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| Head Start Lesson Plan Criteria | | |
| These expectations apply to all center-based HS classrooms. School-based UPK classrooms will follow this criteria unless otherwise directed by their school district. | | |
| The following content areas are required components for the Teaching Strategies GOLD lesson plan template. A theme or study will be identified each week, and the content areas will be completed with the minimum requirements outlined below. | | |
| Content | Expectations | Minimum number of activities identified on lesson plan |
| Large group | * circle time, whole class meetings * identify topic of discussion, question of the day * learning activities * songs, stories | One per day |
| Small group | * usually occurs during center/free play time * targeted learning activities (math, science, language, arts) * individualized activities | One per day, covering all learning domains throughout the week |
| Read aloud | * identify a read aloud related to the current theme/study * the same book can be repeated if it is read with a new goal/purpose | One per day |
| Social/emotional | * occurs throughout the day * identify new social-emotional strategies introduced to children * identify discussion topics and read alouds that reinforce social emotional strategies | New activities, resources, and stories introduced each week |
| Math | * include activities that reinforce math concepts – counting, shapes, classification, patterns, measurement | New activities and manipulatives introduced weekly |
| Science | * include activities that reinforce science concepts –earth science, space, colors, physical science | New activities introduced each week or  one week-long experiment |
| Literacy/language | * introduce new books each week that relate to the theme/study | New books introduced each week |
| Blocks | * introduce new building/construction materials that relate to the theme/study | New materials introduced each week |
| Dramatic play | * introduce new dramatic play materials that relate to the theme/study | New materials introduced each week |
| Gross motor | * can be indoors or outdoors * support physical developmental goals | New games, activities, and materials introduced each week |
| Technology | * identify apps, videos, and activities that support learning goals * computers, ipads, etc | Weekly |
| Health/Nutrition | * reinforce good health and obesity prevention | One per week |
| Mighty minutes | * support transitions and learning goals * used throughout the day | One new MM introduced each week |
| Family partnership | * identify how families are included in the child’s learning experience * family fun days, special events, home-school connections | Weekly |