



## 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 Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	May choose a simple role (cook, shopper) and imitate a few pretend actions like stirring or feeding a doll.	May stay in role longer, use simple words in play (“cook,” “more,” “hot”), and take turns with materials.
<b>Activity: Holiday Kitchen Dramatic Play</b> Set up a small “holiday kitchen” with pretend pots, pans, and foods. Invite toddlers to pretend to cook, stir, and serve “special meals” to teachers or friends. Model easy phrases like “stir the pot” and “more, please,” and encourage sharing of dishes. Join the play at times to help children interact kindly and expand their pretend ideas.		
<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play kitchen or table area</li> <li>• Pretend food, pots, pans, plates, cups</li> <li>• Dolls or stuffed animals (optional)</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> cook, stir, eat	<b>Support:</b>



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<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 Toddlers</b>	<b>Older Toddlers</b>
	May stack a few blocks, knock them down, and place animals nearby with support.	May stack a few blocks, knock them down, and place animals nearby with support.

### Activity: Simple Block Barns & Bridges for Animals

Offer a small set of blocks and a few animal toys (reindeer, bears, farm animals). Show toddlers how to make a tiny “home” or “bridge” with just two or three blocks. Encourage them to place animals inside or walk them over the blocks, trying again if the structure falls. Comment on their efforts (“You tried again!”) to build persistence and flexible thinking.

<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft or wooden blocks</li> <li>• Small animal figures (reindeer, bears, etc.)</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> build, fall, try	<b>Support:</b>
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## Month: December Week: 4 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Foundation(s)</b>
	Review Week	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Toddlers</b>	<b>Older Toddlers</b>
	May move animals around the tray, make simple sounds, and explore the space with hands and eyes.	May create simple pretend stories with the animals, share space with peers, and take short turns.

### Activity: **Animal & Reindeer Small-World Play**

Set up a shallow tray with cotton “snow,” blocks, and a few reindeer and winter animals. Invite toddlers to move the animals through the “snow,” over small “hills,” or into “barns.” Join their play to model simple story language like “Reindeer goes up” or “Bear sleeps.” Encourage children to play side by side and practice gentle hands with the materials and each other.

<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shallow tray or bin</li> <li>• Cotton balls, felt, or paper “snow”</li> <li>• Small reindeer and animal figures</li> <li>• A few small blocks or rocks for hills/barns</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> snow, up, down	<b>Support:</b>
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Day 4	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Review Week	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction 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 fitting puzzle pieces with help and begin to match simple picture pairs.	May work on familiar puzzles with more independence, try new spots when one doesn't fit, and complete simple matching games.

### Activity: **Puzzle & Matching Game Review**

Place a few favorite December puzzles and simple matching cards (animals, shapes, or holiday pictures) on a low table. Encourage toddlers to choose where they want to start and show them how to turn pieces and try different places. Praise children for “trying again” when something is tricky. Support sharing by inviting two children to work together on a bigger puzzle or take turns with matching cards.

<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple wooden or chunky puzzles</li> <li>Matching cards (animals, shapes, holiday images)</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> match, piece, fit	<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	APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Younger Toddlers</b>	<b>Older Toddlers</b>
	May move between centers with support and stay a short time at a chosen activity.	May choose a preferred December center, stay engaged for longer, and interact with peers in simple ways (sharing, taking turns).
<p><b>Activity: December Choice Centers - Favorite Play Time</b></p> <p>Re-open a few favorite play areas from the month- holiday kitchen, blocks and animals, sensory bin, and puzzles. Invite toddlers to choose where to play and follow their interests, checking in to support sharing and gentle play. Comment on their choices (“You picked blocks again!”) and notice when they stay with an activity for a longer time. Toward the end, briefly name the fun things they did to help them remember and feel proud.</p>		
<b>Resources/Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few December centers (kitchen, blocks/animals, sensory, puzzles) set up as usual</li> </ul>	<b>Key Vocabulary:</b> choose, play, friend	<b>Support:</b>