Unit 2: Changing Seasons

Content Area: **Pre-School**
Course(s): **Pre-School**
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **7 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

This is a seven week unit starting from the beginning of October through Thanksgiving. During the study, children use skills in literacy, math, technology, and the arts to investigate and represent their knowledge about the changing seasons. This unit builds upon children's interest in changing seasons to help them explore science and social studies. The topics covered are Trees and Apples, Halloween, Nocturnal Animals, Harvest, Table Manners, Healthy Foods, and Giving Thanks. This unit includes the following social skills: trying when it is hard (Skillstreaming), asking for help (Skillstreaming), saying excuse me and interrupting (Skillstreaming), waiting your turn (Skillstreaming), my turn at the microphone (SE10), ignoring (Skillstreaming), and saying please and thank you (Skillstreaming). The unit covers colors black, orange, and brown and the shapes square and oval. The positional words covered are inside and outside and between and on. Concepts explored are size which includes small, medium and large and sequencing smallest to biggest. Also, students will learn letters A, H, B, T and numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Standards

4.1	Children begin to demonstrate an understanding of number and counting.
5.1	Children develop inquiry skills.
5.3	Children observe and investigate living things.
	Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
0.4	Children exhibit positive interactions with other children and adults.
4.3	Children begin to conceptualize measurable attributes of objects.
RI.PK	Reading Informational Text
5.4	Children observe and investigate the Earth.
4.4	Children develop spatial and geometric sense.
0.5	Children exhibit pro-social behaviors.
4.4.3	Manipulate, compare and discuss the attributes of:
1.4	Children express themselves through and develop an appreciation of the visual arts (e.g., painting, sculpting, and drawing).
RF.PK	Reading: Foundational Skills
RF.PK.2.c	Identify many initial sounds of familiar words.

Essential Questions

1. How and why do things change?

2. How do plants, animals, and people depend on one another?
3. How do trees change?
4. Why is it important to think ahead and prepare for change?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- 2-6 are numbers referring to a specific quantity.
- A, H, B, and T are letters and each represent a specific sound.
- Black, orange, and brown are colors and that they are associated with the season Fall.
- Fall brings specific changes that are purposeful to your environment.
- Holidays have various traditions that people celebrate together.
- Inside, outside, between and on are phrases that repositions different types of positions.
- Nocturnal animals are awake at night in order to keep them safe from predators.
- Square and oval are shapes with specific attributes.
- There are many different things in our lives that we are thankful for.

Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- Describe how nocturnal animals obtain food.
- Employ a positive strategy when trying to do something that is difficult.
- follow social cues while using manners.
- Name the body parts of owls, spiders, and bats and describe their functions.
- Name things that they are grateful for.
- Notice and describe the changes that fall brings.
- Recognize and name fruits and vegetables.
- Recognize and name letters A, H, B, and T.
- Recognizing and naming numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Say please and thank you.
- Sequence from smallest to biggest.
- Sort small, medium, and large.
- Wait their turn.

Assessments

1. Quarterly self portrait
2. Quarterly progress report (IEP Direct)
3. Quarterly assessment test (Teacher generated)
4. Informal teacher observations
5. Weekly daily reports

6. Portfolio assessment

Suggested Activities

Week 1 & 2 - Tree Study and Apples

- Practice recognizing letter A by completing a find and dot, sensory writing, tracing, and activities using A words.
- Demonstrate how to write letter A and practice writing A on large Fundations white board. Use vocabulary sky line, plane line, grass line, and worm line when demonstrating.
- Circle and represent groups that show 3.
- Write number 3 in various ways (rainbow writing, sensory writing, dry erase).
- Introduce and roleplay Skillstreaming: Trying when its hard and asking for help.
- Cut open apples horizontally and use apply halves as stampers to add apples to a tree.
- Taste test different kinds of apples.
- Label parts of an apple.
- Sequence the changes of a tree during the Fall.
- Take students on a nature walk and notice the changes outside during the Fall time.
- Go for a nature walk and collect signs of fall and incorporate during center time activities.
- Label parts of a leaf.
- Learn about the four seasons during circle time.
- Go for a nature walk and compare and contrast the characteristics are trees.
- Read, "Our Tree named Steve", and notice the changes of a tree and the uses of a tree.
- Read, 'Who lives in Trees?," and list animals that do and do not live in trees.
- Answer the question of the day, "Did this grow on a tree?", to predict what grows in trees.
- Read, "Henny Penny", to learn about what can grow from a tree.

Week 3 - Halloween

- Practice letter H by completing a find and dot, sensory writing, tracing, and activities using H words.
- Demonstrate how to write letter H and practice writing H on large Fundations white board. Use vocabulary sky line, plane line, grass line, and worm line when demonstrating.
- Circle and represent groups if 4.
- Write number 4 in various ways (rainbow writing, sensory writing, dry erase).
- Introduce and roleplay Skillstreaming: Saying excuse me and interrupting.
- Introduce and sing song, "5 Little Pumpkins".
- Display different size pumpkins in the science center for students to investigate.
- Crave a real pumpkin to learn about parts of the pumpkin.
- Sequence pictures of the steps to carve the Jack 'O Lantern and glue in order on sentence stripes.
- Practice following one-step directions by creating a mummy, ghost, witch, and pumpkin.
- Inform students about Halloween safety.
- Introduce the shape square. Complete Spookley the Square pumpkin craft.
- Introduce the color black and complete activities using the color black (create a black cat or other Halloween themed craft).
- Introduce the color orange and complete activities using the color orange (focus on pumpkins).

- Use pictures of trees and pom poms (apples) to model the positional words inside and outside.

Week 4 & 5 - Nocturnal Animals

- Practice letter B by completing a find and dot, sensory writing, tracing, and activities using B words.
- Demonstrate how to write letter B and practice writing B on large Fundations white board. Use vocabulary sky line, plane line, grass line, and worm line when demonstrating.
- Circle and represent groups of 5.
- Write number 5 in various ways (rainbow writing, sensory writing, dry erase).
- Introduce and roleplay Skillstreaming: Waiting your turn, (SE10) my turn at the microphone, and ignoring.
- Sing and read, "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," by Iza Trapani.
- Create a spider web using white crayons and water color.
- Make a 3 dimensional spiders with styrofoam balls, pipe cleaner legs, and wiggly eyes.
- Make paper plate spiders to describe parts of a spider.
- Use B cut-outs to create a bat.
- Discuss the meaning of the word nocturnal and create a nocturnal habitat.
- Practice following one-step directions by creating an owl out of black crayon and water colors.
- Make owl booklets introducing different species of owls.
- Read story, "Owl Babies", and retell the story and create painting of owl babies to demonstrate small, medium, and large. Use oval tracers to create the owls.
- Introduce the shape oval. Students will color, trace, connect the dots, and draw an oval.
- Use spiders and a web to demonstrate the positional words between and on, (the spider is between the webs, the spider is on the web).

Week 6 - Harvest/Table Manners/Healthy Foods

- Practice letter T by completing a find and dot, sensory writing, tracing, and activities using T words.
- Demonstrate how to write letter T and practice writing T on large Fundations white board. Use vocabulary sky line, plane line, grass line, and worm line when demonstrating.
- Circle and represent groups of 6.
- Write number 6 in various ways (rainbow writing, sensory writing, dry erase).
- Introduce and roleplay Skillstreaming: Saying please and thank you.
- Classify pictures of foods into healthy and non-healthy categories.
- Color, cut, and paste fruit and vegetable patterns in a cornucopia. Sing "The Cornucopia Song" while identifying each food item and placing it in the cornucopia.
- Show where vegetables and fruits grow: Above ground, on a vine, below ground, and in trees.
- Read stories about good and table manners.
- Practice good table manners during snack time.

Week 7 - Giving Thanks & Pilgrims

- Make Thankful Turkeys by following one or two step directions to assemble paper turkeys. Have students dictate or write something they are thankful for on each tail feather.
- Go over parts of a turkey.
- Follow directed drawing on how to draw a turkey.
- Read the story about the Pilgrims.
- Go over rhyme, "10 Little Indians".
- Familiarize students on sequence words: first, then, last.

- Create 3-step plan on "How to Cook a Turkey" or "How to Catch a Turkey".

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Differentiation for special education:

- General modifications may include:
    - Modifications & accommodations as listed in the student's IEP
    - Assign a peer to help keep student on task
    - Modified or reduced assignments
    - Reduce length of assignment for different mode of delivery
    - Increase one-to-one time
    - Working contract between you and student at risk
    - Prioritize tasks
    - Think in concrete terms and provide hands-on-tasks
    - Position student near helping peer or have quick access to teacher
    - Anticipate where needs will be
    - Break tests down in smaller increment

- Content specific modifications may include:
    - Create larger templates for writing activities.
    - Include pictures with words.
    - Highlight dotted lines for writing and cutting activities.
    - Include dots to indicate starting points when writing.
    - Verbally and physically prompt students to ensure that they are able to follow daily routines successfully.
    - Students with expressive language challenges may join in gradually and will have proximal seating to afford optimal visual and auditory cues for songs, stories, and finger plays.

Differentiation for ELL's:

- General modifications may include:
    - Strategy groups
    - Teacher conferences
    - Graphic organizers
    - Modification plan
    - Collaboration with ELL Teacher
- Content specific vocabulary important for ELL students to understand include:
    - Fall, Trees, Apple, Seed, Flesh, Skin, Stem, Roots, Leaf, Branch, Spider, Bats, Owl, Halloween , Mummy, Ghost, Pumpkin, Witch, Please, Thank you, Ignore, Try, Ask for Help, Excuse Me, Wait

Differentiation to extend learning for gifted students may include:

- Focus on letter sounds.
- Spell three letter CVC words.
- Independent writing activities.
- Leading the group.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Each preschool unit is inherently cross-disciplinary in nature. Across the school day, students are immersed in activities that explore math, language arts, social studies, and science concepts. As they engage in various centers such art, library, dramatic play, building, and science their play combines elements of all content areas. While students are engaging in centers, the teacher and instructional aide looks for opportunities to teach into and enhance student understanding of content. Students will learn literacy, mathematics, science and social studies skills by integrating studies on trees, apples, pumpkins, nocturnal animals, and halloween.

Resources

Books: Our Tree Named Steve, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Trees Count, Trees, Trees, Trees, The Grouchy Ladybug, Who Lives in Trees, Henny Penny, A Grand Old Tree, Growing Trees, A Tree is For..., Pablo's Tree, Spookly the Square Pumpkin, Have you seen my Monster?, We are Going on a Ghost Hunt, Skeleton Meets the Mummy, Owl Babies, The Very Busy Spider, Stellaluna

Songs and Rhymes: The Green Grass Grows, I'm a Sturdy Oak Tree, Strolling Through the Park, High in the Tree, I Had a Little Nut Tree, 5 Little Pumpkins, 10 Little Indians, The Itsy Bitsy Spider

Other Resources: Creative Curriculum for Preschool Teaching Guide, Creative Curriculum for Preschool Mighty Minutes cards, Creative Curriculum for Preschool Intentional Teaching Cards, Creative Curriculum for Preschool: Tree Study, Skillstreaming in Early Childhood, Third Edition by E. McGinnis (social skills).