



Month: January Week: 1

Subject: Approach to Play & Learning

Day 1	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	Theme: Kwanzaa Shape: Oval Number: 1 Color: Black, Red, Green Letter: Ss		APL1.1: Demonstrate initiative and self-direction.	
Indicators				
	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	Shows interest in exploring materials and engaging in simple tasks.		Uses familiar objects and materials in new and creative ways.	



Activities

The teacher will demonstrate how to create a Kwanzaa paper chain using red, black, and green construction paper. The teacher will guide toddlers in gluing paper strips to form loops and link them together. Younger toddlers will be assisted in exploring the materials and attempting basic actions like holding and gluing. Older toddlers will be encouraged to choose colors and attempt to form chains independently, reinforcing their creativity and initiative.

Resources and Materials

- Construction paper (red, black, green)
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors (for teacher use)

Topic Related Language/ Key Vocabulary

Kwanzaa, chain, loop, colors

Supports





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Day 2	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	Theme: Kwanzaa Shape: Oval Number: 1 Color: Black, Red, Green Letter: Ss		APL3.1: Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence.	
Indicators				
	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	Participates briefly in structured activities with adult support.		Stays focused on a task or activity with occasional prompts.	



Activities	
The teacher will lead a group activity singing a Kwanzaa celebration song, using simple repetition and rhythm. The teacher will provide instruments, such as tambourines or drums, for toddlers to explore rhythm. Younger toddlers will be encouraged to shake or tap instruments with support, while older toddlers will be guided to follow the song's beat and join in clapping or repeating key phrases.	
Resources and Materials	
• Tambourines, drums, or shakers • Lyrics to a Kwanzaa-themed song	
Topic Related Language/ Key Vocabulary	Supports
Celebrate, rhythm, drum, music	<u>Kwanzaa Celebration Song - The Kiboomers</u> <u>Preschool Learning Songs</u>



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Day 3	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	Theme: Kwanzaa Shape: Oval Number: 1 Color: Black, Red, Green Letter: Ss		APL3.1: Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence.	
Indicators				
	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	Briefly engages in structured activities with adult guidance.		Maintains focus on a simple, repetitive task for extended periods.	



Activities	
The teacher will introduce a rhythm activity using drums. Younger toddlers will be guided to tap or bang on drums while observing the teacher's demonstration. Older toddlers will attempt to mimic the rhythm patterns shown by the teacher, gradually creating their own simple beats. The teacher will encourage toddlers to stay engaged by celebrating each rhythm created.	
Resources and Materials	
• Handheld drums or empty containers for drumming • Sticks or hands for tapping	
Topic Related Language/ Key Vocabulary	Supports
Drum, tap, rhythm, sound	



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Day 4	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	Theme: Kwanzaa Shape: Oval Number: 1 Color: Black, Red, Green Letter: Ss		APL1.1: Demonstrate initiative and self-direction.	
Indicators				
	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	Expresses curiosity and participates with guidance.		Shows increasing independence in completing tasks.	



Activities

The teacher will lead a dance session to Kwanzaa-themed music. Younger toddlers will be encouraged to move freely to the music, exploring their space with teacher support. Older toddlers will be prompted to follow simple dance moves modeled by the teacher, such as clapping, stomping, or jumping to the beat. The activity will encourage toddlers to initiate movement and explore rhythm independently.

Resources and Materials

- Music player with Kwanzaa-themed songs

Topic Related Language/ Key Vocabulary

Dance, music, rhythm, move

Supports





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Day 5	Topic(s)		Foundation(s)	
	Theme: Kwanzaa Shape: Oval Number: 1 Color: Black, Red, Green Letter: Ss		APL2.1: Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play.	
Indicators				
	Younger Toddlers		Older Toddlers	
	Uses trial and error to explore cause and effect.		Applies learned strategies to new tasks.	



Activities

The teacher will set up a block-building activity using red, black, and green blocks. Younger toddlers will be encouraged to explore stacking blocks and knocking them over, observing cause and effect. Older toddlers will be challenged to build specific structures, such as towers or patterns, with teacher guidance. The teacher will model problem-solving strategies, such as balancing blocks or choosing stable foundations.

Resources and Materials

- Red, black, and green foam or wooden blocks

Topic Related Language/ Key Vocabulary

Build, block, tower, pattern

Supports

