

2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference - Childcare

The Bible - The Word of God

Welcoming Activities

Lesson One – Younger & Older Children

Scratch Shapes – Give each child one stylus and one scratch shape. Help them use the stylus to scratch a design (swirls, triangles, circles, dots, dashes, etc.) on the black coating to reveal colors beneath. DO NOT allow them to completely scratch off all the black coating as this creates a mess on the tablecloths. If they finish early, they may choose another shape to decorate.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

*****PLEASE COLLECT ALL STYLUSES AFTER THIS ACTIVITY SO THAT THEY CAN BE USED FOR ANOTHER SESSION*****

Lesson Two – Younger & Older Children

Decorating Bags – Before children arrive, place one gift bag at each seat at the table, spread out the stickers so they're within reach, place a few crayons or pencils on the table. Have each child decorate their bag and write their name on their gift bag.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference - Childcare

The Bible - The Word of God

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Three - Younger & Older Children

Tacos/Pizzas – Have children take turns ordering a “custom Taco/Pizza” from the Taco/Pizza Menu. Ask the children to fill the taco/pizza order. Switch those who order and those who fulfill the order. You can make a game of who can fulfill the order fastest. The children can bring their taco/pizza kits home with them.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

Lesson Four – Younger & Older Children

Tangrams – Before the children arrive, place one set of Tangrams at each seat at the table. Older children should cut out their own Tangram set. Using the puzzles provided, see how many they can complete within a given time (ex: See who can make a cat fastest). They can take their puzzle pieces home in the bags provided. Please clear the paper scraps from the tables prior to beginning the craft.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference - Childcare

The Bible - The Word of God

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Five - Younger Children

Fishing Pond – Give each child a fishing pole and set a timer for 2 minutes. Have the children try to “catch” as many fish as they can within the 2 minutes. They must stay seated in their chair and cannot stand up or walk around while fishing. Tangling the fishing lines, moving out of their seat, or wild behavior will automatically disqualify the fisherman.

Redistribute the fish around the center of the table and restart the timer. Make it easier by adding more time. Make it more difficult by decreasing the time, using only one arm and hand, and/or only catching a specific color of fish. **Fishing poles and fish must be returned to the LSM Childcare office after the session.**

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

Lesson Five - Older Children

Cup Stacking with Rubber Bands – This is a team building activity. Form 2 teams per table, designating 1 child as the leader and 4 children as the builders. The leader stacks a set of 5 cups (i.e., pyramid, tower, bottoms of cups stacked on a layer of inverted cups, hexagon arrangement etc.) and the builders try to form the same structure by using **ONLY** the rubber band to pick up and set down the cups. **ONLY** the rubber band can touch the cups. They should speak to each other to work together as a team.

Give each child one string. The child is only allowed to touch his/her string. Touching the cups, rubber band, or others' string is not permitted. Damaging the cups is not permitted.

When the 4 children simultaneously pull on their string, the rubber band expands. Allow some slack in the strings to contract the rubber band, making the opening smaller. Move the rubber band over one of the cups, simultaneously pull on all 4 strings to stretch the rubber band onto the cup. To pick up the cup, decrease tension on the strings. Move one cup onto another cup by pulling on the strings to gently place the cup into position. Several different challenges can be created simply by rearranging the cups. If a cup falls onto its side, try to figure out how to pick it up without touching anything other than your own string. Encourage the children to communicate with one another to work as a team.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference - Childcare

The Bible - The Word of God

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Six - Younger Children

Cup Stacking Using Only Thumbs – This is a team activity. Form 2 teams per table, designating 1 child as the leader and 4 children as the builders. The leader stacks a set of 5 cups in a pattern (i.e., pyramid, tower, bottoms of cups stacked on a layer of inverted cups, hexagon arrangement etc.) Children try to build the same design by moving the cups using ONLY their right thumbs. This requires the children to work together, as they'll only be allowed to use their right thumb and will need the help of their neighbors' right thumbs to pick up a cup. Several different challenges can be created simply by rearranging the cups. ONLY their right thumbs can touch the cups. If a cup falls onto its side, try to figure out how to pick it up without using any fingers other than the right thumb. Encourage the children to communicate with one another to work as a team. Rotate leaders as each structure is completed. Please do not allow the children to damage the cups.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.

Lesson Six - Older Children

Postcards Home – Give each child a notecard, ask them to write a note to their parent(s) using the LINED SIDE of the notecard.

Please give these appropriate examples:

Dear Mom/Dad,
During the conference, I liked _____ in children's meeting.
Thank you for _____.
I enjoyed doing _____.
I liked eating _____.
My new friends in children's meeting are _____.
Love,
(child's name)

On the BLANK SIDE of the notecard, draw a picture of something they did during the conference (picture of the city, food, childcare activity, etc). Give the postcard to the parents when they pick up their children.

Please actively engage in conversation with the children during this activity. Ask where they're from, how many siblings they have, any pets, hobbies, sports, favorite foods, etc. You should be able to steer the conversation to age-appropriate topics. This activity is an opportunity to get to know the children at your table.