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Materials

sunglasses, sun hat, chart paper and marker

Morning Circle

1. Sit in the circle, wearing sunglasses and hat.
2. Tell the children that this unit is about daytime and sunshine is an important part of daytime. Therefore, you're starting the unit by talking about sunshine.
3. Encourage the children to create a list of things they know about the sun and sunshine.
4. Write down their responses.

Story Circle

What the Sun Sees, What the Moon Sees by Nancy Tafuri

Music and Movement

"Good Morning" from *We All Live Together, Volume II* by Steve and Greg

Learning Centers

Art



You Are My Sunshine

Provide yellow paint and paper for the children to paint pictures of the sun.

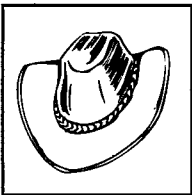
Games



Sun Concentration

Draw matching pairs of smiling faces on yellow circles. Invite the children to turn all the circles face down, then turn up two at a time to find matching pairs.

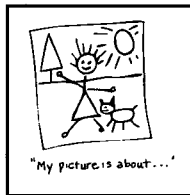
Dramatic Play



Sunbathing

Provide props for pretend sunbathing (towels, lotion bottles, hats, glasses, cooler, umbrella, etc.).

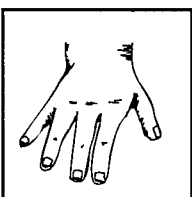
Language



Sun Puzzles

Cut two large suns from poster board. Cut each into three or four puzzle pieces for the children to put together.

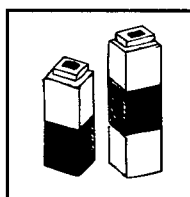
Fine Motor



Fan Folding

Provide wrapping paper and wallpaper for the children to fold into fans.

Math



Sun Ray Patterns

Place a big, yellow paper sun in the center of a table or on the floor. Provide 1" x 8" (3 cm x 20 cm) paper rays in two or three colors. Invite the children to arrange them around the sun in a pattern.

Materials

poster board or construction-paper cloud shapes for the children to sit on

Morning Circle

1. Have cloud shapes around the circle area for the children to sit on.
2. Ask the children to tell you what they know about clouds. Ask, "What shapes have you seen in clouds?"
3. Look out the window or go outside and look for clouds.

Story Circle

Little Cloud by Eric Carle

Music and Movement

Play peaceful music and invite the children to move like floating clouds.

Learning Centers

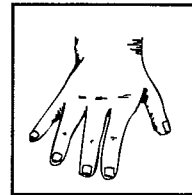
Art



Cloudy Sky

Provide white paint and blue paper for the children to paint skies with clouds.

Fine Motor



Cloud Pick-Up

Invite the children to move clouds (cotton balls) from one sky (blue construction paper) to another.

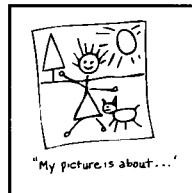
Construction



Cloud Sculptures

Mix three parts Ivory Snow Flakes with one part water to make a molding paste. Invite the children to sculpt clouds. Do they look like familiar objects?

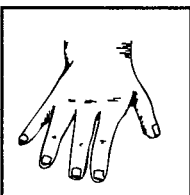
Language



Cloud Stories

Provide white, cloud-shaped felt cutouts for the children to use on the flannel board. Encourage them to tell cloud stories.

Fine Motor



Cloud Cutouts

Provide white paper and scissors for the children to cut out cloud shapes.

Sand and Water Table



Fluffy Clouds

Put blue bulletin board paper in the empty sand and water table. Squirt shaving cream on the paper. Encourage the children to fingerpaint shaving cream clouds on the blue poster board "sky."

Additional Books for Good Morning, Sunshine

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

Bear Shadow by Frank Asch

Clare and Her Shadow by William Michaels

Dawn by Uri Shulevitz

The Day the Sun Danced by Edith T. Hurd

Early Morning in the Barn by Nancy Tafuri

Footprints and Shadows by Anne Wescott Dodd

I Can Hear the Sun: A Modern Myth by Patricia Polacco

Night Becomes Day by Richard McGuire

Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie DePaola

Rise and Shine, Mariko-Chan by Chiyoko Tomioka

Shadowville by Michael Bartalos

Shine, Sun! by Carol Greene

The Sun's Day by Mordicai Gerstein

Sun Up, Sun Down by Gail Gibbons

Sunshine by Jan Ormerod

Under the Sun by Ellen Kandoian

What Is the Sun? by Reeve Lindburgh

What Makes a Shadow by Robert Clyde Bulla

What Makes Day and Night by Franklyn Branley

Who Gets the Sun Out of Bed? by Nancy Carlstrom

Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky by Elphinstone Dayrell