

Lesson Plan: Indoor Camping Adventure

Materials Needed:

- **For the Fort:** Blankets, sheets, pillows, couch cushions, chairs, clothespins or clamps.
- **For the "Campfire":** Rolled-up brown construction paper (logs), red, orange, and yellow tissue paper or construction paper (flames), a flashlight.
- **For "Campfire Stories":** A favorite picture book (preferably about animals, nature, or camping) or just your imagination!
- **For "S'mores" Snack (No-Heat):** Graham crackers, chocolate frosting or Nutella, mini marshmallows.
- **For the Nature Scavenger Hunt:** A paper bag or small basket, a list of items to find (can be drawn or written), crayons or markers.

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- **Engineer & Problem-Solve:** Construct a simple shelter (a fort) using available materials.
- **Develop Literacy Skills:** Create and retell a simple story sequence with a beginning, middle, and end.
- **Practice Fine Motor Skills:** Assemble a multi-step snack and manipulate small objects.
- **Observe & Classify:** Identify and collect natural objects based on specific attributes (e.g., color, texture, shape).

2. Alignment with Early Learning Standards

This lesson aligns with typical Pre-K/Kindergarten standards in the following domains:

- **Science/Engineering:** Exploring building and design; observing the natural world.
- **English Language Arts:** Retelling stories, using descriptive language, understanding narrative structure.
- **Mathematics:** Sorting and classifying objects, counting items collected.
- **Fine Motor Development:** Using hands and fingers for precise tasks like building and food preparation.
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** Practicing collaboration (with the parent/teacher) and imaginative play.

3. Instructional Sequence & Strategies

Part 1: Setting Up Camp (15-20 minutes) - *Hands-On Building*

1. **Introduction:** Announce, "Today, we're going on a camping adventure right here in our living room! But every camper needs a good tent. Let's build one!"
2. **Activity:** Work together to build a blanket fort. Drape sheets over chairs, couches, or tables. Use pillows to weigh down the edges and create comfy spaces inside.
 - **Teacher's Role:** Guide with questions instead of directions. Ask, "What could we use to hold this blanket up?" or "How can we make the doorway bigger?" This encourages problem-solving.
3. **Finishing Touches:** Once the fort is built, set up the "campfire." Let the student arrange the paper "logs" and "flames." Place a flashlight in the middle, pointing up, to make it glow.

Part 2: Campsite Adventures (20-30 minutes) - *Creative Application*

1. Activity 1 - Campfire Stories:

- Gather around the "campfire" inside or next to the fort.
- Read a camping-themed book, or start a collaborative story. You begin: "Once upon a time, a brave camper named [Student's Name] saw a funny squirrel..." Then, let the student add the next part of the story. Go back and forth to create a simple narrative.
- **Strategy:** This uses storytelling to foster creativity and verbal expression.

2. Activity 2 - No-Heat S'mores Snack:

- Announce, "Camping always makes me hungry! Let's make some special campfire s'mores."
- Lay out the graham crackers, frosting, and marshmallows.
- Guide the student through the steps: 1) Lay down one cracker. 2) Spread the chocolate frosting. 3) Stick on the mini marshmallows. 4) Top with another cracker.
- **Strategy:** This is a direct instruction activity that builds fine motor skills and the ability to follow a sequence.

3. Activity 3 - Backyard/Indoor Nature Scavenger Hunt:

- Explain, "Let's explore the wilderness around our campsite!"
- Give the student the paper bag and the scavenger hunt list. The list can have pictures of things to find: a smooth rock, a bumpy leaf, something green, a stick shaped like the letter 'Y', a flower, etc. If indoors, adapt the list: something soft (pillow), something red (book), something crinkly (paper), etc.
- **Strategy:** This is a discovery-based activity that promotes observation, movement, and classification skills.

Part 3: Packing Up Camp (10 minutes) - *Closure & Review*

1. **Clean-Up Game:** Turn clean-up into a game. "Let's see how fast we can pack up our campsite! The pillows go back on the couch in 10...9...8..."
2. **Review:** While cleaning up, ask fun questions to review the day. "What was your favorite part of our camping trip?" or "Tell me one thing you found on your scavenger hunt." or "What happened in the story we made up?"

4. Differentiation & Inclusivity

• For Extra Support:

- **Fort:** Pre-drape a sheet over two chairs to create a simple A-frame to start.
- **Story:** Use a book with simple, repetitive text, or use puppets to help tell the story.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list with only 3-4 items and use real objects or clear photos instead of drawings.

• For an Extra Challenge:

- **Fort:** Challenge the student to design a fort with two separate "rooms" or a window.
- **Story:** Ask the student to draw a picture of their favorite part of the story they created and explain it.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Ask the student to find objects and sort them by a specific attribute (e.g., "Find three smooth things and two rough things").

5. Assessment (Informal & Observational)

Observe the student during the activities to assess if the objectives were met:

- **Fort Building:** Did the student actively participate in placing blankets, pillows, or chairs? Did they suggest an idea for how to make it work?
- **Storytelling:** Was the student able to add a logical (or creative) next step to the story? Could they recall a key event from the story afterward?

- **Snack Making:** Could the student follow the two or three-step directions to assemble their s'more? Did they demonstrate control while spreading or placing marshmallows?
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Was the student able to successfully match objects they found to the items on the list? Could they describe one of the objects using words like "bumpy," "green," or "small"?