



Fireflies Learning Goals and Objectives

For Children Ages 3 – 5 Years

Listed with each activity in the Monthly Curriculum Guide to help you select and plan for each child's needs. Some objectives may be observed during daily routines.

MATH

NUMBERS

- M1 grows in rote counting and sequencing of numbers
- M2 recognizes both numerals and number names
- M3 understands and uses 1-1 correspondence
- M4 counts and builds sets
- M5 compares quantities in sets and uses appropriate vocabulary: equal, more, less
- M6 understands adding and subtracting from a set
- M7 begins to understand dividing sets into parts up to fourths
- M8 understands and uses ordinal terms (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

PATTERNS

- M9 matches or sorts by color, size, shape, texture: classifies by attributes, makes comparisons
- M10 recognizes patterns: can tell "what comes next?"
- M11 duplicates simple patterns, then extends and creates patterns
- M12 identifies pattern groups (red/yellow, kitten/puppy)
- M13 serializes a group of like objects (small, medium, large, or light, medium, dark)

MEASUREMENT

- M14 understands, compares, and analyzes quantities of length, height, weight, time, or amount between two or more groups (by pointing to pictures or using words depicting little/big, short/tall, slow/fast, thin/fat, less/more, empty/full, few/many, heavy/light, shallow/deep, narrow/wide)
- M15 explores and observes ways to use tools to measure objects (e.g., erasers, paper clips, ruler, scale, thermometer, measuring cups, etc.)
- M16 develops growing abilities to collect, describe, and record information in different ways, such as discussion, maps, charts, or graphs.

GEOMETRY

- M17 demonstrates age-appropriate knowledge of geometric shapes
- M18 understands that shapes remain the same when flipped or rotated
- M19 understands symmetry

SPATIAL RELATIONS

- M20 understands directions/positional concepts: top/bottom, go/stop, far/near, up/down, over/under, out/in, above/below, in front/behind, inside/outside, etc.
- M21 describes position from different perspectives: "I am, you are"
- M22 uses simple directions to move from place to place: obstacle course, directional games, hopscotch

REASONING

- M23 uses simple strategies to solve mathematical problems
- M24 experiments with puzzles and blocks to create solutions, build structures, or move through a process to reach a goal

CREATIVE ART EXPRESSION

ART

- A1 uses a variety of art materials for exploration
- A2 creates something unique from other children: creative, imaginative work
- A3 appreciates artistic creations of others and art events; shares opinions about likes and dislikes

MUSIC

- A4 knows and sings songs
- A5 explores with sound, melody, tone, rhythm, beat
- A6 uses and shows interest in a variety of musical instruments for expression

MOVEMENT AND DANCE

- A7 participates in creative movement and dance
- A8 designs original movements and interpretations

DRAMATIC PLAY

- A9 participates in creative dramatic play and make-believe
- A10 uses props to enhance play environment

LANGUAGE/LITERACY

LISTENING

- L1 follows 2 and 3 step directions of increasing complexity
- L2 gains meaning by listening to stories, directions, conversations
- L3 understands verbal and nonverbal cues
- L4 listens and responds to rhymes and rhythms

CONVERSATION

- L5 expresses needs, wants, thoughts through nonverbal gestures, (exposed to sign language), progressing to verbal cues in English or home language
- L6 speaks clearly (is understood by both familiar and unfamiliar adults)
- L7 initiates asking questions and responds in conversation with others
- L8 shares opinions, experiences, and ideas with others with words
- L9 uses verbal and nonverbal conversational rules (takes turns, eye contact, loud and soft voice as appropriate, etc.)
- L10 listens to and repeats words in Spanish language

VOCABULARY

- L11 demonstrates growing understanding of words and meanings
- L12 converses with a rapidly expanding vocabulary
- L13 connects phrases and sentences to build ideas
- L14 speaks in sentences using grammar that is age-appropriate

EMERGENT READING

- L15 shows interest/motivation in reading: following along as a book is read, attempting to read by looking at illustrations or from memory, handling books appropriately, actively chooses books
- L16 understands text read aloud: recalling part or most of a story or representing it with play or media, asking and answering questions about stories read aloud, predicting next event in story
- L17 exhibits age-appropriate phonological awareness: combines syllables to make a word, combines words to make compound words, recognizes words that rhyme, associates sounds with letters and words, recognizes alliteration and words that rhyme
- L18 demonstrates alphabetic knowledge: can recite the alphabet, names or recognizes some letters and sounds – especially own name, recognizes and names most letters
- L19 understands left to right, top to bottom process of reading
- L20 understands structure: beginning, middle, end of a story

EMERGENT WRITING

- L21 shows interest in written expression: scribbling, drawing a person
- L22 shows awareness of the uses and functions of symbols and print to convey meaning and recognizes that different text forms are used for different purposes
- L23 shows awareness that a word is made up of letters
- L24 begins to copy or write own name
- L25 demonstrates age-appropriate writing: tracing, copying letters and numbers, copying shapes and symbols

SCIENCE

OBSERVATION

- S1 explores materials and makes observations, predictions based on information gathered from the senses
- S2 makes observations of life sciences: living vs. nonliving things, nature, environment, weather by physical characteristics
- S3 makes predictions based on past experiences and observations

QUESTIONING

- S4 asks why, where, when, how, what, and seeks answers through exploration

INVESTIGATION

- S5 classifies objects by function
- S6 uses tools such as scale, magnifier, bug catcher, map, or binoculars for investigation
- S7 uses "if/then" and "cause/effect" reasoning
- S8 makes comparisons among objects and groups

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SELF-CONCEPT

- SE1 recognizes similarities and differences between self and others: gender, cultural identity, self and family characteristics
- SE2 develops positive self image: awareness of self as having certain abilities, preferences, characteristics
- SE3 demonstrates increasing self-direction, independence, and control
- SE4 shows interest and respect for work of self and others
- SE5 chooses new as well as familiar activities
- SE6 cleans up own work/play space independently

RELATIONSHIPS

- SE7 uses play to explore and practice social roles and relationships
- SE8 interacts comfortably with familiar adults
- SE9 begins to participate as a member of a group: takes turns and shares, sustains interaction by helping, cooperating, expressing interest
- SE10 interacts with one or more children; develops special friendships
- SE11 participates in group song, dance, acting/role-play
- SE12 plays cooperatively with others; resolves some conflicts, uses constructive language
- SE13 seeks help or information when needed from adults

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- SE14 recognizes and describes own emotions
- SE15 manages feelings appropriately
- SE16 explores emotions through play, art, music, dance
- SE17 shows empathy and caring to others, respond to others emotions

SOCIAL STUDIES

HISTORY AND EVENTS

- SS1 shows awareness of concepts of time/sequence of events: past, present, and future and sequence of routines such as bedtime, lunchtime, morning, night, etc.

PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- SS2 engages in caring for the environment and conservation
- SS3 describes characteristics of things in the environment and geography of places: home, school, park, community; says name/address
- SS4 shows respect for living things

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

- SS5 understands family roles, relationships, rules, jobs
- SS6 follows simple rules and routines
- SS7 shows awareness of diverse backgrounds, cultural/global knowledge
- SS8 tells functions of some community helpers, parents' jobs, careers
- SS9 demonstrates growing awareness of community rules, governance, democracy
- SS10 exhibits awareness of trade to obtain goods and/or services; recognizes that money comes in different forms, such as coins, dollar bills, and credit/debit cards
- SS11 exhibits some knowledge of technology and media

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/HEALTH

FINE MOTOR

- PD1 gains strength and control of small muscles: folding and creasing paper, building with small blocks, manipulating play dough and clay
- PD2 demonstrates eye-hand coordination: strings beads, completes puzzles, sews through holes in lacing cards, ties knots and loops, tears paper, uses eating utensils, uses a keyboard
- PD3 uses scissors to cut shapes from paper
- PD4 begins to control use of writing, drawing, art tools, and art/craft mediums

GROSS MOTOR

- PD5 demonstrates balance and control of large muscles: walking forward, backward, heel-to-toe, on tiptoe and on a straight line, walking on a balance board, hopping on one foot, jumping with two feet
- PD6 coordinates movement when walking up and down stairs, running smoothly, kicking a ball, throwing a ball, bouncing and catching a ball, skipping, clapping
- PD7 develops strength, flexibility, and stamina through vigorous play and by using equipment

SELF-CARE

- PD8 undresses or dresses self independently, other than help with difficult fasteners
- PD9 exhibits increasing knowledge of healthy eating, good nutrition: tries new foods, willing to eat well-balanced diet, interested in various tastes, colors, and textures of food
- PD10 washes hands and face without assistance
- PD11 brushes teeth independently
- PD12 uses tissue for nose, napkin for hand/face appropriately, independently
- PD13 cares for toileting needs independently
- PD14 participates in a variety of physical activities
- PD15 follows basic safety and health rules
- PD16 demonstrates visual and auditory ability and general good health and sleep habits to enable learning

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

IMAGINATION

- AL1 shows creativity, flexibility, and inventiveness in play experiences
- AL2 takes on various roles in make-believe play
- AL3 uses new strategies to solve problems

CURIOSITY

- AL4 shows a willingness to participate, is eager to join play events
- AL5 demonstrates inquisitiveness about subjects and objects

PERSISTENCE

- AL6 is not easily discouraged, seeks help to overcome problems
- AL7 works at a task despite distractions or interruptions
- AL8 usually completes reasonable tasks or stays engaged

REFLECTION

- AL9 observes or contemplates and applies that knowledge to a new situation
- AL10 generates ideas, suggestions
- AL11 makes a plan before beginning a task and follows through

RISK-TAKING

- AL12 welcomes new experiences, situations, play events, materials, friends