



Lesson Plan

Theme: Ring in the New Year

Day: 1

Module	Activity
Circle Time	What does a New Year mean?
Letters & Numbers	Letter S Food Series
Worship Time	Shepherds Visit
Art & Science	New Year Party Hats

Circle Time

Review – Start your preschool day with Circle Time and sing the “I Can Sit Down” song (Improvise your tune)

*I can sit down as quite as can be.
 I can sit down just to look at me.
 I can sit down as quite as can be.
 I can sit down just to look at me.*

Then sing the “Hi There” song. (Improvise your tune)

*Hi there, so glad you came.
 Hi there, so glad you came.
 Hi there, so glad you came.
 One two three let's shout HOORAY.
 Hi there, so glad you're here.
 Hi there, so glad you're here.
 Hi there, so glad you're here.
 One two three let's give a cheer. Yay*

Next do your Special Help activity.

Look at the calendar and sing the “Days of the Week” song. (Tune of the “Adams Family”)

*Well there's Sunday and there's Monday,
 there's Tuesday and there's Wednesday,
 there's Thursday and there's Friday and then there's Saturday.
 Days of the week. (Clap hands 2 times).
 Days of the week. (Clap hands 2 times).
 Days of the week. Days of the week. Days of the week. (Clap hands 2 times).*

This is a great time to review the days of the week, months of the year and the number of the day. Then check the weather and compare it to your weather dial.

Discussion: What does a New Year mean?

Circle: I have a couple of ideas to talk and learn about what the New Year means for children.

1. Show the number 2014 and 2015 just so they can see what it looks like and what a big number it is. Talk with them about what they got to do in 2014 and what would like to do in 2015. Talk about some fun things they got to do or places they went. You can write down what they say. Have each child draw a picture of something special they want to do during the new year. Have them dictate a story about their picture to you. Assemble the children's pictures and stories into a book and put it in your reading area or a place where you can look at it and talk about it.

2. You could also set up a New Year's party in your dramatic play center or in an area in your house. Introduce the materials to the children and talk about how many people celebrate the new year. Put the props in your dramatic play center and let the party begin! Add party hats, old fancy dresses, old men's suits, a lot of jewelry, noisemakers, and a clock set at 12:00.

Music & Movement: Hello New Year

Hello New Year (Sung to "Are You Sleeping?")

Hello New Year

Hello New Year

Good bye old

Good bye old

Hello New Year

Hello New Year

We're glad you're here

We're glad you're here

Skills

- Math & Counting: Color recognition with the colors of props being use
- Language: Increasing expressive language skills as they chatting with one another
- Physical: Children are strengthening the muscles in their hands as they are using their fine motor skills to pick up the items to dress up in or holding the writing utensils to draw their pictures
- Cognitive: Recalling what they did throughout the year
- Social: While children are interacting with each other and with adults they are building their social skills.

Materials

- - Depending on what you are going to do you may need: paper
 - drawing utensils
 - Number 2014 and 2015
 - party hats, dresses, shirts, jewelry, noisemakers

Music & Movement

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj4a7Bxsyj8>

Letters & Numbers

Activity Description – Letters: Letter S Food Series

Learn about the letter S with Miss Cullen and Gator. First, Miss Cullen and Gator are going to show the upper and lower case letter S. Then review the sound of the S. Next look at three types of food that start with the letter S: Salsa, Spinach, Salami. If you have these items at home you can try them with Miss Cullen and discuss what it feels like, tastes like, sounds like and smells like.

Remember, when trying the different foods, it has to go in your mouth but it doesn't have to stay there. But it is always good to try something new.

Skills

- Math & Counting: Color recognition with the colors of the food being used
- Language: Increasing expressive language skills as they are learning new letters and the sounds they make and conversations they are having with with each other
- Physical: Children are strengthening the muscles in their hands as they are using their fine motor skills to pick up the food. Hand-eye coordination when putting the food in their mouth
- Cognitive: Increasing observation skills with what they are seeing and talking about with the food. Concept development of shapes and sizes of the food
- Social: While children are interacting with each other and with adults they are building their social skills.

Materials

- - Three types of food that start with the letter S. Miss Cullen uses Salsa, Spinach, Salami but feel free to use other food items that start with the letter S.

Prep Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYRSKOBuFFg>

Worship Time

Activity Description: Shepherds Visit

Shepherds Visit

Luke 2:8-20

On the night Jesus was born, shepherds were watching their sheep. Suddenly, an angel stood before them, and God's light shined all around.

The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring joyful news to all people. Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born! He is lying in a manger. Then a choir of angels appeared. They sang, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill to everyone on earth!"

The shepherds rushed to Bethlehem. There they found baby Jesus. They told Mary and Joseph what the angel said.

As they returned to their sheep, the shepherds told everyone what they had seen and heard. All along the way, the shepherds shouted praises to God.

Bible Story Questions & Answers

Talk about what the Bible story was about by asking the children questions. You can decide ahead of time how you want them to answer the questions. I like to have the children raise their hand to answer the question. If they are incorrect that is fine. You can say what the answer is or ask: "Does anyone else have a thought or answer to the question?"

Questions to ask if you like:

- On the night Jesus was born who was with their sheep? (Shepherds)
- What suddenly appeared? (Angels)
- Did the angels tell them about a baby who had been born? (Yes)
- What was the baby's name? (Jesus)
- Did the shepherds go to see Jesus? (Yes)
- Did the shepherds tell others about Jesus? (Yes)
- Can you tell others about Jesus? (Yes)

Prayer

While sitting on the floor with criss cross legs, have the children repeat after you. You can have them fold their hands and close their eyes or just sit quietly and say after you. Following is a prayer written out that you can use, or you can make up your own.

Dear God (children repeat)

Thank you for this day. (children repeat)

Thank you for sending (children repeat)

your son Jesus. (children repeat)

Please help me (children repeat)

to be like the shepherds (children repeat)

and tell others about Jesus. (children repeat)

I love You (children repeat)

Amen (children repeat)

Skills

- Physical: Listening
- Following directions, sharing ideas and understanding that they have value with other children and the teachers
- Emotional: Cooperating and being considerate of others, Growing in and deepening their relationship with God
-

Materials

- You can read from a Children's Bible, your Bible or use the following story.

Art & Science

Activity Description – Art: New Year Party Hats

Today for art we are going to make party hats to wear to “ring in the new year!”
[Here](#) is a website with some great pictures of how to go about making the party hats.

Music and Movement:

[The Freeze Dance](#) is a fun way to work those large motor skills and have fun at the same time. When the children freeze you can have them say Happy New Year!

Skills

- Math & Counting: Color recognition of the colors being used
- Language: Increasing expressive language skills with the conversations they are having with with each other
- Physical: Children are strengthening the muscles in their hands as they are using their fine motor skills when picking up items to glue on
- Social: While children are interacting with each other and with adults they are building their social skills.

Materials

- - Construction paper
 - Scissors
 - Markers, crayons
 - Stapler
 - Glue or glue stick

Music & Movement

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPE0-Yg0bGU>

Extra Content

Freeze Dance : <http://creativeconnectionsforkids.com/2011/12/diy-new-years-party-hat/>

Theme: Ring in the New Year

Day: 2

Module	Activity
Circle Time	Bubble Wrap Pop Countdown
Letters & Numbers	Ribbon and the Letter S
Worship Time	Shepherds Visit-Bible Verse Key Point Coloring Page
Art & Science	Firecrackers

Circle Time

Review – Start your preschool day with Circle Time and sing the “I Can Sit Down” song (Improvise your tune)

*I can sit down as quite as can be.
I can sit down just to look at me.
I can sit down as quite as can be.
I can sit down just to look at me.*

Then sing the “Hi There” song. (Improvise your tune)

*Hi there, so glad you came.
Hi there, so glad you came.
Hi there, so glad you came.
One two three let's shout HOORAY.
Hi there, so glad you're here.
Hi there, so glad you're here.*

Hi there, so glad you're here.
One two three let's give a cheer. Yay

Next do your Special Help activity.

Look at the calendar and sing the "Days of the Week" song. (Tune of the "Adams Family")

*Well there's Sunday and there's Monday,
there's Tuesday and there's Wednesday,
there's Thursday and there's Friday and then there's Saturday.
Days of the week. (Clap hands 2 times).
Days of the week. (Clap hands 2 times).
Days of the week. Days of the week. Days of the week. (Clap hands 2 times).*

This is a great time to review the days of the week, months of the year and the number of the day. Then check the weather and compare it to your weather dial.

Discussion: Bubble Wrap Pop Countdown

This is a fun game, but it can get VERY loud. You might want to do this game right before you go outside :). Tape sheets of bubble wrap to the floor. Countdown from 10 to 1, and then the kids jump on the bubble wrap to make fireworks sounds. You can also throw confetti or crepe paper streamers. You can add other fun things to the loudness like pots and pans, instruments etc. This is a fun way to celebrate the New Year!

Skills

- Math & Counting: Counting backwards from 10
- Language: Increasing expressive language skills as they chatting with one another
- Physical: Children are strengthening the muscles in their body when jumping. Fine motor skills when popping bubble with their fingers and when playing instruments
- Social: While children are interacting with each other and with adults they are building their social skills.

Materials

- - Bubble wrap
 - Pots and pans and spoons
 - Instruments

Extra Content

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiF1eVKMJFk>

Letters & Numbers

Activity Description – Letters: Ribbon and the Letter S

Watch my video for a fun way to celebrate with ribbon and the letter S! Below are links to my letter S patterns if you'd like to use them!

[Uppercase](#) Letter S Pattern

[lowercase](#) letter s pattern

This video is all about the letter Y but we are learning about the letter S. I like the idea of the letter activity so we will use the idea but a different letter.

Skills

- Letter recognition
- Sound recognition
- Small motor skills strengthening the muscles in their hands when cutting with scissors and tearing tape and pressing it down on their paper Math & Counting: Color recognition with the colors being used
- Language: Increasing expressive language skills as they are learning new letters and the sounds they make and conversations they are having with with each other
- Physical: Children are strengthening the muscles in their hands as they are using their fine motor skills to pick up the food. Hand-eye coordination when putting the food in their mouth
- Cognitive: Increasing observation skills with what they are seeing and talking about with the food. Concept development of shapes and sizes of the food
- Social: While children are interacting with each other and with adults they are building their social skills.

Materials

- - Scissors
 - Letter S: [lowercase](#), [Uppercase](#)
 - Tape
 - Ribbon

Prep Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZmoR8qyY78>

Extra Content

Uppercase Letter S pattern: <http://cullensabcs.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Letter-S-Uppercase.pdf>

Lowercase Letter s pattern: <http://cullensabcs.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Letter-s-Lowercase.pdf>

Worship Time

Activity Description: Shepherds Visit–Bible Verse Key Point Coloring Page

Print out the Bible memory verse coloring sheet and have your children color the picture. Sit with your children while they are coloring and talk about what they see in the picture (see questions below if you'd like some ideas). Your discussion will lead into the **Shepherds Visit** story you will read later together.

Questions to ask if you like:

- Is there anything else you would like to say about this picture?

This is a perfect time to talk about the Bible and how to use it. You can show the children your Bible so they have a better understanding of what a book, chapter and verse are. You can say: "The Bible is one big book made up of many smaller books. Each book has a name. Today we are learning a Bible verse in the book of Luke. When you find Luke in the new testament look for the number 2 at the top left or right of the page, this is the chapter. You will see Luke. We are looking for verse 6, and those numbers are much smaller under the big 2."

After looking at the Bible show them "Luke 2:6" written out on their Memory Verse Coloring Sheet. To see and hear all of the Books that make up the Bible watch this fun, short video, [The Books of the Bible](#), by Readeez!

After they are done coloring they can hang their Memory Verse Coloring Sheet up in a special place. Then when your child walks by the sheet they can work on memorizing the Bible verse.

Skills

- Physical: Fine motor skills, strengthening the muscles in their hands when using their grasping fingers to hold onto the crayon
- Cognitive: Memory skills when working on memorizing the Bible verse
- Emotional: Growing in and deepening their relationship with God
- Math & Counting: Color recognition with the colors of crayons they are using.

Materials

- - Coloring crayons or markers
 - [Coloring Page](#)

Extra Content

Art & Science

Activity Description – Art: Firecrackers

You may want to show children some videos or pictures of firecrackers in case they haven't seen them before. You can also talk about being safe around them. This video is around 4th of July but you can easily use different colors of paint for New Year fun. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

Skills

- Math & Counting: Color recognition with the colors of paint being used
- Language: Increasing expressive language skills with the conversations they are having with each other
- Physical: Children are strengthening the muscles in their hands as they are using their fine and gross motor skills when picking up and using the hammer
- Cognitive: Recalling anything they know or remember about firecrackers
- Social: While children are interacting with each other and with adults they are building their social skills.

Materials

- - A plastic lid
 - Various colors of paint
 - Construction paper
 - Hammer

Prep Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEkAWHlv3pw>

Theme: Ring in the New Year

Day: 3

Module	Activity
Circle Time	New Years Ball Drop
Letters & Numbers	Bounce/catch ball saying the alphabet
Worship Time	Jesus turning water into wine
Art & Science	Party Poppers

Circle Time

Review – Start your preschool day with Circle Time and sing the “I Can Sit Down” song (Improvise your tune)

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This is a great time to review the days of the week, months of the year and the number of the day. Then check the weather and compare it to your weather dial.

Discussion: New Years Ball Drop

Talk with the children about the New Year's ball drops in Times Square in New York City! Be sure to show pictures and show some videos from previous years. Then you can make your own ball to drop!

[This site](#) has a super cute idea on how to make your very own ball.

Skills

- Small motor skills strengthening the muscles in their hands when squeezing the glue bottle

Materials

- Paper Plates
- Glitter
- Glue
- Stick or Skewer

Extra Content

Make your own New Year's Ball to drop: <http://www.themotherhuddle.com/new-years-eve-with-the-kids/> or <http://preschool-daze.com/2011/01/09/n-is-fc>

Letters & Numbers

Activity Description – Letters: Bounce/catch ball saying the alphabet

Today we are going to say the alphabet while bouncing and catching a ball at the same time! You will bounce the ball to each other and say a letter each time. When you get to the letter "Y" be sure to shout "Y"!

[Click here](#) to watch my video!

Skills

- Hand-eye coordination when bouncing the ball and catching the ball with their hands
- Saying the letters in the alphabet

Materials

- A ball that bounces

Prep Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwPGGM9aFzw>

Worship Time

Activity Description: Jesus turning water into wine

Since we are learning about the New Year and a lot of times people have or go to parties I thought the story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding would be great to learn about.

[Here](#) is the link to the Ministry to Children site where you will find many activities to do to go with the story. *Please note that this information is for ages 5yr-12yrs so you may just want to do a couple of the activities. Especially like the one with the powdered drink mix.* I also like what they are saying here: "Miraculous things do in fact seem magical to us! However, it is important to distinguish that Jesus wasn't a magician doing tricks. He really does have the power to make miracles happen." Be sure to that you are very clear about this throughout the story when speaking with the children.

Extra Content:

If you would like to add to the fun this magic painting project is really fun. [Watch](#) the video to find out what you need to do.

Skills

- Another great way to reinforce the story

Materials

- Another great way to reinforce the story

Prep Video

<http://ministry-to-children.com/water-into-wine/>

Extra Content

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjKvfeQ_BWo

Art & Science

Activity Description – Art: Party Poppers

Today we are going to be making party poppers for art. I found this great idea on [this](#) website and also made a video of it. If you'd like to watch the video you can [click here](#).

Skills

- Small motor skills strengthening the muscles in their hands when using scissors to cut with.

Materials

- Toilet paper tube, paper towel tube, wrapping paper tube
- Wrapping Paper
- Ribbon
- Items to put inside such as stickers, ribbon, little chocolates etc
- Scissors

Prep Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_8pF5C9YPg