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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 |