

2024 Thanksgiving International Blending Conference - Childcare

David

Welcoming Activities

Lesson One – 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, walk around, or climb onto the table 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 One – 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*****

2024 Thanksgiving International Blending Conference - Childcare

David

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Two – Younger and 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 Thanksgiving International Blending Conference - Childcare

David

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Three - Younger Children

Paper Chain Contest – Using the paper provided, cut strips to form chain links, securing in place with tape. Set a timer and work together as a table to see which group can form the longest chain. Stretch out the chain! Guess how many links are in the longest chain!

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 Three – Older Children

Index Card Building - Give each child 5 index cards to start (they can use more cards, if needed). Using tape, attach index cards to build a house or tower. **No cutting or tearing index cards.** Fold the cards to create angles, smaller squares or rectangles. Try making cylinders by rolling the cards and taping in place. Give your house some columns, windows, roof, chimney, gables, etc.

They can join their houses together to make a small city!

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 Thanksgiving International Blending Conference - Childcare

David

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Four – Younger Children

Index Card Building - Give each child 5 index cards to start (they can use more cards, if needed). Using tape, attach index cards to build a house or tower. **No cutting or tearing index cards.** Fold the cards to create angles, smaller squares or rectangles. Try making cylinders by rolling the cards and taping in place. Give your house some columns, windows, roof, chimney, gables, etc.

They can join their houses together to make a small city!

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 - Older Children

Balancing Sticks – This activity's objective is to work in pairs to build the following structures using craft sticks, clothespins and binder clips. Please, DO NOT break the craft sticks or take apart the clothespins.

1. Build the tallest structure,
2. Build a bridge to span the table (everyone will need to work together on this one!),
3. Build a structure completely out of triangles,

Please place craft sticks, clothespins and binder clips back into the bag when finished.

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 Thanksgiving International Blending Conference - Childcare

David

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Five - Younger and 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 Thanksgiving International Blending Conference - Childcare

David

Welcoming Activities

Lesson Six - Younger 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 Six - Older Children

Thank You Cards – Give each child a notecard, ask them to write a Thank You note to their parent(s) using the LINED SIDE of the notecard. Please give these appropriate examples. Ask them to elaborate their answers, rather than give one-word answers:

Dear Mom/Dad,

During the conference, I liked _____ , _____ , and _____ in childcare.

Thank you for _____ , _____ , and _____.

I enjoyed doing _____ , _____ , _____ during the conference.

I liked eating _____.

My new friends in children's meeting are _____ , _____ , and _____.

Love,

(child's name)

Please make sure to give the Thank You card 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.