



## Month: December Week: 4 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

Day 1	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Review Week	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
Indicators	Younger Preschool	Older Preschool
	May choose a simple role (baker, shopper) and explore materials with short bursts of play, using a few pretend actions or words.	May plan roles with peers, stay in character for longer periods, and use more complex language to act out bakery and market scenes.

### Activity: **Holiday Bakery & Market Dramatic Play**

Set up a dramatic play bakery and market using pretend foods connected to holidays (cookies, latkes, dumplings, fruit, sweets). Invite children to decide who will be bakers, shoppers, or cashiers and let them choose materials and roles freely. Encourage them to “bake,” “cook,” and “sell” items, using signs, menus, or shopping lists as they play. Teachers support social interaction by modeling turn-taking, sharing language, and simple problem-solving when many children want the same role.

<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dramatic play foods and empty food containers</li> <li>• Play money, baskets, trays, and shopping bags</li> <li>• Chef hats, aprons, or simple costume pieces (optional)</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> bakery, market, pretend	<b>Support:</b>
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## Month: December Week: 4 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Foundation(s)</b>
	Review Week	APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Preschool</b>	<b>Older Preschool</b>
	May make a simple drawing or mark to show what they want to build and attempt to build a basic version using a few materials.	May create a more detailed plan, select materials based on their idea, and revise their structure if it does not work the first time.
<b>Activity: STEM Building Plans</b> <p>Explain that before engineers build, they often make a plan. Offer children paper and crayons to draw what they want to build at the block or STEM center (bridge, animal den, holiday stand). After drawing, they take their “blueprint” to the building area and try to match their plan, choosing materials that fit their idea. Encourage them to notice when something doesn’t work and to change their plan or structure, praising persistence and flexible thinking.</p>		
<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blank paper or simple “My Building Plan” sheets</li> <li>Blocks, cups, tubes, craft sticks, tape, and other building materials</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> plan, build, change	<b>Support:</b>



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<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Foundation(s)</b>
	Review Week	APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Preschool</b>	<b>Older Preschool</b>
	May imitate simple animal movements when shown and stay engaged for short rounds of the game.	May remember movements from earlier in the month, suggest new animal actions, and follow multi-step directions during the game.

### Activity: **Migration Movement Game Review**

Remind children that some animals migrate-travel to new places when the seasons change. Use picture cards or call out animals (birds, butterflies, caribou) and invite children to move like each one across the room. Add simple game rules such as stopping when you say “rest” or changing directions when you call “turn south.” Encourage children to suggest new animals or movements, practicing flexible thinking as they adjust their bodies to different actions.

<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal migration picture cards (birds, butterflies, etc.)</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> migrate, travel, move	<b>Support:</b>
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<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Foundation(s)</b>
	Review Week	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Preschool</b>	<b>Older Preschool</b>
	May choose a puzzle or matching game and try different pieces until one fits, sometimes asking an adult for help.	May select a challenge, attempt multiple strategies to solve it, and talk about what they did when something was “too tricky” at first.

### Activity: **Problem-Solving Centers”**

Set up several problem-solving centers using December materials: puzzles, matching games, simple pattern cards, and STEM challenges. Invite children to choose where they would like to start and remind them that it is okay if something feels hard; they can try again or try a new idea. Teachers model language like “What else can we try?” and encourage children to talk through their thinking with partners. During cleanup, briefly highlight examples of persistence and creative solutions you observed.

<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floor and table puzzles</li> <li>• Matching and sorting games (shapes, numbers, holiday symbols, animals)</li> <li>• Simple pattern or sequence cards</li> <li>• Small building or STEM challenge materials</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> problem, try, solution	<b>Support:</b>
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## Month: December Week: 4 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Foundation(s)</b>
	Review Week	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Preschool</b>	<b>Older Preschool</b>
	May choose a familiar center, stay engaged for part of the work time, and share a simple word or gesture about what they did.	May independently choose and return to a favorite December activity, stay focused for longer, and talk about what they enjoyed or learned with peers.
<p><b>Activity: December Choice Centers Reflection”</b></p> <p>Open a selection of favorite December centers-gingerbread STEM, dramatic play, art, blocks, and holiday games-and invite children to choose where they would like to play. Encourage them to think about what they liked earlier in the month and return to those activities or try something new. Near the end of center time, gather in a brief reflection circle where children share which center they chose and why, helping them connect their choices to their interests and learning.</p>		
<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chosen December centers set up with familiar materials</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> choose, favorite, remember	<b>Support:</b>