



## Month: December Week: 3 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b> Theme: Animals in the Winter Number: 19 Letter: Oo Color: Turquoise Shape: Triangle	<b>Foundation(s)</b> APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Preschool</b> May pretend to be a bear in a den and share one simple idea about what they would do or feel there.	<b>Older Preschool</b> May use imaginative language and several details to describe what happens in their bear den and may change or add ideas as they play.
<b>Activity: “Imagine Hibernating in a Bear’s Den”</b> Set up a simple “bear den” space with blankets or a table tent and explain that children will pretend to be bears getting ready to hibernate. Invite them to crawl into the den, curl up, and talk about what they might need to feel cozy (blankets, leaves, stuffed animals). Encourage children to act out going to sleep, waking briefly, and settling back down. Rotate groups so each child has time to explore the den and share what it was like.		
<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blankets, pillows, or large cardboard box/table tent for den</li> <li>Stuffed bears or animal toys (optional)</li> <li>Flashlight (optional)</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> den, hibernate, cozy, pretend	<b>Support:</b>



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Day 2	<b>Topic(s)</b>		<b>Foundation(s)</b>	
	Theme: Animals in the Winter Number: 19 Letter: Oo Color: Turquoise Shape: Triangle		APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play	
Indicators				
	<b>Younger Preschool</b>		<b>Older Preschool</b>	
	May choose a winter animal to pretend to be and copy simple movements or sounds.		May initiate roles for themselves and others, negotiate how animals will play together, and stay in role for several minutes.	

### Activity: “Winter Animal Pretend Play”

Review a few animals from *Animals in Winter* and how they behave (bear hibernates, birds migrate, squirrel gathers nuts). Invite children to choose an animal and move to different parts of the room labeled as “forest,” “den,” or “sky.” Encourage them to act out what their animal does in winter and to talk to other “animals” as they play. Join the play to model sharing ideas and taking turns leading the pretend story.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picture cards of winter animals</li> <li>Signs or pictures labeling play areas (forest, den, sky)</li> <li>Simple props (scarves for wings, small baskets for nuts)</li> </ul>	Key Vocabulary: pretend, act out, together, share, take turns	Support:
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<p><b>Activity: “Migration Movement Game”</b></p> <p>Explain that the class will pretend to be birds migrating to a warmer place. Play music and invite children to “fly” around the room, flapping their wings and following a leader. Call out changes such as “cold wind,” “rest stop,” or “fly in a V,” and encourage children to keep playing and trying new ways of moving. Repeat the game with different leaders so children have chances to direct and to follow.</p>					
<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music player and upbeat song</li> </ul>	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="540 1283 881 1388"> <b>Key Vocabulary:</b>  migrate, fly, leader, follow, keep trying </td><td data-bbox="881 1283 1414 1388"> <b>Support:</b> </td></tr> </table>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> migrate, fly, leader, follow, keep trying	<b>Support:</b>		
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Day 4	<b>Topic(s)</b>		<b>Foundation(s)</b>	
	Theme: Animals in the Winter Number: 19 Letter: Oo Color: Turquoise Shape: Triangle		APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence	
Indicators				
	<b>Younger Preschool</b>		<b>Older Preschool</b>	
	May follow one-step positional directions with an animal toy and stay in the game for a brief turn.		May respond to and create multi-step positional challenges for peers and continue playing through several rounds.	

### Activity: “Positional Word Animal Game”

Give each child a small winter animal figure and explain that you will play a game using positional words. Call out playful challenges such as “Put your bear **under** the chair,” “Make your fox sit **on** your shoe,” or “Hide your rabbit **behind** your back,” and let children act them out. Invite children who are ready to invent their own positional challenges for the group, encouraging everyone to keep listening and trying new ideas.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small winter animal figures or counters (one per child)</li> <li>Chairs, tables, and safe classroom furniture to use in the game</li> </ul>	Key Vocabulary: under, on, behind, in front of, next to, try again	Support:
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## Month: December Week: 3 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Foundation(s)</b>
	Theme: Animals in the Winter Number: 19 Letter: Oo Color: Turquoise Shape: Triangle	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Preschool</b>	<b>Older Preschool</b>
	May place a few blocks or materials together to make a simple den and invite a friend or toy to use it.	May plan and build a more detailed den with peers, negotiate roles and materials, and use language to keep the play going.

### Activity: “Build a Den Dramatic Play”

Offer blocks, boxes, and fabric and tell children they may work together to build dens for hibernating animals. Encourage them to choose which animal will use each den and to think about what the den needs—roof, walls, entrance, cozy inside. As they build, support turn-taking, sharing ideas, and solving small problems (“How can we make it taller?”). When finished, children can bring stuffed animals or figures to “move into” their dens and continue the dramatic play.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blocks, large cardboard pieces, or foam bricks</li> <li>• Blankets, scarves, or fabric pieces</li> <li>• Stuffed animals or animal figures</li> </ul>	Key Vocabulary: build, den, together, share, plan, idea	Support:
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