

About Themes

People often ask me in what sequence I teach my themes. The chart on the next page is my theme sequence for the year. **I look at these plans as “possibilities”, not anything set in stone. I like to let the children’s interests invade my plans at any time.**

One Theme Per Month

My themes pages have been online for many years now, but what I do in the classroom has evolved over the years. I now do one broad theme each month, and have combined some of the themes wherever it made sense. For example, Families and Pets can go together because they are both related to children's home life. Community and Transportation go together because we talk about what kinds of things people transport in our community, or what types of vehicles community helpers drive, or how the vehicles help people in the community. Wild Animals is a combination of my Safari and Rainforest themes. Plants and Bugs go together because they are related to each other: they both depend on each other to survive. Bugs pollinate the plants to help them grow, and the plants provide food for the bugs. Our Water theme combines Pond and Ocean themes.

Why One Theme Per Month?

Doing themes for a month makes so much more sense for the children and me because they get to enjoy and explore a topic longer and I don't have to work so hard changing out books and center materials constantly as I would if I did weekly themes. What can children gain from a topic if their topic is being changed every week? Do they even have time to enjoy it? Do you really want to put out Farm themed puzzles, stamps, books, photos, puppets, dramatic play clothes, etc. only to change them again next week? The children probably like having the room changed so much even less than you do.

How Do You Fit Everything In?

One more thing about themes: I've had people tell me before that they don't understand how I can possibly do all of the activities I have listed in my theme pages. I don't. I never do one year exactly like the other. I add in some new activities, take away some old ones. When I have added new activities to my themes pages, I left in the old ones, so that teachers who visit the site can pick and choose what they want.

Theme Sequence

	Theme	Holiday	Social Studies Connection to Theme/Season
August	Beginning School		Class routines, personal care (wash hands, cover sneeze, etc.)
September	Families, Homes & Pets		Manners; Homes around world (book: Houses and Homes)
October	Farm	Halloween	Compare crops we grow in our state to other places
November	Forest: Trees, Leaves, Animals	Thanksgiving	What are we thankful for?
December	Gingerbread	Christmas	Celebrations around the world
January	Winter		Compare our winter to winter in other places
February	Community & Transportation	Valentine's Day	Transportation around world (book: On the Go), communities, dental, healthy food for teeth & body
March	Wild Animals	St. Patrick's Day	African folklore about wild animals
April	Spring: Bugs & Plants	Easter	Bread around the world (connect to plants: bread comes from plant) (Book: Bread, Bread, Bread)
May	Water: Pond & Ocean	Mother's Day	

Curriculum Plans

	Nursery Rhymes	Fairy Tale	Dramatic Play
August	Five Little Monkeys Hickory Dickory Dock Hey Diddle Diddle		Introduce House Center
September	Old Woman in Shoe Old Mother Hubbard To Market, To Market		Vet
October	Peter, Peter Little Boy Blue Bo Peep Little Miss Muffet	Three Little Pigs	Grocery Store or Fruit & Veggie Stand
November	Fall the Leaves Wee Willie Winkie	Little Red Riding Hood (Compare to Pretty Salma)	Pizza Restaurant
December	Jack Be Nimble Little Jack Horner Star Light	Gingerbread Boy (Compare to Jan Brett's Gingerbread Baby)	Toy Shop w/ Christmas Gift Wrap Station
January	Three Little Kittens Rain, Rain	Goldilocks and the Three Bears (Compare to Jan Brett's Three Snow Bears version)	Bakery
February	Rub a Dub Dub Queen of Hearts	Jack & the Beanstalk	Post Office
March	Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree Jack & Jill	Three Billy Goats Gruff	Doctor's Office
April	Mary, Mary Beehive Humpty Dumpty	Little Red Hen	Garden Shop
May	Review all	The Ugly Duckling	Ice Cream Shop

Curriculum Plans

	Science Experiments	Cooking	Estimation Jar
August	Make bubble solution	Mix food color in vanilla pudding or yogurt	
September	Color swirl, color mixing, color explosions, Skittles experiment	Spread sunbutter on crackers	Markers
October	Chemistry: slime, curds & whey, make butter	Apple pie	Pumpkins or spider rings
November	Nature: Bird watching, leaf fossils, nature study, nature walk	Mini pizza, Mini Pumpkin Pie	Leaves
December	Chemistry: make glue, salt/sugar comparison, vinegar & baking soda	To be decided	Candy canes or ball ornaments
January	Magnets (classify), insta snow, freeze different substances	Lemon pie, Decorate cookie	Styrofoam balls ("snowballs")
February	Ramps (diff heights, materials), air machine, rockets, pulse, fingerprints	To be decided	Candy hearts
March	Sound, taste test, texture hunt, 5 senses	Banana Pudding	Mini plastic animals
April	Rock study, rain's effect on a hill, scented flower, nature walk checklist	Chocolate mud pie, Ant hill	Eggs
May	Properties of Water: Float/sink, absorbing, dissolving, melting, rust. Sea shell fossils	Ocean jello snack, Tuna sandwich	Sand (volume) Water (volume)