

2025 International Thanksgiving Blending Conference - Childcare Acts

Welcoming Activities

Lesson One – K-2nd Grades

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 One – 3rd-4th Grades

Tangram Animals – Before the children arrive, place one set of Tangrams at each seat at the table. Have children cut out their own Tangram set following the lines on the cardstock. Please note that to properly do this activity, accurate cutting is required. 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.

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Lesson One – 5th-6th Grades

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.

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Lesson Two – K-6th Grades

Singing Time Props for “Can you say, ‘How do you do?’” Verses 1-3

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.

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Lesson Three – 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!

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Lesson Three – 3rd-4th Grades

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.

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Lesson Three – 5th-6th Grades

Hidden Objects – This is a group activity by table. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO LOOK INSIDE THE BAG OF HIDDEN OBJECTS. Give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil or crayon. Have one child be the “Leader” and reach into the bag. The Leader chooses one of the objects, and without looking at it, feels the object and describes it aloud without telling the group what the object is. (Example: My object is fuzzy, soft, and round.) Have the rest of the group listen carefully to what is being described and draw what they think it is. When everyone is finished drawing, show their pictures to the Leader. Now the Leader can pull out the object and see how closely the pictures matched the object. Continue to do this activity by changing Leaders and putting aside the objects previously used.

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-6th Grades

Singing Time Props – Song: “Once I thought the love of God...” 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.

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Lesson Five – K-2nd Grades

Sunlit Leaves – Peel one sheet of Contact paper for each child, taping it with the STICKY SIDE FACING UP onto the tablecloth to keep it from curling. Give each child a leaf cutout and have them center it onto the sticky side of their Contact paper. Hand out tissue paper pieces and let them stick the pieces onto their leaf. Partially overlapping the tissue is great! When every sticky part of their leaf is covered in tissue, peel another piece of Contact paper and place it directly over the leaf (this time, STICKY SIDE DOWN onto the leaf). Cut around the frame of the leaf and punch a hole on the stem of the leaf. String a piece of yarn through the hole for hanging. Please clear the paper scraps from the tables prior to beginning the craft.

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Lesson Five – 3rd-4th Grades

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Lesson Five – 5th-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 them in place. Give your house some columns, windows, roof, chimney, gables, etc. They can join their houses together to make a small city!

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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.

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*****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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