

Campsite Creator: A Day of Indoor Adventure!

Materials Needed:

- **For the Tent:** A large blanket or sheet, pillows, cushions, chairs, and clothespins or clips to hold it together.
 - **For the Campfire:** Brown and green construction paper, orange, yellow, and red tissue paper or construction paper, 1-2 empty toilet paper rolls, child-safe scissors, and a glue stick or tape.
 - **For the Activities:** A flashlight, a backpack, several stuffed animals, a book about camping or animals (e.g., "A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee" by Chris Van Dusen or a non-fiction nature book), and a compass (optional).
 - **For the Snack:** Graham crackers, mini marshmallows, and chocolate chips for an easy, no-bake "S'mores Trail Mix."
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Lesson Plan Details

Subject: Interdisciplinary (Science, Art, Literacy, Math, Gross & Fine Motor Skills)

Grade Level: Homeschool, Kindergarten (Age 6)

Time Allotment: 2-3 hours (flexible)

1. Learning Objectives

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

- Construct a simple shelter (fort) using household materials, demonstrating problem-solving and gross motor skills.
 - Create a 3D campfire craft, practicing fine motor skills like cutting and gluing.
 - Identify and name three different animals that live in a forest environment.
 - Count out snack items up to 10.
 - Retell one key event from a camping-themed story.
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2. Lesson Activities & Procedure

Part 1: Gearing Up & Setting Up Camp (30-45 minutes - Gross Motor & Problem Solving)

1. **The Hook:** Announce, "Today, we are going on a camping trip right here in our house! But first, a good camper always packs their gear. What do you think we will need?"
 2. **Pack the Bag:** Grab the backpack. Ask the student what to pack. Guide them to suggest items like a flashlight, a snack, a water bottle, and a "map" (a piece of paper). This introduces the theme in an interactive way.
 3. **Build the Tent:** Explain that every campsite needs a tent. Using chairs, a sofa, and a table, help the student drape the large blanket or sheet over the top to create a fort. Secure it with clips. This is a great exercise in teamwork, engineering, and using large muscles.
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Part 2: The Campfire Craft (20-30 minutes - Art & Fine Motor Skills)

1. **Gather "Wood":** Explain that a campfire needs logs. Give the student the brown construction paper to wrap around the toilet paper rolls to create "logs."
2. **Build the Fire Pit:** Have the student tear or cut strips of green paper to make "grass" for the campfire to sit on.
3. **Create Flames:** Show the student how to tear the red, orange, and yellow paper into flame shapes. Tearing is an excellent fine motor exercise.
4. **Assemble:** Glue the "logs" together in a crisscross or teepee shape on the "grass." Then, have the student glue the "flames" onto the top of the logs. Place the finished campfire in a safe spot near the tent.

Part 3: Forest Animal Hike (20-30 minutes - Science & Observation)

1. **Prepare the "Forest":** While the student isn't looking, hide several stuffed animals (ideally forest animals like a bear, squirrel, deer, or owl) around the room or house.
2. **Go on a Hike:** Announce it's time for a nature hike. Give the student the flashlight. Turn down the lights in the "forest" (the room) to make it more exciting.
3. **Spot the Animals:** Encourage the student to use the flashlight to find the hidden animals. When they find one, ask, "What kind of animal is that? What sound does it make? What do you think it eats?" This builds vocabulary and scientific knowledge about habitats.

Part 4: Campfire Story & Snack (20 minutes - Literacy & Math)

1. **Gather at the Fire:** Invite the student to sit inside the tent, near the paper campfire.
2. **S'mores Trail Mix:** Give the student a small bowl. Ask them to count out the ingredients for their snack. For example: "Can you please count out **8** chocolate chips? Now, can you count out **10** mini marshmallows?" Break up one graham cracker to add to the mix.
3. **Story Time:** While they enjoy their snack, read the camping-themed book aloud. Use an engaging voice. Point to the pictures and ask questions throughout the story.
4. **Wrap-up:** When the story is done, ask, "What was your favorite part of that story? What happened first?"

3. Assessment (Informal & Observational)

- **Fort Construction:** Observe the student's participation and ability to help solve problems while building the tent.
- **Campfire Craft:** The finished craft serves as an assessment of following multi-step directions and using fine motor skills.
- **Animal Identification:** Listen for the student's ability to name at least three animals found on the "hike."
- **Counting:** Check if the student can accurately count the snack items as requested.
- **Story Retelling:** Note if the student can recall a simple plot point from the book.

4. Differentiation & Inclusivity

- **For Extra Support:** Pre-cut the paper strips for the campfire. Use a picture-based checklist for the backpack packing activity. Focus on identifying just one or two animals.
- **For an Extra Challenge:**
 - Ask the student to draw a map of the campsite (the room), labeling the "tent," "campfire," and "forest."
 - Encourage the student to create their own short story about a camping adventure.

- If you have a real compass, introduce the cardinal directions (North, South, East, West) during the hike.