

C's Wonderful World of Months!

Materials Needed

- 13 round paper circles (about 4 inches in diameter) in various colors (construction paper works great!)
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers (optional, especially holiday or seasonal ones)
- Glue stick or tape
- Two small strips of paper or pipe cleaners for antennae
- A long piece of yarn or a wall space to display the finished creation
- A device to play a "Months of the Year" song (e.g., on YouTube)

Learning Objectives

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

- Recognize that there are 12 months in a year.
- Identify several months by name, especially those that are personally significant.
- Associate at least 3-4 months with a specific event, holiday, or season (e.g., birthday month, Christmas, summer).
- Create a visual representation of the months in order through a fun craft.

Lesson Plan

1. Warm-Up: The "My Year" Chat (5 minutes)

Goal: To connect the abstract idea of "months" to C's personal experiences.

Start by sitting with C and asking fun, memory-based questions. Use a warm and exciting tone.

- "C, what is your favorite holiday? When do we celebrate it? Is it when it's cold or warm outside?"
- "When is your birthday? Do you remember your party?"
- "Remember when we went to the beach/played in the snow? That was during a special time of year!"

Explain: "All of these special things happen during different parts of the year. We call these parts **months**! A whole year is made up of 12 months, and each one has its own name and special feeling."

2. Introduction & Song: Meet the Months (5-7 minutes)

Goal: To introduce the names of the months in a fun, low-pressure way through music and movement.

Play a simple and catchy "Months of the Year" song (search for one on YouTube, like The Learning Station's version). Listen to it once, then play it again and invite C to dance, clap, or march along. Don't worry about C memorizing them all right away; the goal is just exposure and fun.

After the song, say: "Wow, that's a lot of names! January, February, March... all the way to December. Let's make a new friend who can help us remember them all."

3. Main Activity: Create a "Month-erpillar"! (15-20 minutes)

Goal: To build a physical, sequential model of the year that C can personalize, reinforcing the order and character of each month.

Lay out the 13 paper circles. Explain that one will be the head, and the other 12 will be the body—one for each month!

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. **The Head:** Ask C to draw a happy face on one circle. This is your Month-erpillar! Attach the antennae with glue or tape.
2. **The Body (The Months):** Take the other 12 circles. On each one, write the name of a month clearly (e.g., "January" on the first, "February" on the second, and so on).
3. **Let's Decorate!** This is the most important part. Go through the months one by one and talk about what makes them special. Ask C to help you decorate each circle.
 - **January:** "January is the first month. It's usually cold! What should we draw? Maybe a snowflake or a snowman?"
 - **February:** "February has Valentine's Day. Let's draw a big red heart!"
 - **[C's Birthday Month]:** "This is YOUR month! Let's make it extra special. We can draw a birthday cake and presents!"
 - **July:** "July is often very sunny and hot. Perfect for swimming! Let's draw a bright yellow sun."
 - **October:** "What happens in October? Halloween! Let's draw a pumpkin or use an orange crayon."
 - **December:** "December is when we celebrate [mention a family holiday, like Christmas or Hanukkah]. Let's draw a Christmas tree or a shiny star."

Teacher Tip: Let C lead the decorating. If they want to put a dinosaur sticker on May, great! Ask why—"Are there lots of dinosaurs in May?" The goal is engagement and creating personal meaning, not perfect accuracy.

4. **Build the Caterpillar:** Once all the circles are decorated, help C glue them together in the correct order, overlapping them slightly to create the caterpillar's long body. Start with January right behind the head, then February, and so on.

4. Wrap-Up & Review: The Caterpillar Walk (5 minutes)

Goal: To review what was learned in a playful way.

Lay the completed Month-erpillar on the floor or hang it on a wall at C's eye level. Do a "caterpillar walk" with your fingers.

Walk your fingers from the head to the first circle and say, "The year starts with... January!" Continue down the line, saying the name of each month. When you get to a month C decorated with a special memory, pause and talk about it.

"Look, here's your birthday month! And what comes right after? [Next Month]. And here's October with the pumpkin you drew!"

Assessment (Informal Observation)

- Observe C's participation and excitement during the decorating process.
- Listen for whether C can name or point to a few significant months on the finished caterpillar (e.g., "Can you show me the month we drew the pumpkin on?").
- Note if C grasps the basic concept that one month follows another. The physical caterpillar

helps make this abstract idea concrete.

Differentiation & Extension

- **For Extra Support:** If 12 months is overwhelming, focus on just 4-6 key months first: the current month, C's birthday month, a favorite holiday month, and a month in each season. You can add the others later.
- **For an Extra Challenge (Extension):** Introduce the four seasons. Group the caterpillar's body segments by season using different colored backgrounds or by drawing a small seasonal symbol (snowflake for winter, flower for spring, sun for summer, leaf for fall) on each corresponding month.
- **Ongoing Activity:** Keep the Month-erpillar displayed all year. At the beginning of each new month, you and C can move a special marker (like a clothespin or a toy car) to the current month's circle and talk about what fun things you might do.