SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR
FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Adopted by the Somerville Board of Education on June 17, 2008;
Revised by the Somerville Board of Education on August 12, 2008
The Somerville Public School district recognizes the importance of early childhood education and strives to provide its students with a foundation of developmentally-appropriate learning experiences. These experiences encompass the attitudes, dispositions, knowledge, and skills in the developmental domains of cognition, language, social-emotional health, and physical-motor skills with respect to individual, family, cultural, and socioeconomic variations.

The preschool program incorporates a variety of themes as the vehicles to focus on and integrate instruction in emergent academic skills in the areas of language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, physical education, health, and social-emotional development. By relating activities through themes, children's generalization of knowledge and skills from one experience to the next is facilitated. Theme teaching provides children access to the topic in ways that best suit their individual learning styles.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
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<th>JUNE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL ABOUT ME</strong></td>
<td><strong>AUTUMN</strong></td>
<td><strong>ANIMALS AND HABITAT</strong></td>
<td><strong>WINTER</strong></td>
<td><strong>HIBERNATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPRING</strong></td>
<td><strong>OUR GARDEN</strong></td>
<td><strong>BIRDS, INSECTS &amp; SPIDERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SUMMER</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My name: spell name, recognize name in print</td>
<td>Leaves changing colors</td>
<td>Pets</td>
<td>How we dress in winter</td>
<td>Animal habitats</td>
<td>How we dress for</td>
<td>weather changes</td>
<td>How we dress for</td>
<td>weather change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My personal features</td>
<td>Trees serve many purposes, e.g., habitats, wildlife</td>
<td>Zoo animals</td>
<td>Activities in winter</td>
<td>Needs of living things</td>
<td>Matter</td>
<td>Flowers, fruits, and vegetables</td>
<td>Basic needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What I Like</td>
<td>How we dress for</td>
<td>Farm animals</td>
<td>How animals prepare in winter</td>
<td>Solids</td>
<td>Wind and other</td>
<td>Needs of living things</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>My emotions</td>
<td>weather changes</td>
<td>Jungle/forest wildlife</td>
<td>Environmental changes</td>
<td>Liquids</td>
<td>climate changes</td>
<td>Rain - water cycle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvest</td>
<td>Review and comparison to ourselves</td>
<td>Environmental changes</td>
<td>Changing shapes</td>
<td>Changes in growth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **ALL ABOUT MY FRIENDS** | **KEEPING SAFE** | **GIVING THANKS** | **SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS** | **THE SOLAR SYSTEM** | **SPECIAL PEOPLE, SPECIAL DAYS** | **MAGNETS** | **WORKERS, TOOLS, AND UNIFORMS** | **REMEMBERING GIANTS** |
| Cooperative play | 911 - how and when to use | Families | Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, other celebrations | Sun-moon-stars | Space travel | Push/pull | Workers in the community | Giant animals |
| (share, take turns, wait turns, class rules) | Police officers, firefighters | Communities | Cultural diversity | Space travel | Valentines Day | Experiment with properties | Jobs and careers | Giant animals |
| Conflict resolution | Stranger danger | All different/all similar | Family | Family | George Washington | Jobs and careers | Giant man-made structures | Giant animals |
| Friendship | Good touch, bad touch | Celebration of Thanksgiving | Traditions - similar and different | Family | Groundhog Day | Concepts of work: money, goods, services | Giant animals |
| Characteristics compared to mine | Hazards (fire prevention, dangers, poisons) | | | | African-American heroes and heroines | Giant animals |
| How we are alike and different | Harmful substances | | | | |

| **ALL ABOUT MY CLASSROOM/SCHOOL** | **TAKING CARE OF MY BODY** | **HEALTHY EATING** | **THE FIVE SENSES** | **TIME** | **OUR EARTH** | **CAREING FOR OUR EARTH** | **WHEELS & WINGS** | **REMEMBERING** |
| Classroom arrangement | Body parts | Food pyramid/nutrition | Awareness of taste, touch, small, sight, sound | Calendar/year change | Land forms and make-up | Pollution and clean-up | SPECIAL PEOPLE, SPECIAL DAYS | Giant animals |
| Routine and rules | Health and hygiene | Caring for our bodies | The scientific process | Clock/calendar | e.g., soil, rock, land, mountain | Don't waste - conservation | Bus drivers, pilots, conductors, etc. | Giant animals |
| Areas | Personal grooming/dental care | Exploring with our senses | Day and night time activities | Day and night time activities | Water, e.g., ponds, rivers, oceans | Recycle | Introduction to maps | Giant animals |
| Name of school | | | | | | | | Giant animals |
| Car-bus safety | | | | | | | | Giant animals |

| **ALL ABOUT MY FAMILY** | **DISCOVERING AMERICA** | **KINDNESS** | **MULTI-CULTURAL MONTH** |
| Members and roles | Ocean/land | Friendship | Simple greetings and introductions in other languages |
| What families do together | Christopher Columbus | Cooperation, getting along with others | |
| *Where I live (telephone, address, township)* | Diversity (culture) | Resolving conflicts | |
| * | Greeting others (new language) | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, Mother Theresa, and others | |
| * | Caring for the earth (ocean, land) | | |

* Recurring theme
THEME OBJECTIVES:

ALL ABOUT ME
The child will…
- Develop a positive self-image.
- Respond to his/her name when called.
- Recognize his/her own name symbol.
- Recognize his/her own name imprint.
- Identify gender in self and others.
- Identify emotions.
- Identify physical characteristics of self.
- Identify favorite activities, possessions, and other items.
- Begin to provide personal information.

ALL ABOUT MY FRIENDS
The child will…
- Begin to understand how human beings are alike and different.
  - By physical characteristics
  - By attributes
  - Mentally and physically challenged
- Learn to play cooperatively with others.
- Develop an understanding of conflict resolution skills.

ALL ABOUT MY FAMILY
The child will…
- Identify family members.
- Understand roles of family members.
- Talk about family activities and differences in family structures.

ALL ABOUT MY CLASSROOM/SCHOOL
The child will…
- Understand the daily classroom routine and rules.
- Identify the different areas of the classroom.
- Identify the name of the school.
- Understand ways to stay safe while traveling to and from school.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

AUTUMN
The child will...
- Observe and name various weather conditions.
- Talk about changes in the weather.
- Learn how to dress for different weather conditions.
- Learn about activities related to autumn.
- Learn about community helpers.
- Identify different seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- Identify seasonal characteristics of trees.

TAKING CARE OF MY BODY
The child will...
- Identify body parts.
- Identify an understanding of ways to stay healthy.

KEEPING SAFE
The child will...
- Recognize individuals in the community who help.
- Learn about fire safety.
- Learn a variety of health safety rules.

DISCOVERING AMERICA
The child will...
- Learn about Christopher Columbus and Native Americans.
- Learn about seasonal holidays.
- Develop an understanding of other cultures (e.g., greetings).
- Develop an understanding of landforms and how to care for them.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

ANIMALS AND HABITATS
The child will…
- Learn about different kinds of animals and their habitats.
  - Pets
  - Zoo
  - Farm
  - Jungle/forest wildlife
- Identify and learn about different kinds of animals (e.g., wild versus tame).

HEALTHY EATING
The child will…
- Identify health foods.
- Recognize foods on the food pyramid.
- Identify foods for a healthy body.

GIVING THANKS
The child will…
- Discuss similarities and differences in families and communities.
- Discuss ways people celebrate Thanksgiving.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

WINTER
The child will…
- Observe and name weather conditions for winter.
- Talk about weather changes.
- Learn how to dress for winter.
- Identify seasonal characteristics of animals and environmental changes.

THE FIVE SENSES
The child will…
- Identify the five senses.
- Identify body parts related to the senses.
- Experiment using the five senses.

SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS
The child will…
- Identify different seasonal celebrations: Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, and so forth.
- Discuss different seasonal cultural traditions.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

HIBERNATION
The child will…
- Become familiar with common animals and their habitats.
- Understand the basic needs of a living organism.

TIME
The child will…
- Recognize the calendar as a method to mark time.
- Relate special events to months.
- Identify a clock as a way to mark time.
- Associate certain events to times in the day/night.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM
The child will…
- Notice the differences between day and night.
- Investigate Earth’s properties.
- Identify ways to travel into space.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

SPECIAL PEOPLE-SPECIAL DAYS
The child will…
- Discuss and participate in seasonal celebrations.
- Explore and appreciate the cultures and lifestyles of other people.

HOW OUR BODIES WORK
The child will…
- Become familiar with good hygiene and nutritional skills.
- Develop an understanding of how body systems work.
- Become familiar with how to care for teeth.

BUBBLES, BLIZZARDS, BREAD, AND BUTTER
The child will…
- Discriminate between a solid and a liquid.
- Observe changes in solids and liquids (temperature and shapes).
THEME OBJECTIVES:

OUR EARTH
The child will…
- Investigate the Earth’s properties (land and water forms).
- Recognize a globe and what it represents.

SPRING
The child will…
- Develop an awareness of the season and its changes.
- Learn how to dress for the weather.
- Observe changes in growth.

PUSH AND PULL
The child will…
- Discover the properties of magnets.
- Experiment with magnets.

MULTI-CULTURAL MONTH
The child will…
- Explore his/her own culture and that of others.
- Discuss and participate in seasonal celebrations and holidays.
- Practice simple greetings and introductions in another language.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

CARING FOR OUR EARTH
The child will...
  • Make simple predictions of environmental outcomes.
  • Develop an understanding of basic recycling.

OUR GARDEN
The child will...
  • Explore living things.
  • Understand the basic needs of living organisms.
  • Identify weather characteristics.
  • Observe and identify basic life cycles.

WORKERS, TOOLS, AND UNIFORMS
The child will...
  • Identify different workers in the community and what they do.
  • Develop an understanding of the basic concepts of work, such as money, goods, and services.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

BIRDS, INSECTS, AND SPIDERS
The child will…
- Learn that living things, such as birds, insects, and spiders differ in size, shape, color, specific characteristics, and the food they eat.
- Learn how to care for living things, such as birds and insects.
- Observe living things in their natural habitat.
- Recognize how living things grow and change.

WHEELS AND WINGS
The child will…
- Identify different modes of transportation.
- Associate types of drivers with different forms of transportation.
- Recognize a map and what it represents.

REMEMBERING SPECIAL PEOPLE (MAY AND JUNE)
The child will…
- Learn names of holidays and their importance.
- Recognize his/her successes and those of others.
THEME OBJECTIVES:

SUMMER
The child will…
- Learn how to dress appropriately for the weather.
- Learn appropriate seasonal activities.

GIANTS
The child will…
- Identify giants in the animal world and the natural environment.
- Recognize giant man-made structures.
- Learn about the different kinds of dinosaurs.
- Learn about the environment and habitats of dinosaurs.
- Compare sizes.

REMEMBERING SPECIAL PEOPLE
The child will…
- Learn names of holidays and their importance.
- Recognize his/her successes and those of others.
- End-of-year ceremony.