

Unit 4 introduces the children to Earth's four seasons, the various types of weather brought about by each of them, and the reason we experience day and night. They will also learn about the night sky, constellations and discover how to tell the difference between planets and stars.

In addition, the children will explore:

- Ll /l/; Rr /r/; Cc /k/
- Graphing
- Compound words
- Blending letters to form words
- AB and ABC patterns
- Cause and effect
- Numbers
- Coins
- Rhyming words
- Syllables
- Three-dimensional geometric shapes
- Measurement

<i>Overviews by Week:</i>	<i>Page</i>
Week 11: Observing Weather.....	2-3
Week 12: The Four Seasons	4-5
Week 13: Outer Space	6-7



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Unit 4 • Week 11: Observing the Weather

This week you will introduce the children to various types of weather, experiment with predicting what the wind will and won't blow, and conduct an experiment to create a cloud.

The children will also:

- Learn /l/ and identify initial and final /l/ words
- Create graphs and interpret the results
- Segment and blend words together to form compounds
- Review letter and sounds for *Aa, Bb, Nn, Pp, Ss, and Tt*
- Blend letters to form words
- Practice creating AB and ABC patterns
- Clap words in sentences
- Learn about different types of thermometers and how they work

Essential Questions

- *How do thermometers help us?*
- *How does knowing sounds and putting them together help us read?*
- *Which would you rather be, the wind or rain? Why?*
- *What is your favorite kind of weather? Why?*
- *If you made a pattern, what pattern would you make?*
- *Why are clouds important?*
- *How do graphs help us?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Comprehension

- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences*
- *Uses illustration clues to predict*
- *Identifies sequence of events*
- *Recognizes cause and effect*
- *Recalls important facts of information text*

Print/Book Awareness

- *Connects oral language and print*
- *Counts words*

Emergent Writing

- *Uses drawing to convey meaning*
- *Demonstrates understanding of the connections among their own ideas, experiences, and written expression*
- *Contributes to a shared writing experience or topic of interest*
- *Uses scribbles/writing to convey meaning (e.g., signing artwork, captioning, labeling, creating lists, making notes)*
- *Uses letter-like shapes or letters to write words or parts of words*

Vocabulary

- *Discusses words and word meanings*
- *Uses illustrations to find the meanings of unknown words*

Conversation

- Provides appropriate information for the setting
- Demonstrates knowledge of verbal conversational rules (e.g., appropriately takes turns, does not interrupt, uses appropriate verbal expressions, and uses appropriate intonation)

Motivation for Reading

- Enjoys reading and reading-related activities

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Focuses on letter names and shapes
- Recognizes/names some letter sounds
- Matches some letters to their sounds

Listening & Speaking

- Understands by asking and answering relevant questions, adding comments relevant to the topic, and reacting appropriately to what is said

Phonological Awareness

- Distinguishes individual words within spoken phrases or sentences
- Combines words to make a compound word
- Identifies rhyming words
- Identifies rhyming words
- Listens for beginning sound
- Isolates ending sound
- Blends three phonemes

Sentences & Structure

- Uses sentences with more than one phrase
- Combines sentences that give lots of detail, sticks to the topic, and clearly communicates intended meaning

Math

Counting & Cardinality

- Uses one-to-one correspondence to determine “how many”
- Understands that numbers always represent the same quantity

Patterns & Seriation

- Duplicates identical patterns with at least two elements
- Uses rules to create and extend repeating patterns
- Describes objects according to characteristics or attributes

Measurement & Data

- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Collects and sorts materials to be graphed
- Uses graphs and charts to answer questions

Creative Arts

- Explores visual materials and activities
- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children

Science

Concepts

- Explores the characteristics of the sun, moon, stars and/or clouds
- Observes and describes weather and how it changes
- Investigate states of matter (solids and liquids)
- Observes and describes various ways that objects move

Processes

- Shows curiosity by asking questions and seeking information
- Collects, describes and records information
- Uses tools and equipment to explore objects
- Makes and verifies predictions
- Participates in scientific investigations

Media & Technology

- Uses technology to explore and review information

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Coordinates hand and eye movements
- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Gross Motor Skills

- Distinguishes left from right

Social Studies

Self & Community

- Understands maps are representations of actual places
- Begins to categorize time intervals
- Becomes aware of common symbols in the community

Social & Emotional Development

- Works with others to solve problems

Unit 4 • Week 12: The Four Seasons

This week you will demonstrate why we have day and night and the four seasons on Earth, and why we can't see the sun at night. You will encourage the children to consider the different seasons on Earth and the changes in the weather they bring.

The children will also:

- Learn /r/ and identify initial and final /r/ words
- Discover some of the sun's effects on Earth
- Realize that day and night and the four seasons are patterns
- Identify and discriminate rhyming words
- Create compound words
- Clap and count words in sentences
- Blend syllables to form words

Essential Questions

- *What if there was not more nighttime only daylight?*
- *What words describe nighttime? Daytime?*
- *Which season is your favorite? Why?*
- *What would happen if there was no sun?*
- *How does knowing rhyming words help us learn nursery rhymes?*
- *If you were a leaf on a tree, what kind of tree would you want to be on?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Comprehension

- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences*
- *Connects events, characters, and actions in stories to specific experiences*
- *Makes inferences*
- *Identifies role of author/illustrator*

Conversation

- *Provides appropriate information for the setting*

Emergent Writing

- *Uses drawing to convey meaning*

Print/Book Awareness

- *Connects oral language and print*
- *Counts words*

Listening & Speaking

- *Understands by asking and answering relevant questions, adding comments relevant to the topic, and reacting appropriately to what is said*

Sentences & Structure

- *Combines more than one idea using complex sentences*
- *Combines sentences that give lots of detail, sticks to the topic, and clearly communicates intended meaning*

Phonological Awareness

- Combines words to make a compound word
- Counts syllables
- Identifies rhyming words
- Listens for beginning sound
- Isolates ending sound

Vocabulary

- Acquires new vocabulary
- Discusses words and word meanings

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Recites the alphabet in sequence
- Focuses on letter names and shapes
- Recognizes/names some letter sounds
- Matches some letters to their sounds

Math

Counting & Cardinality

- Recognizes numerals
- Combines and separates sets of objects to create new sets
- Recognizes numbers in the environment
- Uses different ways to represent numbers

Patterns & Seriation

- Duplicates identical patterns with at least two elements
- Uses rules to create and extend repeating patterns
- Describes objects according to characteristics or attributes

Measurement & Data

- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Collects and sorts materials to be graphed
- Uses graphs and charts to answer questions

Creative Arts

- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Expresses self through movement
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children

Media & Technology

- Uses technology to explore and review information

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Coordinates hand and eye movements
- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Gross Motor Skills

- Distinguishes left from right

Social Studies

Self & Community

- Begins to categorize time intervals

Science

Concepts

- Describes characteristics in the appearance and behavior of animals
- Explores the characteristics of the sun, moon, stars and/or clouds
- Observes and describes weather and how it changes
- Describes characteristics in the appearance and behavior of animals
- Investigate states of matter (solids and liquids)

Processes

- Collects, describes and records information
- Makes and verifies predictions
- Participates in scientific investigations

Social & Emotional Development

- Works with others to solve problems

Unit 4 • Week 13: Outer Space

This week you will teach the children about the night sky. They will discover that there are billions of planets and stars, like our sun, and they will learn how to tell the difference.

The children will also:

- Learn the letter Cc and /k/ and identify initial and final /k/ words
- Listen to a nonfiction selection about an astronaut
- Learn about the sun and other stars
- Discover the Big Dipper constellation
- Clap and count words in sentences
- Learn about the International Space Station
- Use connect cubes as measuring tools
- Blend and clap syllables
- Illustrate and dictate sentences about outer space

Essential Questions

- *How does the moon help us?*
- *What do you think it would be like to live on another planet other than earth?*
- *If you could visit a constellation in the sky which one would you visit? Why?*
- *Why is it important to know how to measure something?*
- *How do reading nonfiction books help us learn?*
- *Where in the classroom do you see cubes? Cones? Pyramids? Cylinders?*
- *What do you think it would be like to be an astronaut?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Comprehension

- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences*
- *Identifies story characters*
- *Distinguishes between fiction and nonfiction*
- *Identifies role of author/illustrator*
- *Recalls important facts of information text*

Motivation for Reading

- *Interacts*

Phonological Awareness

- *Distinguishes individual words within spoken phrases or sentences.*
- *Combines words to make a compound word*
- *Combines words to make a compound word*
- *Counts syllables*
- *Identifies rhyming words*
- *Listens for beginning sound*
- *Isolates ending sound*

Conversation

- Provides appropriate information for the setting
- Demonstrates knowledge of verbal conversational rules (e.g., appropriately takes turns, does not interrupt, uses appropriate verbal expressions, and uses appropriate intonation)

Emergent Writing

- Demonstrates understanding of the connections among their own ideas, experiences, and written expression
- Contributes to a shared writing experience or topic of interest
- Uses scribbles/writing to convey meaning (e.g., signing artwork, captioning, labeling, creating lists, making notes)

Vocabulary

- Acquires new vocabulary
- Discusses words and word meanings
- Asks questions about unknown objects and words

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Recites the alphabet in sequence
- Focuses on letter names and shapes
- Recognizes/names some letter sounds
- Matches some letters to their sounds

Listening & Speaking

- Understands by asking and answering relevant questions, adding comments relevant to the topic, and reacting appropriately to what is said
- Follows simple and multiple-step directions

Print/Book Awareness

- Connects oral language and print

Math

Counting & Cardinality

- Verbally counts in sequence

Measurement & Data

- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Measures or compares the height of one or more objects using a non-standard reference

Geometry

- Recognizes basic two-dimensional geometric shapes
- Identifies three-dimensional shapes

Patterns & Seriation

- Uses rules to create and extend repeating patterns

Creative Arts

- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Represents fantasy and real-life experiences through pretend play
- Participates in teacher-guided dramatic activities
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children

Media & Technology

- Uses technology to explore and review information

Science

Concepts

- Explores the characteristics of the sun, moon, stars and/or clouds
- Investigate states of matter (solids and liquids)

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Coordinates hand and eye movements
- Uses writing and drawing tools
- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Gross Motor Skills

- Distinguishes left from right

Social & Emotional Development

- Works with others to solve problems