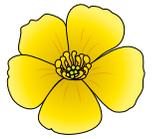


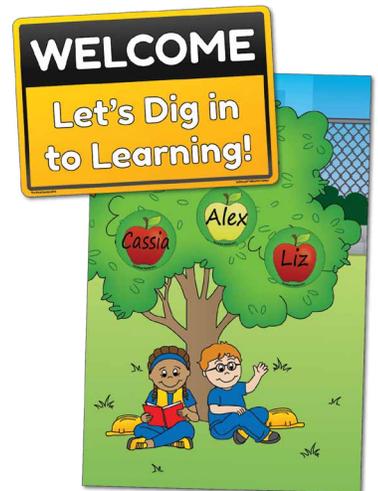
Using Buttercups Curriculum A Writer's Perspective



Start Your Day Activities

At the beginning of each theme in Buttercups 0-3 year curriculum, we provide activities for you to incorporate into your morning routine each day. It is important to establish a routine from the beginning, so we provide a **Welcome Display and Name Tags**, as well as a **Weather Display**.

Attendance: You can use the Welcome Display and Name Tags as an attendance chart, attaching each child's name to the chart during the morning circle time. You will receive a different set of Name Tags every two months to use for the Attendance Chart, labeling cubbies, etc. In addition to the new Name Tags, we also include a new Welcome song to sing as you take attendance each day. Repetition of routines and songs provides comfort for young children as they know what to expect, and it also builds language skills as children may start to repeat parts of songs or rhymes with you. Children will also begin to recognize their own names as they repeat the attendance routine each day.



Weather: We encourage you to take notice of the weather with your group each day. This helps children build an awareness of the difference between being indoors versus outdoors. Participating in a weather activity each day also builds the basic observation and vocabulary skills that are necessary for making observations in science activities later on. We have included a Weather Display to help you make observations with your children. We encourage you to have the children look out the window as you sing the included weather song, or a favorite weather song of your own. Then have children look at the weather display and choose the picture that looks most like today's weather. You can attach the included large arrow clip to the picture they choose.



Infant Activities

The Infant Activities are written to coordinate with many of the toddler activities in the theme. We have even included page numbers in some of the infant activities to help you connect them to the toddler activities. The infant activities are provided to help you know how to use some of the materials we suggest in the toddler activities in a developmentally appropriate way. Feel free to repeat the infant activities often as repetition is comforting to young children. If you are using FunShine Online, we have connected the infant activities to the toddler activities by including them on the same day on your Daily Calendar. You will be able to open the activities for the day and quickly scroll to see both activities together!



Center Activities

The Center Activities provide opportunities for your little ones to make choices about what interests them and use materials in ways you might not have considered. Six types of centers are included each month, with suggested materials to include. Some of the materials are theme-based, and some are general materials to be included each time. Having too many choices can be overwhelming to young children, so consider providing 1-2 center activities per day. You can rotate the center materials as children show interest. When children begin to lose interest, replace one center with another. We have provided suggested interactions for you and your little ones with each center, but be sure to let the children direct most of the activity. If you use FunShine Online, we have placed the Center Activities on different days of the weekly calendar. Please feel free to click and drag the center activities to the days you would like to use them!



Theme Activities

Theme Activities make up the bulk of each theme and are written with toddlers in mind. They are organized by day and include four activities from several domains. Each day will usually include a Language/Literacy activity and a Physical/Health activity. Other types of activities you will see are Social/Emotional, Social Studies, Creative Arts, Math, and Science. Within these activities you will find opportunities to include songs and rhymes, movement suggestions, experiments, cooking opportunities, and more. Many of these activities also provide suggestions for Older Toddlers and are connected to Infant Activities to help you if you are working with a multiage group of children. If you are using FunShine Online, you will find the Theme Activities on the correct days of your weekly calendar, with Center and Infant Activities included as well.



Language/Literacy Activities: Language and literacy activities are packed full of rich vocabulary and opportunities for little ones to use their words. We include Vocabulary Cards, All About Me Cards, Sign Language Cards, Nursery Rhyme Story Props, Early Learning Materials, songs, board books, and new for this year, a Concept Cube with two sets of Concept Cube Activity Cards per month. All of these activities encourage development of listening and speaking skills. We provide teachers many ideas for incorporating theme-related vocabulary as they follow our activities, as well as suggested questions to ask to get children talking. Most activities in the Buttercups (0-3 year) curriculum reinforce language and literacy development. Children are also introduced to weather words, and learn colors and shapes in English, as well as Spanish.



Physical/Health Activities: Buttercups physical/health activities focus on gross and fine motor development, as well as safety and self-care. We incorporate a wide range of activities to give teachers opportunities to encourage play and exercise, bending and stretching, exploring and trying new foods, and even practicing self-care actions, such as washing hands and using a tissue. All Physical/Health activities are included in a set of collectable cards with tips to individualize the activity for different ages.



Social/Emotional Activities: Buttercups social/emotional activities focus on building self-awareness, relationships, and self-regulation. Infant activities help children build relationships with caregivers, providing suggestions for spending one-on-one time reading, exploring, or even doing baby yoga. Center Activities help little ones move from side-by-side play to interactive play with other children. Activities included in the Daily Lessons help children develop a sense of self as a part of a group, help children learn to work together, and also provide opportunities to develop self-regulation while exploring materials alongside others.



Creative Arts Activities: The exploratory art projects included in Buttercups curriculum help children develop fine motor skills while allowing them to explore developmentally appropriate art media. The emphasis in all art activities should be more on the exploration and creative process instead of creating a product. When we write these activities, we envision children enjoying the sensory experience of using the media to create something all their own. We have scaffolding ideas built in to most projects to help teachers provide the appropriate level of support, while still allowing a little one to explore and be creative. In some cases, the teacher may decide to create a prop and simply allow the child to play with a finished product. Most major Daily Lesson art projects have an associated Infant Activity.



Math Activities: Buttercups math activities help little ones construct knowledge of quantity, number sense, shape, size, measurement, and patterns. We include opportunities for children to explore “more and less,” counting in routines, songs, and games, noticing shapes and how things fit together, moving their bodies in space, and following patterns in songs and movements. Children explore math concepts using developmentally appropriate manipulatives and toys and materials we provide in our Buttercups kits or as printable items in FunShine Online. Center Activities suggest providing blocks, puzzles, and other materials to help children discover spatial relationships and work on fine motor skills as they stack blocks, explore with a shape sorter, and more. The focus on math skills at this age is to help children develop an awareness of mathematical concepts that can be built upon during the preschool years to prepare children for kindergarten.



Science Activities: Children are naturally curious about their environment, and we capitalize on this curiosity by creating activities to help children develop observation skills, begin to understand our world and the things that live in it, and care for our environment and planet. Most science activities are hands-on and provide teachers with guiding questions, scaffolding, and extensions to use. Infant activities often use the same materials as the Daily Activities with a modification of vocabulary and expected skills. Each theme also includes a Discovery Center with suggested materials that will help children develop a love of science.



Social Studies Activities: Buttercups social studies activities focus on developing awareness of self, culture, and family and the physical environment. These activities incorporate music, stories, and rhymes from various cultures and help children develop a sense of identity, belonging to their family and their class.

*Thank you for choosing Buttercups
- Enjoy!*