PROGRAM OVERVIEW

“Something to Look Forward To” is a daily dose of educational fun that provides the students with a relevant and rigorous curriculum, but initiates a desire to come to school and try hard. The daily exercises are exciting and constantly changing, and many are open ended to allow all learning modalities and academic levels to gain various skills. Many are ‘inquiry based’ and allow for student lead experiences.

This program was developed to promote happy and content children that will desire to come to school, and take risks. The program instills in the children a reason to come to school beyond the basic academics and daily routine they have grown accustomed to in the past. This program can be used in any grade level by adjusting the expectations and the level of work that is presented. But, this specific program, and sample lesson plans, was developed for a Pre-First classroom that is made up of kindergarten retainees that had strong negative feelings about their first year of school. This program gives the students something to look forward to, beyond the basic academic schedule of a normal school day, and gives the teacher a platform in which to teach harder skills without the fear of being “turned off.” Feel free to expound and use the overall concept for any grade!!

Each day has a catchy title that reminds students what they will be doing on those days, but leaves a lot to their imaginations. The activity titles are: Mystery Math Monday, Teamwork Tuesday, Weird Writing Wednesday, Discovery Day Thursday, and Monster Lab Friday. Many of these are self explanatory, but samples of some of the lessons are in the following lesson plans.

OVERALL VALUE

This program gives the students a bright spot in the day that even though is educational, the children see as a fun and exciting reason to come to school. This goes beyond the “Three R’s” to reach even the most discouraged students.

LESSON PLAN TITLES

• Mystery Math Monday - Meet Mikey (Lesson Plan One)
• Teamwork Tuesday - We Are Going on a Treasure Hunt (Lesson Plan Two)
• Weird Writing Wednesday
• Discovery Day Thursday - Apple Day (Lesson Plan Three)
• Monster Lab Friday

MATERIALS

Materials for each lesson are listed with each lesson plan. Overall materials budget including pricing and vendors follows the lesson plans.

ABOUT THE DEVELOPER

This concept was developed by Shannon Moats, a teacher of ten years, that works at Dr. NE Roberts Elementary in Lakeland. She has developed and is currently teaching in the Pre-First unit at her school. She loves to work with these kindergarten retainees because the growth and gains she sees are astronomical throughout the year. Many of her children are in need of different learning strategies and positive learning experiences which she loves to provide.

Shannon Moats grew up through the Polk County school system from elementary to graduating college in 1996 from Florida Southern. She has taught at many schools, but has found her home at Dr. NE Roberts where she says the staff and administration encourage and support her to teach the children through this empowering and motivating style that varies from the traditional classroom.

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2006 - 2007 IDEA CATALOG OF EXCELLENCE


Lesson Plan No 1: Mystery Math Monday - Meet Mikey!

■ SUBJECTS COVERED
Math

■ GRADES
The specific lesson plans included are used in a “Pre-First” - kindergarten retainees – class, but can easily be adapted to any other grade with slight modifications.

■ OBJECTIVES
The students will gain an understanding of measurement vocabulary such as bigger, smaller, compare, inches, and estimate.

■ SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS
MA.A.2.1.1. – number systems
MA.A.4.1.1. – estimation
MA.B.4.1.1. – student selects appropriate measurement tools
Ma.B.3.1.1. – measurement in real world settings

■ MATERIALS
• copies of a small mouse printed out (they can be printed the same size for each child or different sizes)
• index cards or card stock
• ruler
• paper for responses
• clip board
• pencils

■ DIRECTIONS
Mystery Math Monday:
This day has a mathematics theme, and is completely designed for an inquiry-based, hands-on math problem. The math problem is normally open ended and can have several ways of figuring it out. This can be tied into current math or science topics. This activity allows for free thinking and problems solving skills to be used. The lesson that is attached is called, “Meet Mikey!”

After introducing your class to basic measurement and comparison, allow for them to go exploring through your room to search for comparisons to Mikey the Mouse. Give the children the picture of Mikey and allow them to cut it and place it on an index card to make it sturdier for comparing, or pre-print it on card stock. Have students fold blank paper into two halves, at the top of one half they need to write, “bigger” and on the other half they need to write, “smaller.” Allow the children to take their mouse around the room comparing it to common classroom debris. They need to take along their clip boards to fill out their response page. If they are not writing yet, they can draw picture and put word approximations beside their drawings. Encourage them to find at least five things bigger than Mikey and five things smaller. After they finish they can then take a ruler measurement of Mikey and measure one of each of the things they said were smaller and larger to get standard measurement. This way they can compare the numbers to see if they were indeed correct!!

■ EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT
The children are active in an academic benchmark that can be observed and documented. After each hands-on activity the children write in their journal about what they learned doing this lesson.

■ ADDL INFORMATION
Variations possible –
• If you are studying an animal in science or reading a book about an animal use that instead of a mouse.
• For older children they can list more things they find around home and their measurements as a continuation for homework.
• Hide a picture of cheese within the room and tell the children if they find something Mikey lost in the room while they were measuring they would get a prize.
SUBJECTS COVERED
In this lesson we touch on science through habitats, flora, and fauna. We also incorporate reading and writing.

GRADES
The specific lesson plans included are used in a “Pre-First” - kindergarten retainees – class, but can easily be adapted to any other grade with slight modifications.

OBJECTIVES
1. The students will listen to a story about a jungle safari called “Jungle Capers” by Allen Scofield.
2. The students will listen and participate to the song, “Going in a Treasure Hunt” by Jack Hartman.
3. The students will work together to write a paragraph essay based on their trip to the jungle.

SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS
SS.B.1.1.1. – SS.B.1.1.4. – The student understands the world has different cultures
L.A.D.2.1.1. – L.A.D.2.1.4. – The student understands the power of language
L.A.E.2.1.1. – L.A.E.2.1.2. – The student responds to poetry, fiction, and drama
L.A.C.1.1.1. – L.A.C.1.1.4 – The student uses listen strategies
L.A.B.2.1.1. – L.A.B.2.1.4. – The student writes to communicate information

MATERIALS
• book
• CD
• paper
• pencils
• crayons
• large paper to mount drawing and writing for presentation

DIRECTIONS
Teamwork Tuesday:
This day can be universally used throughout all the subjects areas. There are some days when it can be incorporated into every subject! There are days where the kids can really benefit from a teamwork expectation, like the Tuesday before Winter Holidays when they are very talkative and fidgety. The lesson plan that is attached is called, “We Are Going on a Treasure Hunt.”

Introduce the book to the students and allow them to brainstorm what they think it will be about. Explain we are taking a trip together today to the jungle! Read the story. Discuss the safari vocabulary found in the story.

After completing the story, discuss some of the animals found in the book. Choosing volunteers have them give you animals and safari vocabulary to fill a pre-made thinking map. This will become a resource for the children during their writing. After finishing the thinking map, have the children listen and participate to the song “Going on a Treasure Hunt.”

Set the children up with their writing partner for today. Explain that each of them will take turns writing a sentence about their trip to on a safari. Role play the activity with a student on the board so the children will understand the procedure of taking turns writing a sentence. Also discuss with the children proper words that can help without hurting!! After they finish they may get a piece of paper to work together to draw a picture of their adventure into the jungle and mount it onto a large piece of paper for presentation and for hanging on the bulletin board.

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT
Even though children are working together and cannot be graded for this work, the writing skills can be observed during the process.

Sample of completed work below.
MATERIALS
The students are to bring in an apple from home, have some spares for those who forget, pencils, clip boards, bowls, water, balances, scales, tape measure

Extra Special Material!!!
I try to have a parent volunteer or two set up for every Thursday, especially at the beginning of the school year when the children are learning how to use these different tools! They can be placed at the more demanding centers for assistance.

DIRECTIONS
Discovery Day Thursday:
On Thursdays the children are asked to bring and object from home that we are going to tie into a science and math lesson. The following lesson plan and mini-book are detailing the adventures of “Apple Day!”

Set up centers for the students to rotate through and provide for them a clip board, an “Apple Day” packet, and a pencil. As they rotate through the centers have them take their apple with them as well.

Center One:
Have crayons out for the children to draw their apple, infasize the use of proper coloring and shape.

Center Two:
Using a measuring tape have the children measure their apple and fill in their measurements in their booklet.

Center Three:
Using a balance have the children see if their apple is heavier or lighter than the objects on the other ends of the balance and fill out their booklet.

Center Four:
Have bowls set up with water in them for the children to hypothesize and then test whether their apple will float or sink. Because this center finishes quickly, I have other items for them to test for floating or sinking. This allows for them to stay busy while the other centers are finishing up their work!!

After everyone completes their rotations, we meet at the carpet to discuss our findings. We also use this time to graph our apple colors to see what color most people brought. Then, we get to do the best part!! The children can go back to their seats and finish the fun pages in their booklet while they eat their apple!! YUM!!

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT
The students can be observed using the math skills and the correct materials. The log book can also be used to assess the children’s gains through the activity.

ADDL INFORMATION
Other Discovery Day Items Include, but are not limited to…
Pumpkins – toy cars – buttons – oranges – leaves – Christmas ornaments – eggs – balls – and anything else your kids can brainstorm to use!!

On the next page are the booklet questions used for Apple Day. These can be places one, or two on a page to make a booklet the size you would like it to be, or in a worksheet form, to conserve paper. If this is saved on your computer it is easy to transform each week with a new item and some clip art!!
Apple Discovery Day

This is a drawing of my apple.

My apple is ________ inches high.

My apple is ________________. (color word)

My apple is ________ inches around.

My apple is ________________ (heavier or lighter) than a toy car.

My apple is ________________ (heavier or lighter) than a bag of marbles.

Hypothesize!! Do you think your apple float or sink when you put it in water?

Did your apple float or sink?

What are three things you can do with apples?

What would you like to do with YOUR apple?
Due to the fact this is a five day program there are five lessons for you to read over. Only three have detailed plans and ready-made attachments. The other two are brief summaries of lessons that did not need any additional support, but you could get the idea of what that day’s “Something to Look Forward To” lesson would be like. For more information and more plans please contact the developer!

Weird Writing Wednesday:
On Weird Writing Wednesday the children get some crazy writing project that in no way correlates with the same dreary journal writing, or essay they so often have to do. Many times it is no more than a brainstorming session that the children need to be able to do before they are in the higher testing grades. One idea that the children love is called, “Monster Writing.” They had to write four color words four number word, and four body parts. After they wrote them they had to draw a line to connect a color word, a number word, and a body part. Then they had to draw a picture of a monster with those specifications!! What a fun way to review those words the children get so tired of!!

Monster Lab Friday:
This day is designed to be fun and MESSY!! Many times this is a simple recipe for things like applesauce or pumpkin pie to tie in with the previous Discovery Day item. Then there are other times when we are learning about matter that we make “OOblick!” This activity is what the children remember the most about the year. They love being able to follow a recipe card, and they feel great taking their recipe card home and sharing the fun with their family!! Here are some sample recipes!

Slime Factory
A great example of what a solution is, and a whole lot of fun!!
- 1 cup colored glue – take glue and stir in food coloring
- ½ cup liquid starch
- Have children use their hands to mix together to make slime!!

Ooblick:
This is a fun recipe to explain liquid and solid with ONE item! The Ooblick is a solid until moved, once you push it, it becomes a liquid. There is a great book by Dr. Suess that correlates wonderfully!
- Corn Starch
- Water

Carefully add a tablespoon of water until the corn starch can be stirred, but is still thick. Pour out Ooblick onto a table and watch it solidify. Once the children touch it or try to move it, it becomes a liquid once again!

With older kids, let them experiment with ratios to try and figure out what the ratio of water to corn starch is needed to make it work!!

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## Materials Budget

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Many items can be found in class math and science materials depending on what was order for your class manipulative sets. Other items, such as the ingredients for many of the recipes, can be donated by parents. This list is left flexible for your choice in which recipes you want to incorporate in your plans. The options are limitless!!

* Depending on the age of your students you need to choose wisely between digital and analog read outs on the food scale and the bathroom scale. To make it easier, I choose to buy digital read outs.

** The book titles used in the example lesson plans are: “Ooblick” by: Dr. Suess, “Jungle Capers” by: Allen Scofield. “Apple Picking” by: Gail Jenkins

### Subtotal

$200.00

### Tax if applicable

### Shipping if applicable

### TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT

$200.00

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Teacher’s Name: **Shannon Moats**

School: **Dr. NE Roberts Elementary**