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| The following content areas are required components for the Smart Teach lesson plan template. Creative Curriculum studies are a requirement throughout the school year and the content areas are completed with the minimum requirements outlined below. Creative Curriculum materials should be utilized weekly including book discussion cards, intentional teaching cards and mighty minutes. Expectations are below and tips are on the back. | |
| **Content** | **Expectations** |
| Mighty Minutes | Implement a new Mighty Minute each week to support a transition. |
| Large Group | Daily  Question of the Day  Music and Movement  Optional: Large Group Roundup |
| Choice Time/Interest Areas | All areas are available daily. Choose one area per week to enhance with materials related to the current study.  Interest areas:  Blocks  Dramatic play  Library  Art- Open ended |
| Sensory | Offered daily for an extended period. |
| Read-Aloud | Daily- One new book weekly to read aloud. |
| Small Group | Daily with new concepts/activities introduced weekly  Intentional Teaching Cards:  Math  Science  Literacy and Language |
| Outdoor/Gross Motor | Daily- new games, activities, and materials introduced weekly |
| School Readiness | New Activity to do at home posted weekly |
| Social/Emotional | Daily- new activities, resources, and stories introduced weekly |

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| Refer to the information below to ensure you are meeting all CEO Head Start lesson plan criteria. Materials from the Creative Curriculum, including intentional teaching cards, mighty minutes and book discussion cards should be utilized daily.  **Lesson plans populated for weekly studies may not include all necessary content areas. It is required to review your populated lesson plans and add needed content to ensure it meets all CEO criteria before submitting to your Center Manager.** | |
| **Content** | **Tip** |
| Mighty Minutes | Use to signify and support classroom transitions. Focus on one transitional period at a time, using different Mighty Minutes weekly to support various transitions. |
| Large Group | These activities can happen during circle time but don’t need to include entire class. Group discussions should be intentional opportunities for children to learn while allowing them to participate at their own level. Large group roundup is an opportunity to review what you learned during the day with your students. This is optional and does not need to be included daily. |
| Choice Time | Choice time should be at least 60 minutes.   * Children should have the opportunity to access all interest areas each day, with the ability to choose where they play and not be rotated. * New materials that relate to the week’s study should be added to each area. * Sensory materials should be safe and appropriate for all children (sand & water are the best options) and be accessible daily for an extended period of time. * Art should be available throughout the day. Art activities that focus on a finished product rather than the creative process or require additional work from teachers are inappropriate. Instead, they should be open ended such as blank paper with crayons/markers, bingo dabbers, stencils, etc. |
| Sensory | Sensory experiences should be offered daily for extended periods of time. Materials should be safe and appropriate for children. Sand and water are the best options. Any materials that say “keep out of reach of children” should not be used. |
| Read Aloud | Choose a book that relates to the week’s study. The same book may be repeated if it can be re-read with a new focus/purpose for learning. |
| Small Group | Choose a new Intentional Teaching Card for each day with at least one math activity, at least one science activity and at least one language/literacy each week. Small group activities should be more than just completing a pre-made work sheet.   * Math concepts: counting, shapes, classification, patterns, measurement, etc. * Science concepts: earth science, space, colors, physical science, etc. * Lang/Lit concepts: rhyme/alliteration, knowledge of alphabet, writing skills, etc. |
| Outdoors/Gross Motor | This should not just be “Playground” or “Walk”.  Each week, choose an activity to facilitate during gross motor time that focuses on balance, coordination, jumping, throwing, catching, climbing, etc. |
| School Readiness | An activity that relates to the month’s School Readiness Goal should be shared with families via Learning Genie each week. These activities can cover simple concepts, should be easy to incorporate into daily activities and should not require many materials. |
| Social Emotional | Each week, introduce a new social emotional strategy to children. This may be done individually or as a large group activity. Discussions and practice with new skills should be incorporated throughout the day. |