

Free Play-Based Lesson Plan Template

A simple, print-and-go planning sheet for parents and educators. Fill it in, adapt it, use it again and again.

ACTIVITY TITLE

Name of activity

Duration

Age group

☐ Toddlers ☐ Preschool ☐ Kindergarten ☐ Other: _____

LEARNING FOCUS

What skills or areas does this activity support?

☐ Early literacy ☐ Early maths ☐ Fine motor skills ☐ Social & emotional learning
☐ Language development ☐ Creativity & imagination ☐ Problem solving

Learning goal — children will be able to:

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

What will children do? Describe the activity in simple steps.

MATERIALS NEEDED

List the resources required

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BEFORE STARTING

How will you prepare the environment? e.g. set up materials, create a calm space, introduce a story or question.

Preparation notes

ACTIVITY STEPS

1 Introduction

How will you invite children into the activity?

"Today we are going to explore..."

2 Exploration

What will children do, create, discuss, or investigate?

3 Reflection

How will children share what they learned? e.g. talk about their ideas, show their creation, explain their thinking.

QUESTIONS TO ENCOURAGE THINKING

Use open-ended questions

"What do you notice?" · "What do you think will happen?" · "How could we try this another way?"

Other questions

SUPPORTING DIFFERENT LEARNERS

For children who need more support

For children ready for more challenge

OBSERVATION NOTES

Child name

What worked well? What would you change next time?

EXTENSION IDEAS

How could this activity continue?

☐ Add a story ☐ Add movement ☐ Add counting or maths

☐ Add drawing or writing ☐ Connect to nature or everyday life

SEE IT IN ACTION

A Story-Based Letter Tracing Activity

A filled-in example, using our own story-based approach, to show how the template works in practice.

ACTIVITY TITLE

Name of activity: "Sammy the Snail Says S" — a story-based tracing activity

Age group: Preschool · **Duration:** 10-15 minutes

LEARNING FOCUS

Fine motor skills, early literacy, language development

Learning goal: Children will be able to trace the letter S with correct directional movement while connecting it to a short story sentence.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Children listen to a one-line story about Sammy the Snail, then trace the dashed letter S on their worksheet, following the red arrows for direction. The story sentence gives the letter a reason to matter, rather than being an abstract shape to copy.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☒ **Printed "Sammy the Snail" tracing page**
- ☒ **Pencil or crayon**
- ☒ **A quiet, well-lit table space**

BEFORE STARTING

Set the worksheet and pencil out at a low table. Read the story sentence aloud once before handing over the pencil, so the child hears it before they trace it.

ACTIVITY STEPS

- 1. Introduction — "Today we're going to help Sammy the Snail find his way home. Sammy's name starts with S, just like the letter we're going to trace."**
- 2. Exploration — The child traces the dashed S, following the red arrow, then colours in Sammy's shell if they'd like to.**
- 3. Reflection — Ask the child to point to their favourite part of the letter, or to say the story sentence back in their own words.**

FROM EARLYCHILDHOODEDUNET

Want more ready-to-use activities?

Explore our free printables and story-based learning resources, built the same way as this template: practical, low-prep, and designed to actually hold a child's attention.

[Browse Free Printables →](#)

or try the [free 3-page story-based tracing sampler at earlychildhoodedu.net](#)