.

[21 Different Hawaiian Flowers Only Found in Hawaii \(allaboutgardening.com\)](http://21.DifferentHawaiianFlowersOnlyFoundinHawaii.allaboutgardening.com)

Child choose one of these flowers to draw, cut out and color.

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

Spanish - sun- sol

Family Participation: Bring in recycles for children to create art with (paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, small empty water bottles, egg cartons etc.)

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Create a **blue** Easter egg design in creative ways.

It can be paper



May



Themes:

4/27- 5/1: Tropical Rainforest climate and animals

5/4 – 5/8 Gardening / Planting Flowers

5/11-5/15 Construction (houses/building)

5/18-5/22 The Very Hungry Caterpillar week (see Math below)

5/25- 5/29 Vehicles (land, sea, air)

Social Focus: Pretend to be a farm animal.

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

Toddlers: Read books about the farm and encourage making the sound of the animals. Ask the children what animal it is and what sound the animal makes by showing pictures. Place pictures of animals on the walls at the children's 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 on the farm with animals or journaling 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

Infants: Take a walk in the strollers and observe nature (birds, trees, clouds, flowers, bugs etc.) Point out items and let them feel listen for nature sounds. Stroll by the BCA garden to see the flowers and Roscoe the painted snake!

All other groups: Collect items from a walk around the yards to contribute to the sensory table in your classroom. Woodchips, sticks, dandelions, leaf, grass etc. Stroll by the BCA garden to see the flowers and Roscoe the painted snake! Older: measure him with a measuring tape

Math Concepts: The Very Hungry Caterpillar Counting Week

Read the Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Monday- Apples → Make **1** paper plate apple with a hole in it
Tuesday: Pears → Mold **2** pears from playdough, paint them light 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 in orange paint 5 times to represent the **5** oranges. (Teachers, modify activities according to age/class)

Dates and Special Events:

5/4-5/8 Teacher appreciation week-details a surprise!

5/4 BVELC Family Flower Garden begins

5/5 Cinco De Mayo- Quesadillas for lunch

Start Mother's Day gifts

5/8 Muffins for moms

5/10 Mother's Day

5/18-5/22 The Very Hungry Caterpillar week

5/22 Caterpillar foods picnic feast! (Picnic outside)

5/25 Memorial Day BVELC closed

5/22 Assessments Due – 6/5-Assessments out to families

Letters: V, U, E

Numbers: 17, 18

Color: Purple Day 5/8

Shape: Pentagon

Sight Words: is, it

Suggested Authors/concepts/books: Plant it! Grow it, Eat it by Little Grasshopper Books. Mighty, Mighty Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker. Look Inside Things That Go by Rob Lloyd Jone. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.

Around the World: What are the different ways you can travel to different areas around the world. Can you drive everywhere? When would a boat be used, when would a plane be used. Don't forget, trains, buses, hot air balloons, etc. Discuss vacations, where have you gone? Where would you like to go? Have you ever been on a plane? Take out a map, look at a globe and point to where you like to travel to?

Enrichment: Flannel Board Stories (Literacy/Language)

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.... Or what happened when...

Spanish- Flower -Flor

Family Participation: Plant a flower with your child in the containers near the bench. Watch our flower grow daily!

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Painting in **purple** using parts of artificial flowers, stem, petals dipped in paint to create dipped art markings. Save to hang.



June



Themes:

6/1-6/5 People are All different/Diversity/clothing

6/8- 6/12 Disney

6/15-6/19 Zoo / Safari

6/22-6/26 Dinosaurs

6/29-7/3 Aquarium / Under the sea

Social Focus: Self-Control and Self-Regulation (Positive Energy)

Infants and toddlers: 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 of saying "good job!"- "I saw that

Stem Activity: What is a Rainbow?

Infants: 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

Toddlers: 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 the 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. It takes the form of a multicolored circular arc. Rainbows caused by sunlight always appear in the section of sky directly opposite the Sun. The pattern of color starts with red on the outside and changes through orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet on the inside.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTt8WTqvloo>

Math Concepts: Relationships between numbers and the quantity they represent.

Infants: Focus on the concept of 1. "Here is 1 cookie", "I see 1 block", "Can you give me one?" Count 1 of something in a book.

Toddlers: Focus on 1-5, older 1-10 count out 5 blocks, 5 crackers, 5 fingers search for numbers 1-5 in books and count 1-5 objects to familiarize children with numbers and that they represent an amount

Preschoolers: 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 floor to stand (child tells you what number their on)

Dates and Special Events:

6/5 Evaluations out to parents

6/9 Start Father's Day gifts

6/11 K-prep Graduation Day

6/12 Donuts for Dad

6/15 Father's Day

6/19 Juneteenth BVELC closed

6/21 Summer begins!

Water play officially begins week of 6/22

Letters: Q, Y

Numbers: 19, 20

Color:  Rainbow Day 6/12

Shape: Octagon

Sight Words: you, make.

Suggested Authors/concepts/books:

Different, A Great Thing to Be by Heather Avis. If I Lived at the Zoo by Micheal Perulli. If you Happen to Have A Dinosaur by Linda Bailey

Around the World: Exploring the different types of houses found around the word. Explore them by using popsicle sticks to build Skyscrapers, castles, cottages, villas, condo, apartment, detached house, tents etc.

Enrichment: (Architecture) using popsicle sticks, stacked cups and foam blocks. Provide various pictures of buildings for children to use to as a guide, hang them in block area.

Spanish-Father- Padre

Family Participation: Parent Pride!

What has your child learned this year? What accomplishments have they achieved? Fill out the paper in front hall and stick it up on the board to display your pride!

Art Medium in the color of the month for the art room wall:

Provide paint colors of the **RAINBOW** to use to create their own rainbows. ROYGBIV (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet). Children us brushes, sponges and milk tops as tools.



July



Themes:

6/29 -7/3: Patriotic, American landmarks, Fourth of July

7/6 - 7/10: American Sports

7/13 - 7/17: Parade and Carnivals

7/20 -7/24: Picnics, Fruits and Veggies

7/27 – 7/31: Summer Spirit Week (see below)

Social Focus: Adventure Role Play: Kids love to mimic adults and pretend to play roles, and in the process, they learn about life. Pretend components such as dress up clothes, home life props, occupation items and costume props help them do just that.

Infants: Encourage children to mimic you, place pretend food items in the shopping basket, drink from a cup, talk on phone to order a pizza, put on a hat on to become a cowboy etc.

Toddlers: Entice children to join in role playing in the family life center by setting up an ice cream shop or bakery. Have dress up clothes available to dress as a server, chef, baker, or customer. Encourage children to role play by placing trying on clothing, costumes, place pretend muffins in a basket, drink from a cup, talk on phone to order a pizza stir the ingredients in a bowl.

Preschool: Have menus, clip boards crayons and paper, cash register, phones, and pretend scanners. Offer pretend food, aprons, dress up clothes/costumes. Add items found in an eatery (oven mitts, bowls, spoons, muffin tins, pizza boxes, ice cream scoops, dishes, baskets etc.) encourage positions such as cashier, customer, worker, chef etc.... role modeling "I would like to buy 1 muffin please", can you bake it for me chef?"

Stem Activity: Ice cube Melting while Painting (Solid to liquid)

Teachers: Plan and freeze ice cubes the night before. Instead of ice cube trays, fill Dixie cups with water and drops of paint so the ice block is larger (peel off the cup to reveal block when ready). Place popsicle stick handle in before freezing. Use white construction paper.

Math Concepts: Rote counting / one to one. Rote counting and counting with one-to-one are quite different. Rote counting is just reciting the numeral names in order, "One, two, three, four, five" (up to age 3) Counting with one-to-one involves touching each object and saying the numeral name aloud, which is a much more complex skill for young children.

Infants and toddlers: Provide plastic fish and water in a bucket for them to place fish in and out. Count as the child places in the fish (One, two, three) familiarize infants with math vocabulary and the concept of each fish has a number word associated with it. Toddlers can count along with teacher (one, two, three, four, five) and when child takes out count backwards (Five, four, three, two, one) "ALL GONE".

Preschool: Children can independently roll the dice and count out the corresponding number of fish to place in the water. Point at objects and count them at the same time. They can also count backwards (subtraction) when they take them out. They can work with a classmate too. One rolls the dice and the other counts them out. (Older can use Swedish fish)

Dates and Special Events:

7/1 Wear **red**, **white** and **blue** to celebrate freedom!

7/2-7/3 BVELC closed Fourth of July holiday break

7/27-7/31 Summer spirit week (see below)

7/30 Hawaiian Luau celebration Leis, fruit bowls, photo booth and hula dance party!

Letters: Review A-M

Numbers: Review 1-10

Color: **Red**, White and **Blue** 7/1 (earlier this month)

Shape: Review

Sight Words: Review

Suggested Authors/concepts/books: Corduroy's Fourth of July by Don Freeman. Porcupine's Picnic: Who Eats What? By Betsy R. Rosenthal.

Around the World: Landmarks all around the world. Statue of liberty, Eiffel tower, Taj Mahal, great wall of China

Spanish: Summer

Family Participation: Join us for our picnic lunch! More details to come.

Art Medium: Firework art: string, pipe cleaners, forks, and red, white, and blue paint

Summer Spirit Week: 7/27-7/31

Monday- Crazy Hair

Tuesday- Costume Day

Wednesday- Outside Story and Parachute games

Thursday- Tropical Hawaiian Luau - wear your best aloha attire

Friday- Hat Day



August



Themes:

8/4-8/8: Ice cream and Summer Treats

8/11-8/15: Beach fun (swimming, sandcastles, seashells)

8/18-8/22: Disney Week

8/25-8/29: Camping

Social Focus: Learning Through Play

Infants, Toddlers and Preschool:

Play is one of the most important ways in which young children gain essential knowledge and skills. Play sets the foundation for the development of critical social and emotional knowledge and skills. Through play, children learn to forge connections with others, and to share, negotiate and resolve conflicts, as well as learn self-advocacy skills. Play also teaches children leadership as well as group skills. Furthermore, play is a natural tool that children can use to build their resilience and coping skills, as they learn to navigate relationships and deal with social challenges as well as conquer their fears. **In the classroom, teachers will provide ample opportunities to explore, take risks, try new things, communicate with peers and teachers, gain confidence, and apply concepts of quantity, science, and movement to real life.**

Stem Activity: Examining the inside of a watermelon.

Infants: Children can touch the watermelon before it's cut and feel the smooth rind, they can then taste watermelon at snack and talk with the babies using vocabulary describing the watermelon: It's juicy, it's red, it tastes sweet, it's good for your body.

Toddlers: What's inside? Cut open a watermelon, place a slice on each child's plate and ask them to try to take out seeds, older kids attempt to use a spoon to dig them out. Cut slice into 2 pieces and show children they now have 2 watermelons count them 1,2. Enjoy the taste and talk with the toddlers using vocabulary describing the watermelon: It's juicy, it's red, it tastes sweet, it's good for your body, it's mushy.

Preschool: Hold the watermelon, discuss the properties of it: smooth, heavy, round, or oval, green or yellow, ripe or not yet. Make predictions on how many seeds are inside, will it be mushy? wet? Sticky? Smelly? Discuss simple fractions: I have 1 whole watermelon; I cut it in half and now I have how many? I cut that half in half and now I have how many? Etc. Children enjoy sliced watermelon and can count how many seeds are in their slice.

Math Concepts: Patterns and repeating rhythms

Infants: Children are never too young to be engaged in finding patterns or hearing rhythms. Clap a pattern such as one clap and two fast claps or tap knees then clap hands. Can you do that? Encourage the child to mimic it back to you.

Toddlers: Toddlers can mimic patterns the teacher does like clapping 3 times or jumping to the left, then right, then left and then right. They can observe repeating patterns like a block standing, block lying flat, block standing, block lying flat, etc.

Preschool: Create AB patterns like cat/dog/cat/dog/ or more complex patterns like ABC, ABC; AAB, AAB; AAB, AAB; ABB, ABB.

Dates and Special Events:

8/11 Victory Day: BVELC Closed

Magic Show Lon Cerel-Date TBD

Ice Cream truck visits ELA -date TBD

Letters: Review N-Z

Numbers: Review 11-20

Color: Neon

Shape: Review

Sight Words: Review

Suggested Authors/concepts/books:

Watermelon Madness by Taghreed Najjar. Llama Llama Sand & Sun by Anna Dewdney. Pete the Cat Goes Camping by James Dean

Around the World: Sports around the world. What sports are popular in the different countries.

Spanish- Ice cream- Helado

Art Medium: Older- Sensory Shaving Cream with rainbow sprinkles-

Younger- place shaving cream in a bag and shake sprinkles in it, seal securely with tape and let children push, prod, squish and squeeze to explore.

Simple fun chant on broccoli ice cream:

Do you like **broccoli**?
Yes, I do. Yes, I do.



Do you like **ice cream**?
Yes, I do. Yes, I do.



Do you like broccoli ice cream?
No, I don't. Yucky!

