

SUMMER THEME PLANNING

**21CCLC NEW GRANTEE-STAFF TRANSITION COMMITTEE
APRIL 22, 2021**

SUMMER FUN!

- Let's start with a fun little activity to get our brains engaged this morning! How many words can you come up with in 3 minutes using this as your guide:

SUMMER PROGRAMMING ROCKS

WHAT IS THEME PLANNING?

- Theme planning is when you look at the activity you hope to do with youth and incorporate as many aspects of academic, social-emotional learning, field trips, and so on.
 - Pros:
 - Almost ANYTHING can become a theme with enough creativity!
 - Great way to include youth ideas into your theme.
 - Great way to allow new or younger staff to practice their skills
 - Others?
 - Cons:
 - Takes planning, may be a lot of front loading
 - You'll have to consider flexibility and backup plans just in case your themes don't work for weather, sickness, etc.
 - Others?
- Take a look at the document shared in the chat box.

THEME PLANNING WORKSHEET

THEMEPLANNINGWEB.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro 2017

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THEME PLANNING WEB

What do you want the children to know when they are done exploring this theme?

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graph TD; Theme([THEME  
READ ALOUD]) --> Writing[WRITING]; Theme --> Math[MATH]; Theme --> SocialStudies[SOCIAL STUDIES]; Theme --> Science[SCIENCE]; Theme --> Art[ART]; Theme --> Games[GAMES]; Theme --> Centers[CENTERS / APPS]; Theme --> FieldTrips[FIELD TRIPS];
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EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD

- *The following is from an activity I did with K-1 aged youth at the Victor Public Library. I also had other activities for 2-3 and 4-5 that were similar but adjusted for age.*
- Theme: Birds
 - Read Aloud: Hooray for Birds! By Lucy Cousins
 - Writing: we did a combination writing/verbal storytelling exercise involving pulling bird related words out of a container. Youth drew out a slip of paper with a word or picture on it and had to develop a line for our group storytelling exercise.
 - Math: youth completed an observation tally outside (there is a park adjacent to the library)
 - Social Studies: we shared information about the goldfinch as the state bird. I showed the youth pictures from my finch feeder at home.
 - Art: youth were invited to draw birds on the library sidewalk using sidewalk chalk.
 - Field Trips: NA, but in the following week there was a guest speaker from the Iowa Raptor Rehabilitation Center (she brought a hawk with her!)
 - Centers/Apps: I did not have centers for this activity but we spent time indoors and outdoors, note that there is a YouTube video for the book chosen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXxuFt5UzgA>)
 - Games: Swallows and Mosquitoes. After talking about barn swallows and how much they love to eat mosquitoes, we playing this tag-styled game
 - Science: there were components of science based discussion that partnered with the math activity including discussion about feathers and coloring, beaks, diets, etc.
- Let's hear from you!

GREAT PLACES TO LOOK FOR RESOURCES FOR THEME PLANNING

- Mizzen by Mott: <https://www.mizzen.org/>
 - Modules and playlists at your fingertips!
- Active Learning Community Partnership: <https://www.stemforiowa.org/lesson-plan-repository>
 - Fantastic STEM lesson plans based on age, topic, and even location!
- Iowa Afterschool Alliance's Afterschool In A Box Toolkit: <https://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org/afterschool-in-a-box>
 - Effective Program Components: [This section here](#)

BRINGING IN MOM, DAD, GRANDMA, GRANDPA, AUNTS, UNCLES...AND WHOEVER ELSE SUPPORTS OUR YOUTH!

- Why is incorporating family engagement into your summer programming important?
 - Best practice
 - Better outcomes
 - Fun!
- Did you know that we have a guide to Family Engagement?
 - <https://www.iowa21cclc.com/grant-info>
 - [Family Engagement Guide](#)

THEME PLANNING AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Four key elements to incorporate family engagement into your theme planning include:
 - Greeting
 - Sharing
 - Doing
 - Taking

GREETING

- Sets the tone for the event
- Helps to build rapport (learning names, learning situations, etc.)
- Models “hospitality” for youth

Thinking about the bird theme I used, or an example from a theme you’ve done, how might your GREETING look?

- Bird name tags
- Vote for your favorite bird
- Bird themed snacks or food/drink

SHARING

- Youth voice
- Circles, centers, small group or large group

This step allows for youth to really show off what they have been doing and learning as it connects to your theme. Again, let's think about the bird theme or one of your own:

- Showing parents the group story
- Showing parents the bird they drew on the sidewalk
- Showing parents their observation chart

DOING

- Makes connections from OST to family
- Games
- Reading
- Singing
- Play

This is where the fun begins! How can you build in a family activity to build upon your theme? Let's go back to the birds!

- Reading time with an assortment of books. Youth can read to parents or parents can read to youth.
- Family nests. Incorporate a STEM activity in which each family is given materials to design and build their nest.

TAKING

- Take-aways
- Resources and materials
- Reflection

What message do you want families to leave with? Can you incorporate materials to send home to extend learning? Once more to the birds!

- Seed packets for flowers that attract birds.
- A DNR pocket bird guide or perhaps a walking trail guide for your community

Finally, don't forget about reflection! This might be a survey or a group "vote" on their favorite thing.

- Place a sticker next to their favorite activity (in a chart)



QUESTIONS?

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