



Month: December Week: 1 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

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| Day 1 | Topic(s) Theme: Gingerbread Man Number: 17 Letter: Mm Color: Silver Shape: Rhombus | Foundation(s) APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner |
| Indicators | Younger Toddlers | Older Toddlers |
| | May point to or move toward a chosen center when given simple choices. | May state or show what they want to play with and stay briefly with that activity. |
| <p>Activity: Plan–Do–Review Gingerbread Centers</p> <p>Gather toddlers at the rug and show simple picture cards of the available gingerbread centers (bakery, blocks, playdough, books). Invite each child to point to or touch the picture of where they want to play, modeling language like “I play bakery.” Children then go “do” their play in that area with adult support, exploring materials freely. After a short time, bring everyone back and “review” by holding up the center pictures again and asking, “Where did you play?” while children point or say a word.</p> | | |
| Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picture cards of each gingerbread-themed center Small pocket chart or board to display center choices | Key Vocabulary: choose, play, done | Support: |



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| Day 2 | Topic(s) | Foundation(s) |
| | Theme: Gingerbread Man Number: 17 Letter: Mm Color: Silver Shape: Rhombus | APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play |
| Indicators | Younger Toddlers | Older Toddlers |
| | May choose a simple role item (hat or tag) and follow an adult into the play area. | May choose a role (baker, helper, customer) and use a few words while playing with others. |

Activity: Bakery Role Hats – Choose Your Job

At Gingy's Bakery, show toddlers a few simple role props such as hats or picture badges labeled baker, helper, or customer. Invite children to pick a hat or badge and help them say the job name with you. Children then go into the bakery area to pretend, with adults modeling easy scripts ("Baker," "Cookie please," "Here you go"). Encourage toddlers to notice each other's hats and play near or with friends who have different jobs, switching hats if they want to try a new role.

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| Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple role hats or picture badges (baker, helper, customer) Gingy's Bakery dramatic play props (menus, trays, pretend cookies) | Key Vocabulary: job, baker, help | Support: |
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| Day 3 | Topic(s) | | Foundation(s) | |
| | Theme: Gingerbread Man Number: 17 Letter: Mm Color: Silver Shape: Rhombus | | APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence | |
| Indicators | Younger Toddlers | | Older Toddlers | |
| | May try to place puzzle pieces or shapes and accept help to try again. | | May keep working to fit simple puzzle pieces or match shapes, even when it is a little tricky. | |

Activity: Gingerbread Puzzle & Shape Matching

Set out a few chunky gingerbread-themed puzzles and simple cookie shape-matching boards. Show toddlers how to look at the picture and turn pieces until they fit, using encouraging language like “try again” and “you did it.” Invite children to choose a puzzle or shape board and stay with it while you support their efforts. When a piece does not fit, gently guide them to try a different way rather than giving up, celebrating each success with claps and smiles.

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| Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chunky gingerbread or cookie-themed puzzles • Simple shape-matching boards with large cookie shapes | Key Vocabulary: try, fit, done | Support: |
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| Day 4 | Topic(s) | Foundation(s) |
| | Theme: Gingerbread Man Number: 17 Letter: Mm Color: Silver Shape: Rhombus | APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence |
| Indicators | Younger Toddlers | Older Toddlers |
| | May stack or line up blocks and place a stick across, watching what happens. | May try different ways to build a simple bridge and keep working when it falls down. |

Activity: Little Bridge Builders STEM Play

On a low table or floor mat, place blocks and a few sturdy craft sticks and explain that children can build “little bridges” for the gingerbread man. Model putting two short towers of blocks close together and laying a stick across to make a bridge, then walking a small gingerbread picture over it. Invite toddlers to build their own small structures, helping them adjust blocks when the bridge falls and encouraging them to try again. Praise their curiosity as they test and change their bridges.

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| Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sturdy wooden or foam blocks Large popsicle/craft sticks or short cardboard strips Small laminated gingerbread man picture or figure | Key Vocabulary: build, bridge, try | Support: |
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| Day 5 | Topic(s) Theme: Gingerbread Man Number: 17 Letter: Mm Color: Silver Shape: Rhombus | Foundation(s) APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner |
| Indicators | Younger Toddlers | Older Toddlers |
| | May point to or place their picture next to a favorite center image. | May point to or name a favorite center and say a word or short phrase about what they did. |
| <p>Activity: Favorite Gingerbread Center Picture Chart</p> <p>Offer toddlers a final round of gingerbread-themed choice centers (bakery, blocks, playdough, books). After playtime, gather as a group with a “Favorite Gingerbread Center” picture chart showing each center. One at a time, help children place their name or photo card next to the picture of the center they liked best. As each child chooses, invite them to say or show what they did there (“cookies,” “blocks,” “read”). Leave the chart displayed to remind children of their favorite play choices and interests.</p> | | |
| Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorite Gingerbread Center picture chart (photos of each center) • Child name or photo cards with Velcro or tape | Key Vocabulary: favorite, where, play | Support: |