Buttercups®

Themes

Frogs and Friends
Hop, hop, kerplop! Head on down to the pond to meet friendly frogs, learn about lily pads, and meet other creatures who live in and around ponds.

Beach Vacation
Slather on sunscreen, grab your sun hat and sunglasses, and let's head to the beach! In this theme, children will build sandcastles, explore seashells, play with beach balls, and more. Even if you live far from the ocean, there's much fun to be had on an imaginary beach vacation.

Camping Adventure
Get ready to explore the great outdoors and go camping! Children will enjoy playing inside tents, singing around a pretend campfire, and stargazing. Pretend to fish, canoe, and much more.

Picnic Pals
Buzzing flies and marching ants will want to join the fun as children enjoy picnics in the grass and other summertime activities. Discover the many ways that insects can be our friends and the ways we can enjoy each other's company in these final days of summer.

Vocabulary
frog, pond, lily pad, ocean, beach ball, seashells, tent, campfire, fishing, ants, flies, picnic

Colors/Shapes
review

Opposites
noisy/quiet

Sign Language

bug
Touch thumb to your nose and bend index and middle finger down twice to represent a bug's antennae.

color
Take your fingers to your chin and wiggle them in place.

all done
Turn palms upward and then outward.

bubbles
Make O sign with each hand. Alternating hands, move them up and down, opening and closing fingers like popping bubbles.

play
Both hands form a Y sign and twist back and forth from the wrist.

Learn with Me!

• Lily Pad Movements
Print out pictures of lily pads, and tape them to the floor to create a path. Invite your child to crawl, walk, run, hop, or skip along the path. Extend play by offering toy frogs to your child to move along the lily pads in different ways.

• Easy Picnic Math
Gather different sizes of containers and a variety of food items (e.g., nuts, berries, cucumber slices, crackers, cheese, etc.). Invite your child to help you measure and sort the ingredients into the containers for a picnic. Encourage your child to think of kitchen tools they might need as they work. Place the food containers into a basket with a clean blanket or tablecloth. Head outside to enjoy a picnic together.

My Project: Campfire Prop
When I bring this project home, we can:
- Feel and talk about its textures and colors.
- Talk about safety around campfires in simple terms.
- Set up a tent in the backyard and pretend to go camping together.
- Collect twigs to compare to the twigs/logs represented on the prop.
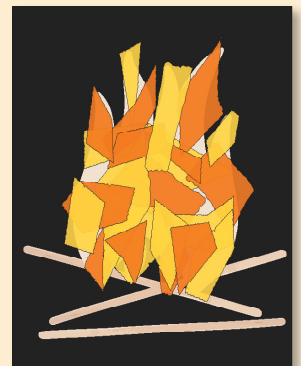
Graphic is intended to show sample of project. Materials may be substituted or used differently.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Book List

Little Green Frog
   by Ginger Swift

Can You Tickle a Turtle?
   by Little Hippo Books

On the Beach
   by Allison Black

Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On
   by Lois Ehlert

Good Night Campsite
   by Adam Gamble

Hello World! Backyard Bugs
   by Jill McDonald

Recipe

Healthy S'mores Snack
   graham crackers
   bananas
   sunflower butter
   mini chocolate chips

Cut the bananas into slices. Break the graham crackers in half to create squares. Spread sunflower butter onto the graham crackers. Next, add several banana slices. Add a few mini chocolate chips to this healthy twist on a classic summer treat. Top with another graham cracker square, if desired. Invite your child to help as they show readiness. Use words to describe what your child does, sees, hears, and tastes.

Songs

Let's Go to the Beach
Sung to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Let's go to the beach.
We'll play and swim and run.
Let's build some castles in the sand.
The day will be so fun!

Let's go to the beach.
We'll splash and float around.
Let's build some castles in the sand.
The day will be so fun!

Did You Ever Have a Picnic?
Sung to "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Did you ever have a picnic,
A picnic, a picnic?
Did you ever have a picnic?
Did bugs come that day?
(Ants) came to our picnic!
(Ants) came to our picnic!
We didn't even ask them!
They came anyway!

Repeat and name different bugs with your child.

Reminders

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