

Lesson Plan: Indoor Camping Adventure

Materials Needed:

- A blanket or sheet to create a tent
- Chairs, pillows, or couch cushions to build the tent frame
- Construction paper (brown, orange, yellow, green)
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- Crayons or markers
- A flashlight
- A paper towel or toilet paper tube
- Small natural items from outside (leaves, twigs, smooth stones) OR household items to sort (buttons, small toys, blocks)
- A favorite stuffed animal or doll to be a "camping buddy"
- Optional: Snacks like crackers or marshmallows for a "campfire treat"

Subject/Theme: Camping (Integrated Arts, Literacy, Math, and Science)

Age/Grade Level: 5 years old (Preschool / Kindergarten)

Time Allotment: 60-90 minutes (flexible)

1. Learning Objectives

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

- **Fine & Gross Motor Skills:** Construct a simple fort/tent and create a paper campfire craft.
- **Literacy:** Create a "Campsite Name Sign" and practice identifying/writing the letters of their name.
- **Math/Science:** Collect or identify 5-10 items on a scavenger hunt and sort them by a simple attribute (e.g., color, size, shape).
- **Creative Expression:** Use a flashlight to create shadow puppets and tell a simple story.

2. Alignment with Standards and Curriculum

This lesson aligns with common Early Childhood Learning Standards, focusing on:

- **Scientific Inquiry:** Observing, collecting, and sorting natural objects.
- **Early Literacy:** Recognizing and writing one's own name.
- **Mathematical Thinking:** Counting and sorting sets of objects.
- **Creative Arts & Expression:** Engaging in imaginative play and creating theme-based crafts.
- **Physical Development:** Using fine motor skills for cutting/gluing and gross motor skills for building.

3. Instructional Strategies and Activities

Part 1: Setting Up Camp (15 minutes)

Goal: Engage the student and build the "campsite" to set the scene.

1. **Introduction:** Start by asking, "What are some things we might see or do if we went camping?" Talk about tents, campfires, and animals.
2. **Build Your Tent:** Work together to build an indoor tent. Drape a large blanket or sheet over a

couple of chairs or couch cushions. This is a great gross motor activity.

3. **Move In:** Once the tent is built, invite the student to bring their "camping buddy" (stuffed animal) and some pillows inside to make it cozy.

Part 2: Campsite Crafts & Exploration (25 minutes)

Goal: Develop fine motor skills, literacy, and scientific observation through hands-on activities.

1. Nature Scavenger Hunt:

- **Instructions:** Say, "Every good camper explores the area! Let's go on a nature walk to find some cool things." If you can go outside, have the student find 5-10 interesting items (a smooth rock, a green leaf, a small twig, a flower). If you must stay indoors, hide various household items (a red block, a blue button, a yellow crayon) around the room for them to find.
- **Sort the Treasure:** Once collected, ask the student to sort their findings. You can ask, "Can you put all the smooth things in one pile and all the bumpy things in another?" or "Let's sort these by color." Count the items in each pile together.

2. Make a Campsite Sign:

- **Instructions:** Say, "We need a sign so everyone knows this is our campsite!" On a piece of green or brown construction paper, help the student write "[Student's Name]'s Campsite."
- **Action:** Encourage them to trace letters you write lightly in pencil, or to copy the letters from a sample. Let them decorate the sign with drawings of trees, a tent, or stars. Tape it to the entrance of the tent.

Part 3: Campfire Stories (20 minutes)

Goal: Foster creativity, storytelling, and imaginative play.

1. Build a Pretend Campfire:

- **Instructions:** Use the paper towel tube as the central log. Have the student tear or cut strips of red, yellow, and orange paper for flames. Glue the "flames" around the top of the "log." Place it in the center of your "campsite."

2. Shadow Puppet Show:

- **Instructions:** Turn down the lights and turn on the flashlight. Show the student how to make their hands into simple shadow puppets on the wall of the tent (a bird, a bunny, a dog).
- **Action:** Take turns telling a simple story with the puppets. Ask prompting questions like, "What is your bunny doing? Is he looking for carrots?"

4. Differentiation and Inclusivity

• For Extra Support:

- Pre-cut the paper strips for the fire craft.
- Write the letters of the student's name in dotted lines for easy tracing on the sign.
- Simplify the scavenger hunt by asking them to find just three items of a specific color.

• For an Extra Challenge:

- Encourage the student to design and build the tent structure independently.
- Ask them to write additional words on their sign, like "Welcome" or "Forest."
- Challenge them to create a pattern with the items they sorted (e.g., leaf, rock, leaf, rock).

5. Assessment Methods

This is an informal, observation-based assessment. Check for understanding and completion of objectives by observing:

- **Objective 1 (Motor Skills):** Did the student actively participate in building the tent and successfully glue the paper flames onto the log?
- **Objective 2 (Literacy):** Can the student point to and name some letters in their name on the sign they created?
- **Objective 3 (Math/Science):** Was the student able to count the collected items (with or without help) and sort them into distinct groups?
- **Objective 4 (Creativity):** Did the student engage in the shadow puppet activity and contribute ideas to the story?

6. Closing the Lesson: Pack Up Camp (5 minutes)

To conclude, announce, "Our camping trip is over! It's time to pack up."

- Review what you did together: "What was your favorite part of our camping adventure? Building the tent? Making the campfire? Or telling stories with shadows?"
- Work together to put the materials away, reinforcing the concept of "leave no trace" from real camping.
- Enjoy an optional "campfire" snack to celebrate a successful trip!