

Unit 7 introduces the children to the characteristics of living things, and how living things grow and change, as they take a look back and examine how they are different now than they were previously. They will take time to reflect upon how they have grown, and celebrate all they have learned this year. Unit 7 also includes a study of fruits and vegetables that introduces the children to seeds and plants and what they need in order to grow.

In addition, the children will explore:

- Gg /g/, Uu /u/, Qq /kw/, Jj /j/, and Zz /z/
- Measurement
- Pennies/nickels
- Story problem equations
- Living/nonliving
- Categorizing fruits/vegetables
- Life cycles
- Blending phonemes
- Patterning
- Graphing

Overviews by Week:

Page

Week 22: How Things Grow2-3

Week 23: Plant It!.....4-5

Week 24: Things Change6-7

Week 25: Look At Us Now8-9



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Unit 7 • Week 22: How Things Grow

This week you will teach the children about how living things grow and change, and the four distinguishing characteristics of living things. The children will also:

- Learn /g/ and identify initial /g/ words
- Compare and contrast themselves to trees
- Be introduced to symmetry
- Learn about rulers and measuring charts and how to measure objects
- Distinguish between things that are living and those that are nonliving
- Compare and contrast baby, school-aged, and adult photos of you
- Discover things they can do now that they couldn't do as babies
- Practice using pennies and nickels

Essential Questions

- *How are you different now than when you first came to school?*
- *What are the characteristics of a living thing?*
- *Why is knowing how to join sets of object together important?*
- *What is the difference between living and nonliving?*
- *How are you like a tree?*
- *Why is knowing the names of coins and how much they are worth important?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Phonological Awareness

- Combines words to make a compound word
- Deletes a word from a compound word
- Counts syllables
- Combines onset and rime to form a familiar one-syllable word with and without pictorial support
- Discriminates rhyming words
- Listens for beginning sound
- Isolates ending sound
- Blends three phonemes

Print/Book Awareness

- Connects oral language and print

Listening & Speaking

- Understands by asking and answering relevant questions, adding comments relevant to the topic, and reacting appropriately to what is said

Vocabulary

- Acquires new vocabulary
- Asks questions about unknown objects and words

Comprehension

- Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences
- Identifies sequence of events
- Recalls important facts of information text

Emergent Writing

- Uses letter-like shapes or letters to write words or parts of words

Motivation for Reading

- Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print-rich environment

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Focuses on letter names and shape
- Recognizes/names some letter sounds

Math

Counting & Cardinality

- Counts sets of objects

Geometry

- Constructs examples of simple symmetry and non-symmetry using concrete objects

Measurement & Data

- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Measures or compares the height of one or more objects using a non-standard reference
- Explores the use and meaning of currency and coins

Operations & Algebraic Thinking

- Indicates there are more when combining sets of objects
- Indicates there are less when removing objects from a set
- Combines sets of objects to equal a set no larger than 10
- Uses concrete objects to solve complex problems

Patterns & Seriation

- Sorts objects into categories

Spatial Relations

- Describes relative position from different perspectives (e.g. "I am on top of the climber and you are below me")

Creative Arts

- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children

Media & Technology

- Enjoys electronic forms of storybooks and informational texts
- Uses technology to explore and review information

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Uses writing and drawing tools
- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Gross Motor Skills

- Moves with balance and control

Science

Concepts

- Notices changes in living things over time
- Recognizes that living things have similar needs for water, food, and air

Processes

- Compares, contrasts and classifies objects and data

Social Studies

Economics

- Demonstrates an awareness of the uses of money

Social & Emotional Development

- Demonstrates increased flexibility, imagination and inventiveness
- Demonstrates willingness to choose a variety of familiar and new experiences

This week you will teach the children about seeds and plants and how they grow, in part through a study of fruits and vegetables. The children will also:

- Learn *Uu* /u/ and *Qq* /kw/ and identify initial /u/ and /kw/ words
- Plant and care for their own grass seeds
- Discover what seeds and plants need to grow
- Observe how water and food travel through the roots to other parts of a plant
- Learn that fruits and vegetables play an important role in keeping people healthy
- Compare and contrast two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes
- Categorize fruits and vegetables by color
- Dramatize “The Turnip”

Essential Questions

- *What if there were no trees or gardens?*
- *What do you need to do to grow a plant?*
- *What might happen if it never rained?*
- *Why is working together important?*
- *Why are fruits and vegetables good for us?*
- *How do letters and sounds work together to make words?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Comprehension

- Recalls information from stories
- Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences
- Uses illustration clues to predict
- Identifies sequence of events
- Connects events, characters, and actions in stories to specific experiences
- Identifies story characters
- Compares and contrasts
- Recognizes cause and effect

Motivation for Reading

- Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print-rich environment

Print/Book Awareness

- Connects oral language and print

Listening & Speaking

- Understands by asking and answering relevant questions, adding comments relevant to the topic, and reacting appropriately to what is said

Sentences & Structure

- Combines sentences that give lots of detail, sticks to the topic, and clearly communicates intended meaning

Vocabulary

- Acquires new vocabulary

Emergent Writing

- Uses drawing to convey meaning
- Demonstrates understanding of the connections among their own ideas, experiences, and written expression
- Uses scribbles/writing to convey meaning (e.g., signing artwork, captioning, labeling, creating lists, making notes)

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Focuses on letter names and shape
- Matches some letters to their sounds

Phonological Awareness

- Distinguishes individual words within spoken phrases or sentences
- Counts syllables
- Deletes a syllable from a word
- Combines onset and rime to form a familiar one-syllable word with and without pictorial support
- Listens for beginning sound

Math

Counting & Cardinality

- Verbally counts in sequence
- Compares and orders groups of objects (more, fewer, less and/or same)

Measurement & Data

- Uses graphs and charts to answer questions

Geometry

- Identifies three-dimensional shapes
- Categorizes (sorts) examples of three-dimensional shapes

Patterns & Seriation

- Sorts objects into categories

Creative Arts

- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Expresses self through movement
- Represents fantasy and real-life experiences through pretend play
- Participates in teacher-guided dramatic activities
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children
- Uses oral language to describe or explain art

Science

Concepts

- Notices changes in living things over time
- Recognizes that living things have similar needs for water, food, and air

Processes

- Shows curiosity by asking questions and seeking information
- Uses tools and equipment to explore objects
- Compares, contrasts and classifies objects and data
- Participates in scientific investigations

Health & Safety

- Demonstrates awareness of good nutritional practices

Media & Technology

- Enjoys electronic forms of storybooks and informational texts
- Uses technology to explore and review information

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Coordinates hand and eye movements
- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Social & Emotional Development

- Demonstrates increased flexibility, imagination and inventiveness
- Works with others to solve problems

Unit 7 • Week 24: Things Change

This week you will teach the children about how living things change and grow. They will discover some of the many ways in which they have grown and changed this year. The children will also:

- Learn /j/ and /z/ and identify initial /j/ and /z/ words
- Discuss how babies grow and change and become adults
- Become familiar with the life cycle of a butterfly
- Practice creating and finding patterns in the classroom
- Reflect on and make a list of things they have learned this year
- Match uppercase and lowercase letters

Essential Questions

- *How are babies and adults the same? How are they different?*
- *What is the life cycle of a butterfly?*
- *How are ants and butterflies the same? How are they different?*
- *What have you learned in school this year?*
- *How does changing one letter in a word change the whole word?*
- *Why do you need to know capital and lowercase letters?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Comprehension

- Asks and answers appropriate questions about the story
- Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences
- Uses illustration clues to predict
- Identifies sequence of events
- Connects events, characters, and actions in stories to specific experiences
- Compares and contrasts

Emergent Writing

- Uses drawing to convey meaning
- Demonstrates understanding of the connections among their own ideas, experiences, and written expression
- Contributes to a shared writing experience or topic of interest
- Uses letter-like shapes or letters to write words or parts of words

Motivation for Reading

- Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print-rich environment
- Enjoys reading and reading-related activities

Print/Book Awareness

- Connects oral language and print

Listening & Speaking

- Understands by asking and answering relevant questions, adding comments relevant to the topic, and reacting appropriately to what is said

Vocabulary

- Acquires new vocabulary
- Discusses words and word meanings
- Uses illustrations to find the meanings of unknown words

Phonological Awareness

- Counts syllables
- Combines onset and rime to form a familiar one-syllable word with and without pictorial support
- Identifies rhyming words
- Listens for beginning sound
- Blends three phonemes

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Recites the alphabet in sequence
- Focuses on letter names and shapes
- Recognizes most letters when named
- Names most letters
- Matches some letters to their sounds

Math

Geometry

- Recognizes basic two-dimensional geometric shapes
- Categorizes (sorts) examples of two-dimensional shapes
- Understands that two-dimensional shapes are equivalent in different orientations
- Categorizes (sorts) examples of three-dimensional shapes

Counting & Cardinality

- Uses ordinal numbers from first to fifth

Patterns & Seriation

- Duplicates identical patterns with at least two elements
- Uses rules to create and extend repeating patterns

Creative Arts

- Explores visual materials and activities
- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Represents fantasy and real-life experiences through pretend play
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children

Science

Concepts

- Notices changes in living things over time
- Describes characteristics in the appearance and behavior of animals

Media & Technology

- Enjoys electronic forms of storybooks and informational texts
- Uses technology to explore and review information

Social & Emotional Development

- Demonstrates increased flexibility, imagination and inventiveness
- Works with others to solve problems
- Demonstrates willingness to choose a variety of familiar and new experiences

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Unit 7 • Week 25: Look At Us Now!

This week, the children take a look back on the school year to recognize and celebrate all they have learned and how much they have grown. The children will also:

- Graph Learning Centers to decide the class favorite
- Discuss the qualities of good friends
- Create a class book about Gingerbread Boy
- Duplicate two and three-dimensional shapes
- Choose their class favorite book of the year
- Review the alphabet

Essential Questions

- *What was your favorite learning center this year? Why?*
- *If you could be a character in a nursery rhyme, which character would you be? Why?*
- *Why is knowing the alphabet important?*
- *If you could choose a book to win the award of the greatest book, which book would you choose? Why?*
- *How does knowing sounds in a word help you to match a word to its picture?*
- *What lesson can you learn from the story "The Four Friends"?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Emergent Reading

Comprehension

- *Retells or reenacts a story after it is read aloud*
- *Asks and answers appropriate questions about the story*
- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Connects events, characters, and actions in stories to specific experiences*
- *Identifies story characters*
- *Makes inferences*

Conversation

- *Provides appropriate information for the setting*

Motivation for Reading

- *Enjoys reading and reading-related activities*
- *Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print-rich environment*
- *Enjoys reading and reading-related activities*

Phonological Awareness

- Combines onset and rime to form a familiar one-syllable word with and without pictorial support
- Discriminates rhyming words
- Listens for beginning sound
- Blends three phonemes

Emergent Writing

- Uses drawing to convey meaning
- Demonstrates understanding of the connections among their own ideas, experiences, and written expression
- Uses letter-like shapes or letters to write words or parts of words

Phonics: Alphabetic Knowledge

- Recites the alphabet in sequence
- Recognizes most letters when named
- Names most letters
- Matches some letters to their sounds

Print/Book Awareness

- Connects oral language and print

Vocabulary

- Acquires new vocabulary
- Discusses words and word meanings
- Uses illustrations to find the meanings of unknown words

Math

Counting & Cardinality

- Verbally counts in sequence
- Uses one-to-one correspondence to determine "how many"
- Recognizes numerals

Geometry

- Recognizes basic two-dimensional geometric shapes
- Identifies three-dimensional shapes

Measurement & Data

- Uses graphs and charts to answer questions

Patterns & Seriation

- Duplicates identical patterns with at least two elements
- Uses rules to create and extend repeating patterns

Creative Arts

- Explores visual materials and activities
- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects
- Creates original work
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children
- Uses oral language to describe or explain art

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Coordinates hand and eye movements
- Demonstrates control, strength and dexterity to manipulate objects

Media & Technology

- Enjoys electronic forms of storybooks and informational texts
- Uses technology to explore and review information

Social & Emotional Development

- Uses materials appropriately and puts them away
- Works with others to solve problems