

Preschool Planning	some ideas are from "Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom, 3rd edition" by Judy Herr & Yvonne R. Libby Larson
Date & Theme	Tuesday, June 2, 2009- FARM ANIMALS
Letter/ Number	Oo short and long sound- read a book about the letter & sound, write the letter, find the letter around the house 25- Display # represented by numeral, word, and # of dots, count the # in the house
Language Literacy	Read a book about farm animals then hand out a journal sheet with this question on it: "What types of things do you enjoy that we have because of farm animals?" Record the children's responses and let them draw a picture to go along with their response. **See attached journal page**
Arts & Crafts	Buttermilk Chalk Picture- Brush a piece of cardboard with 2 to 3 tablespoons of buttermilk or dip chalk in buttermilk. Let children create designs using colored chalk as a tool.
Cooking	Making Butter- Fill baby food jars half-full with whipping cream. Allow the children to take turns shaking the jars until the cream separates. First it will appear like whipping cream, then overwhipped cream, and finally an obvious separation will occur. Then pour off the liquid and taste. Wash the butter in cold water in a bowl several times. Drain off milky liquid each time. Taste and then wash again until nearly clear. Work the butter in the water with a wooden spoon as you wash. Add salt to taste. Let the children spread the butter on bread or crackers to sample it.
Dramatic Play	<i>Farm-</i> Provide clothes and props (hats, scarves, overalls, boots, a horse saddle, buckets, stools, pretend animals or animals costumes, etc.) for the children to pretend play that they are farmers. <i>Ice Cream Shop-</i> You could also set up an ice cream shop with signs (**See attachment), cash register, pretend ice cream, bowls, spoons, etc. Talk about how ice cream is dairy & come from cows.
Field Trip	Visiting the Farm- Take the children on a field trip to the farm to observe the animals and the equipment. Make sure you discuss each animal while you are there. Look at and touch the animals fur and skin, as well as what they eat. Talk about how each animal is helpful to us.
Group Time	Do the calendar, read books and do the activities about the letter & number, read the book about farm animals and do the journal page (language/literacy), talk about and do the wool activity (Social Studies), sing Old MacDonald Had a Farm (music).
Large Muscle	Trikes and Wagons- Talking to children or read a book about how farmers use tractors and wagons to haul things, like hay or even animals. Place trikes and wagons outside for the children to haul things from place to place just like farmers do.
Math	Farm Animals Sort- Collect plastic farm animals. Place them out and encourage the children sort them according to size, color, where they live, how they move, how they help us, etc.
Music	Old MacDonald had a farm, Ee i ee i o. And on his farm he had some cows, Ee i ee i oh. With a moo-moo here, And a moo-moo there, Here a moo, there a moo, Everywhere a moo-moo. Old MacDonald had a farm, Ee i ee i o. (Others: pigs-oink, chickens- cluck, dogs-woof, sheep-baa, horses- neigh, etc...)
Sensory	Provide materials in the sensory table for the children to make a barnyard. You could include soil, hay, farm animals, barns, farm equipment toys, etc.
Science	Place farm items out for the children to feel, weigh, look at (with a magnifying glass) and explore. Items could include: an ear of corn, hay, sheep wool, turkey feather, hard-boiled eggs, container of milk or other dairy product (sealed tightly), wheat kernels, etc.
Social Studies	Talk about how each type of farm animals helps us by providing things like food (milk, meat, eggs, etc) or clothing (wool). Let the children examine various types of wool that we use: wool clippings, lanolin, dyed yarn, yarn spun into thread, wool cloth, wool articles (mittens, socks, sweaters, blankets).
Extra	Tasting Dairy Products or Cheese Types- Plan a taste testing party for the children for them to compare different types of food: dairy products (cow milk, goat milk, cream, skimmed milk, whole milk, cottage cheese, sour cream, butter, buttermilk, etc) or cheese (swiss, cheddar, colby, mozzarella, cottage cheese, cheese curds, etc.)