



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

Day 1	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	Theme: Animals in the Winter Number: 19 Letter: Oo Color: Turquoise Shape: Triangle		APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner	
Indicators	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	May crawl or walk into the “den” with adult support and may copy simple actions like lying down or pretending to sleep.		May independently choose to go in and out of the den, pretend to sleep or snore, and repeat the play several times.	
Activity: “Crawl Into Bear Den & Pretend to Sleep” Create a simple bear den with a table tent, large box, or blanket fort. Invite children to crawl inside one or two at a time, saying, “The bears are going to sleep for winter.” Model curling up, snoring softly, and then waking up again. Encourage toddlers to explore going in, out, and back in, choosing how long to “sleep” and what their bear will do.				
Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">Large cardboard box, table with blanket over it, or pop-up tentSoft blankets or pillows (optional)		Key Vocabulary: choose, try, play		Support:



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Day 2	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Theme: Animals in the Winter Number: 19 Letter: Oo Color: Turquoise Shape: Triangle	APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
Indicators	Younger Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	May copy one simple movement or sound of an animal when modeled by an adult.	May choose an animal role, use sounds and movements, and interact briefly with peers during pretend play.

Activity: “Simple Winter Animal Pretend Play (Bear, Bird, Squirrel)”

Place three picture cards or small toys out: bear, bird, and squirrel. Let each child choose an animal and show them an easy motion-bear walk, flap like a bird, or hop like a squirrel. Invite children to move around the room as their animals, greeting each other (“Hi, bear!”) and then “going home” to a spot when called. Join the play to support sharing space and keeping the game gentle and fun.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear, bird, and squirrel picture cards or toys 	Key Vocabulary: build, high, fall	Support:
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Day 3	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	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	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	May follow behind the leader for a short time and copy one or two movements.		May stay engaged through several changes in movement (walk, crawl, fly) and may take a turn as the leader.	

Activity: “Follow the Leader - Walk, Crawl, Fly like Animals”

Explain that children will play “Follow the Winter Animals.” Start as the leader and say, “Now we walk like bears,” “Now we crawl low,” or “Now we fly like birds,” changing movements every few moments. Encourage toddlers to keep watching and trying the new moves. When ready, invite an older toddler to be the leader and choose which animal movement everyone will copy.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional animal picture cards for visual cues 	Key Vocabulary: in, out, through	Support:
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Day 4	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	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				
	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	May crawl through a tunnel or under a low table with adult support, possibly repeating once or twice.		May choose different ways to move (crawl, scoot, walk) through or under the tunnel and may stay in the activity for several turns.	

Activity: “Positional Tunnel Play - Through/Under Tunnel”

Set up a play tunnel or create one with tables and blankets. Invite children to go **through** the tunnel, cheering as they pop out the other side. Then model going **under** a different low space and say the words “through” and “under” each time. Give toddlers many chances to try, letting them pick how they move and encouraging them when they come back for more turns.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play tunnel or tables with blankets over them Soft mats for crawling (optional) 	Key Vocabulary: stuck, help, open	Support:
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Day 5	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	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	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	May place a blanket or block on or in a box and may put a stuffed animal inside with help.		May help decide where boxes and blankets go, work with peers to build a den, and use it in ongoing pretend play.	

Activity: “Build a Simple Den with Boxes & Blankets”

Offer a few sturdy boxes, cushions, and blankets and tell children, “Let’s make a bear den!” Model putting a blanket over a box and placing a stuffed bear inside. Invite toddlers to move materials, cover spaces, and decide where the animals will sleep. Support sharing and turn-taking as they crawl in, out, and around the den they created together.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard boxes, cushions, or small foam blocks • Blankets or large cloths • Stuffed bears or other animals 	Key Vocabulary: turn, share, wait	Support:
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