

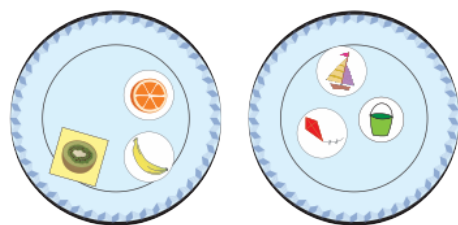
Live Healthy / Outdoors / Farm Life / Spring

About the Unit

Children celebrate healthy living as they sort, classify, and make patterns that involve an outdoor picnic theme.

Ages 2 and Up:

- Sort stickers and grocery ads into foods, toys, and other things to bring on a picnic.
- Sort “teddy bears” (plastic counters or pompoms) by color and size onto different picnic blankets.
- Make patterns with “teddy bears,” vegetable stamps, actions, and words.



Under 2s:

- Sort toys to take along on a pretend picnic.
- Act out patterns by taking turns clapping, touching your nose, and saying peekaboo.

Themes

Live Healthy or Farm Life. As children do the activities, emphasize the importance of healthy food and physical activity outdoors.

Outdoors or Spring. Set the scene for outdoor activities with photos of local parks or playgrounds. In many parts of the U.S., spring is a perfect time to be outside.

Math highlight: Sorting and patterns

As children are doing the activities, help them learn math by:

- Describing patterns with word such as first, next, and last. (all ages)
- Encouraging children to describe the patterns they are making. (2 and Up)
- Asking children to compare shapes: “*How are these the same? How are they different?*” (2 and Up)

Book connections

Use UP AND DOWN (Read Math Together/Talk Math Together) for ideas on how to bring math into story times about gardening.

Reminders

- Use the activities in order, one each day for 2 and up (1A, 1B, 2A ...) and one per week for Under 2s.
- Copies of activities for 2 and Up and Under 2s go home in color each week! Read Math Together/Talk Math Together goes home in color every month.
- Model the “Talk About” sections. These build mathematical thinking and engage children in exploring and discovering math.
- Post Center Activities. Each month focuses on a different number and shape.

Color copies and printouts help make math friendly and fun.

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Materials

Ages 2 and Up

Per program

- Small paper plates: 4 per child
- Stickers showing things to take on a picnic (healthy food, toys, drinks, etc.), enough so each child has 10-20 to choose from
- Several pages of grocery store ads
- Two glue sticks
- Teddy bear counters in three sizes and four colors, about 50.

Note 1. Many sets of counters only come in one size. Make sure you have them in three sizes. <http://www.amazon.com/School-Specialty-Teddy-Manipulative-Counters/dp/B0042SSW0G>

Note 2. As a lower-cost alternative, use pompoms or other objects in three sizes and four colors. Sizes should be different enough for young children to recognize them as small, medium, and large. The objects should be identical except for size and color.

- Construction paper:
 - 4 pieces, one in each of the colors of your “teddies”; cut in half
 - additional pieces in a different color than your “teddies”, enough for each child to have a few; cut in half
 - several sheets per child in any color
- Tempera paint in two colors (8-16 oz per color, depending on the size of your program)
- Tempera paint in a single color, 24-36 oz
- Two paint trays
- Three large carrots and a small uncooked potato for Week 4.
- Roll of paper towels

Additional preparation

- Cut up grocery store ads so that each child has 10-20 pictures of different foods and drinks to choose from
- Cut across the carrots and potato listed above to make stamps (for Week 4)

Under 2s

Per program

- Bucket of two types of objects (such as pompoms and plastic animals). Include about 10 of each type of object.
- Container (e.g., small yogurt container) and toy that fits inside it