



Submitted by:

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Date:

Catholic Long-Range Plans for KinderArtsAround

Kinder ArtsAround Includes Many Literacies: Kinder ArtsAround is an arts integrated approach to learning. All arts expectations are covered in a K curriculum including literacies such as media, physical, emotional, spiritual and social. Subject integration includes Math, Science, Language, Communication, Healthy Living and Religion. All Arts expectations are included at the beginning of every Kinder ArtsAround lesson. This long-range plan clearly highlights the amount of integration that takes place in the early years. The general monthly themes are listed below.

Catholicity is Featured: A typical Kinder ArtsAround lesson includes a Physical Literacy warm up, followed by an introduction/review through a song, poem or language/communication memory skill. The topic is then supported through engaging and active You Tube videos (media literacy), make believe (drama), storytelling (language and communication) and new learning through curriculum related skills in math, science discovery, healthy living and well-being including Catholicity, spirituality and a loving God. In the heart of lessons is a Christ-like reverence. Mini-dramatizations and role plays including tableau will begin as well as creative movement and freestyle dancing. Beat and rhythms are practiced repeatedly through percussion and ORFF instruments. Kinder ArtsAround lessons are very active, filled with play, music, drama and inquiry-based skills integrated into curriculum and real-life too!

New Research about Learning: New research about 'how to learn' tells us that young minds need stimulation and to stay focused, K kids need to spend as much time as possible moving and changing gears. Young children must be allowed to explore, inquire, play, and discover. A K class should not look like a primary class. A Kinder ArtsAround class is very active.

Adults often assume that most learning is the result of teaching, and that exploratory, spontaneous learning is unusual. But spontaneous learning is more fundamental- especially in kindergarten. It's this kind of learning, in fact, that allows kids to learn from teachers in the first place. Knowing what to expect from a teacher is a good thing. Studies show that 4-year-olds understand how teaching works.

However, there is an intrinsic trade-off between that kind of learning and the more wide-ranging learning that is so natural for young children. Knowing this, it's more important than ever to give children's remarkable, spontaneous learning abilities free rein. That

means a rich, stable, and safe world, with affectionate and supportive grown-ups, and lots of opportunities for exploration and play. Kinder ArtsAround offers many opportunities for such young minds to learn through play. What better way is there to learn through play, than the arts!

Long Range Plans for Kinder ArtsAround Cycle A

Introductory “School Theme’ Lessons for First two Weeks: Coming out of COVID, dealing with depression, anxiety, and heavy curriculum has made schools stressed and overwhelmed. This year, AITs are being chosen to show authentic ‘school spirit’ by getting ALL member of the school community (office and custodian staff included) to participate. When everyone shares creativity and enthusiasm, the entire energy of the school begins the school year on the right foot. **“Two men looked out from prison bars. One saw mud; the other stars.”** This is the year to get everyone noticing the stars in the sky!

September to mid-October: This month will open with musical discovery titled **The Language of Music** through getting-to-know-you games and working on pitch. (**singing**). How to sing do, re, mi and use hand signs is taught as **Solfege Notation**. Fall is a great time to visit an orchard since **Apples** are the perfect fall fruit. The children will taste, sort and classify apples, (**Math and Science**) sing and move to **music** and learn about **tableaux (Drama)**.

Mid-October to November: Of course, the children will welcome in the seasonal **Fall** change starting with **Thanksgiving** & enjoying **Hallowe’en** fun. This is a great time to use their skills to sing, move and act out a **Batty Bats** song and dance. **You Tube videos** provide related stories to reinforce the seasonal change and all the **colours** of fall.

November to mid–December: Since students learned about Apple orchards last month it is now time to become familiar with life on a farm through **Sheep, Pigs and Horses** on the farm. **Media literacy** (You Tube videos) provides trips to interesting and real operating farms to enhance the experience. There will be enough time to horse around with the **Farmer in the Dell and the Pony Boy** song. The children will **play beat and rhythm patterns, ORFF instruments and percussion** as they will learn to ride horses like **Funky Cowboys and Cowgirls** just in time for Christmas. Every Kinder ArtsAround child will be looking for a pony under their tree this Christmas 😊

Christmas: Christmas Memories theme provides a wonderful background for the kids to prepare a 'surprise' gift for their family to share together. **Feliz Navidad** lends itself to a re-enactment of the Nativity with **Away in a Manger** including a religious and sacred approach to receiving Baby Jesus into their hearts to lead them into a healthy New Year. What better way to end this term than by creating a dance to perform for Baby Jesus?

January to mid-February: The new season of **Winter** will be welcomed with the **Return of the Snowman** theme. Of course, an outside play time in the snow is fitting and fun! When there is enough snow, **Snowman Sculptures (visual art)** will be on display. **Photos** will be taken with **iPads** by the children to **email** home to their parents. **(Technology)** Enjoying some hot chocolate is bound to warm them up!

Mid-February to the end of March: These drab winter months require a theme that will lift their spirits. So, they are off to the **Arctic** (North Pole) to see what life is like for Santa and to the Antarctic to see penguins. Animal Migration and Hibernation (**Science**) is explored through **media literacy and storytelling**. Singing **vocal warmups (Music)** and learning the **Hiding Song Game** will be active and fun. **(Fitness)**. There will be many opportunities to use our imagination (**Drama**) and even learn about polar bears. (**Science**). These young minds will even discover why the North Pole is a place of 'international intrigue' and begin to delve into **global warming** and **responsible stewardship. (Spirituality)**

April: *Respecting Our Surroundings* seems to be an appropriate fit for April when **Earth Day** is celebrated. Tending to our earthly garden is a big part of being responsible citizens. This is a good time to learn better ways to **respect our planet**, our family & friends, and everyone who contributes to our community in any way. Of course, **celebrating the risen Christ** only adds more reverence to such a powerful theme at **Easter**. Venturing further afield makes **animal camouflage (visual art)** send the children on a trip to the rainforest of Jamaica. Through exploration they will dramatize ways to save this **ecosystem. (Drama)** Exploring a tropical island lends itself to the **Banana Boat** song while they put a **Lime in the Coconut. (Music)** This is where their **video performance (media literacy)** is recorded so they can see themselves and begin the process of **self-evaluation for improvement purposes**.

May: Welcoming a **Spring Is in the Air** theme and collectively deciding what the children need returning from the jungle as they happened upon a boat filled with **Pirates**. Ahoy mates and **pirate vocabulary** really add authenticity to this theme. **(Language)** This is where the K kids become Official Detectives with badges as they try to discern through **inquiry and play** using pool noodle swords and improvisation. **(Problem solving)** Each **story drama** differs as they create the challenge and then go about solving it. Even Peter Pan makes an appearance from Never-Never Land. **(Media Literacy)**. Of course, this is a perfect chance to have children create their own **pirate costumes** too. **(Creativity)**. Learning to read symbols on a **treasure map** helps leads the detectives to a **treasure chest**. It doesn't get much better than that! This type of engaging curriculum spells one word- **Fun!**

June: As June can be very busy, this month is left for the run over lessons or lesson extensions that the Kinder ArtsAround Teacher chooses to do. It is also a month where every K class may be **reviewing concepts**, they had difficulty with during the year and playing games, songs, music, dances and dramatizations they loved. This is where they get the chance to **perfect a skill**. This time also allows teachers to **gather assessments** they are unsure of about individual children. In preparing for summer, the **sun and shadow play activities** take place outside for the last few inquiry discovery lesson challenges in **Shadow Dancing**. A **Pirate Play Day** ends this exciting year in Kinder ArtsAround! **Remarkable!**

