

Planning for Kindergarten "Scuola dell'Infanzia S. Maria Goretti"

Introduction:

In kindergarten English as a Foreign Language (EFL) lessons, the integration of a well-structured routine is paramount for fostering a positive and effective learning environment. The routine, comprising elements like circle time, a hello song, activity time, calmer activities, and a goodbye song, plays a crucial role in creating familiarity and comfort for young learners. Circle time not only encourages social interaction but also serves as an engaging platform for language exposure through discussions and games. The hello song establishes a cheerful start, setting a positive tone for the lesson. Table time/activity time provides a structured space for focused language activities, enhancing vocabulary and language skills. Calmer activities allow children to transition smoothly between tasks, promoting a sense of calmness and concentration. Finally, the goodbye song marks the conclusion of the lesson, offering a sense of closure and reinforcing language learned. This routine not only facilitates language acquisition but also nurtures a sense of routine and security, vital for the holistic development of young learners in a ludic EFL setting.

Overview:

This project introduces English as a Foreign Language (EFL) to children aged 3 and 4 years old, through a playful exploration of the woods. The theme will cover animals, plants, weather, and festivities related to the forest and its seasonal changes. The teaching method will include songs, stories, role-playing, and hands-on activities tailored to the developmental stages of the children. The project will be divided into three phases: October-December, January-March, and April-May. Each phase will incorporate seasonal themes, festivities, and age-specific activities.

Group 1: 3-Year-Olds

Focus: Basic vocabulary, listening, repetition and sensory exploration.

Teaching Approach: Playful and sensory-based activities, using music, visuals, and simple instructions.

Group 2: 4-Year-Olds

Focus: Vocabulary building, basic sentence structure, listening comprehension and interaction

Teaching Approach: Interactive games, role-playing, and more structured activities that encourage communication.

Phase 1: October - December (Autumn & Winter Festivities)

Themes: Forest in Autumn, Woodland Animals, Halloween, Winter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

3-Year-Olds

Vocabulary:

- **Colours:** Red, Orange, Yellow, Brown
- **Animals:** Owl, Squirrel, Fox, Bear, Turkey, Reindeer
- **Feelings:** happy, sad, scared, tired, angry
- **Objects:** Pumpkin, Leaf, Tree, Snow, Star, Gift
- **Festivities:** Halloween, Christmas (basic understanding)
- **Songs:** "Emotions Song"
 - "If You're Happy and You Know It"
 - "Knock knock, trick or treat?"
 - "Walk in the woods"
 - "Jingle Bells"

Activities:

- **Movement Games:** Imitate animal movements (e.g., flying like a owl, hop like a squirrel)
- **Nature Exploration:** Collect leaves, acorns, and pinecones during outdoor play
- **Sensory Play:** Feeling autumn leaves
- **Art & Craft:** Create a forest collage with leaves and animal cutouts
- **Festive Craft:** Decorate a Christmas tree with forest-themed ornaments

4-Year-Olds

Vocabulary:

- **Weather:** Windy, Rainy, Snowy
- **Food:** Pumpkin, Turkey, Apple, Candy
- **Animals:** Deer, Hedgehog, Owl, Wolf
- **Feelings:** happy, sad, scared, tired, angry
- **Nature:** Tree, Leaf, Acorn, Pinecone
- **Actions:** Run, Jump, Climb, Fly
- **Festivities:** Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas (basic phrases)
- **Songs:** "Emotions Song"
"If You're Happy and You Know It"
"Knock knock, trick or treat?"
"Walk in the woods"
"We wish you a merry Christmas"

Activities:

- **Storytelling:** Listen to simple Halloween and Christmas stories
- **Art & Craft:** Create a turkey with handprints, decorate a Christmas tree
- **Role Play:** Pretend to go trick-or-treating, giving and receiving gifts
- **Festive Craft:** Create holiday decorations inspired by forest elements (e.g., pinecones, twigs)

Phase 2: January - March (Winter & Spring Festivities)

Themes: Winter in the Forest, Animal Habitats, Valentine's Day, Carnival, Spring Awakening and Father's day.

3-Year-Olds

Vocabulary:

- **Winter:** Snow, Ice, Cold, Snowflake
- **Animals:** Rabbit, Bear, Bird
- **Body Parts:** Head, Shoulders, Knees, Toes, Eyes, Ears and Nose
- **Festivities:** Carnival and Father's day.
- **Songs:** "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes"
"Shake it out"
"I love my daddy (Father's day song)"
"Sleeping Bunnies"

Activities:

- **Sensory Play:** Explore "snow" (cotton balls or artificial snow) and build mini snowmen
- **Art & Craft:** Create a father's day craft.
- **Movement Games:** Pretend to be animals waking up from hibernation in the spring
- **Festive Craft:** Make carnival masks.

4-Year-Olds

Vocabulary:

- **Body Parts:** Head, Shoulders, Knees, Toes, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Face, Neck and more.
- **Actions:** Hide, Hop, Sleep, Wake
- **Nature:** Flower, Tree, Sun, Rain
- **Festivities:** Valentine's Day, Carnival and Father's day
- **Songs:** "You Are My Sunshine"
"Shake it out"
"Coconut Soap"

Activities:

- **Storytelling:** Read a story about animals emerging from hibernation and discovering spring.
- **Art & Craft:** Create a father's day craft.
- **Role Play:** Act out scenes of animals waking up in the forest and searching for food.
- **Festive Craft:** Make carnival masks and Valentine's cards.

Phase 3: April - May (Spring & Summer Transition)

Themes: Forest in Bloom, Woodland Creatures, Summer Fun

3-Year-Olds

Vocabulary:

- **Animals:** Bunny, Chick, Fish, Frog, Bird, Caterpillar
- **Nature:** Flower, Sun, Grass, Water
- **Objects:** Egg, Basket, Beach, Sand
- **Festivities:** Easter (basic understanding) and Mother's day
- **Songs:** "The Wheels on the Bus"
"Bounce Like a Bunny"
"I Love My Mommy"

Activities:

- **Art & Craft:** Decorate Easter eggs, mother's day craft
- **Sensory Play:** Water play, exploring textures like sand and grass
- **Movement Games:** Easter egg hunt, hop like a bunny

4-Year-Olds

Vocabulary:

- **Seasons:** Spring, Summer
- **Weather:** Sunny, Cloudy
- **Actions:** Swim, Jump, Play
- **Festivities:** Easter, Mother's Day and Summer holidays
- **Songs:** "Here Comes the Sun" (simplified version)
"Everybody Listen"
"The Bunny Hokey Pokey"
"I Love My Mommy"

Activities:

- **Storytelling:** Simple stories about animals in spring (The Very Hungry Caterpillar)
- **Art & Craft:** Mother's day craft, decorate Easter eggs
- **Role Play:** Summer in the forest, Easter egg hunting.

Monthly Planning Overview

October:

- **Theme:** Forest in Autumn, Halloween
- **Songs:** "Knock knock, trick or treat?", "Emotions Song", "If You're Happy and You Know It"
- **Activities:** Leaf collection, animal movements, Halloween craft

November:

- **Theme:** Woodland Animals Preparing for Winter, Thanksgiving
- **Songs:** "Walking in the Woods"
- **Activities:** Thanksgiving stories/crafts, and forest crafts

December:

- **Theme:** Winter in the Forest, Christmas
- **Songs:** "Jingle Bells," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"
- **Activities:** Snow play, forest-themed Christmas decorations

January:

- **Theme:** Winter in the Woods, Animal Habitats
- **Songs:** "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes", "Coconut Soap"
- **Activities:** Sensory snow play, create hibernating animal scenes

February:

- **Theme:** Valentine's Day, Carnival and Winter Forest
- **Songs:** "Shake it out", "You are my sunshine", "Sleeping Bunnies"
- **Activities:** Make Valentine's cards, animal role-playing, winter forest exploration

March:

- **Theme:** Spring Awakening, Father's day
- **Songs:** "I love my daddy (Father's day song)"
- **Activities:** Create springtime forest scenes, Easter and Father's day crafts

April:

- **Theme:** Forest in Bloom, Earth Day and Easter
- **Songs:** "Everybody Listen", "The Bunny Hokey Pokey", "Bounce Like a Bunny".
- **Activities:** Nature walk, Earth Day crafts, and role-playing woodland creatures

May:

- **Theme:** Summer Fun in the Forest, Mother's day
- **Songs:** "Here Comes the Sun", "I love my mommy"
- **Activities:** Summer forest and Mother's day crafts

This EFL project for kindergarteners combines learning with fun, ensuring children develop their language skills through play, songs, and hands-on activities. The plan is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the children while keeping the content age-appropriate and engaging.