

2025 International Memorial Day Blending Conference - Childcare Creation

Welcoming Activities

Lesson One – K-2nd Grades

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 – 3rd-5th Grades

Paper Chain Contest – Make one chain per table. Give each table a stack of colored paper, scissors and tape. Have them cut 1" wide strips of paper. Using tape or a glue stick, stick the 2 ends of the strip together to form a circle. Cut another strip of paper and insert one end into the center of the circle, taping or gluing the two ends together to form a link. Repeat until the time is up. See which table completes the longest chain! Lay the chains out on the floor to compare!

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.

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Lesson One – 6th Grade

Balancing Sticks - Objective: To work as a team to build a structure based on the prompts below.

Divide the children into teams of 2-4, seated around the table. Give each group some binder clips, craft sticks, and clothespins. Please DO NOT allow the children to take apart the clothespins.

Choose one of the following and instruct the children to build accordingly:

1. Which team can build the tallest structure?
2. Which team can build the strongest bridge? Place objects like books or water bottles on top to test the strength.
3. Which team can build a structure completely out of triangles (3 craft sticks with binder clips or clothespins at the 3 corners will form 1 triangle)?
4. Have the whole table build a long winding structure from one side to the other.

Please place the craft sticks, clothespins, and binder clips back into the container when finished with the activity.

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.

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Lesson Two – K-2nd Grades

Singing Props – Help each child make a prop to hold up for singing time! Supplies and samples will be provided for each table. Please follow the sample and do your best to have each child complete their prop and bring it to singing time. Singing saints will signal when your class participates with their props.

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 Two – 3rd-6th Grades

Singing Props – **This is a project for the whole table.** Help your table make one prop to hold up for singing time! Using the roll of paper & crayons/markers provided, have your table create a long “creation-scape”. Please follow the samples and do your best to have each table complete their prop and bring it to singing time. Singing saints will signal when your class participates with their props.

3rd grade – draw & color a rainbow (bands of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo & violet).

4th grade – draw & color seas (blue hues with lots of waves).

5th grade – draw & color a mountain range (lots of peaks & valleys, green shrubs, snowy tops).

6th grade – draw & color the breeze (windblown trees, flowers, grass, clouds, some kites, how many ways can you show wind?).

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Lesson Three – K-4th Grades & 6th Grade

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.

Lesson Three – 5th Grade Children

Balancing Sticks - Objective: To work as a team to build a structure based on the prompts below. Divide the children into teams of 2-4, seated around the table. Give each group some binder clips, craft sticks, and clothespins. Please DO NOT allow the children to take apart the clothespins.

Choose one of the following and instruct the children to build accordingly:

1. Which team can build the tallest structure?
2. Which team can build the strongest bridge? Place objects like books or water bottles on top to test the strength.
3. Which team can build a structure completely out of triangles (3 craft sticks with binder clips or clothespins at the 3 corners will form 1 triangle)?
4. Have the whole table build a long winding structure from one side to the other.

Please place the craft sticks, clothespins, and binder clips back into the container when finished with the activity.

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.

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Lesson Four – K-2nd Grades

Tangram Animals – 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.

Lesson Four – 3rd-6th Grades

Drinking Straw Animals – Create one animal per table. Give each table some drinking straws and masking tape. Each table should discuss and agree upon an animal to build. Using tape, attach straws to build an animal. Make a 3D giraffe, an elephant, cow, rooster, or a dog. Tape the straws together to give volume and height to your animal. See if the other tables can guess your animal.

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.

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Lesson Five – K-2nd Grades

Paper Chain Contest – Make one chain per table. Give each table a stack of colored paper, scissors and tape. Have them cut 1" wide strips of paper. Using tape or a glue stick, stick the 2 ends of the strip together to form a circle. Cut another strip of paper and insert one end into the center of the circle, taping or gluing the two ends together to form a link. Repeat until the time is up. See which table completes the longest chain! Lay the chains out on the floor to compare!

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 – 3rd-6th Grades

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.

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Lesson Six – K-2nd Grades

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 – 3rd-6th Grades

Thank You Cards Home – 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:

Dear Mom/Dad,
During the conference, I liked _____ in children's meeting.
Thank you for _____.
I enjoyed doing _____.
This weekend, 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.

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