



Morning Circle

Prior to the children arriving, decorate the room for a picnic. Make a trail of "ants" along the floor leading to the story area. Make your own out of construction paper, or use stickers or cutouts if they're available. Have some artificial flowers dotted around the room, and even use some green outdoor carpeting if you can find some!

Introduce the letter "p" to the children by saying, "I know something special that starts with 'P!' It's something you do in the daytime, you bring a blanket to, you bring a basket to, you bring food to, and ants often show up...." Let the children guess the word after each clue. If they don't guess "Picnic," help them out. Bring out a picnic basket and explain to the children that today is "Picnic Day" at Preschool! Say, "I have some special things Packed in my Picnic basket, and they all begin with 'P.'" Give the children clues for each item to see if they can guess what each is. "P" items could include a Pear, a Peach, Peas, Potato chips, a Plum, a jar of Peanut butter, Pickles, and Paper Plates.

Review the concept of day and night by discussing with the children how there are certain things you do in the day, and other things you do in the night. Let the children offer ideas about things they do in the day versus at nighttime. Ask, "Would you have a picnic in the daytime or the nighttime?" Have some pictures, of daily responsibilities. Sing, "This is the Way We Brush Our Teeth" (or eat our cereal, go to school, do our chores, go to sleep, etc.

Read, *Teddy Bear's Picnic*, by Jimmy Kennedy.

Music & Movement:

Play Picnic Day games and sing Picnic Day songs:

1. Sing "Teddy Bear's Picnic" (music by John Bratton, lyrics by Jimmy Kennedy.)
2. Have sack races indoors or out, depending on the weather.
3. Play Duck, Duck, Goose.
4. Play some fun music in the background while children play at special indoor centers like horseshoes (use lightweight plastic types, or ringtoss,) badminton, and magnetic "fishing."

Snack Time: Picnic Food!
eat outside or take a class trip if possible!

Center Activities

1. Dramatic play. Have a picnic corner set up complete with baskets, play food, baby strollers, teddy bears, baskets, plastic cups and plates, and even some plastic insects.
2. If you're feeling especially brave, consider having an ant farm center. It will inspire the children's interest and they'll want to learn more about these common picnic pests.
3. If you have teddy bear counters, set up a math center with them. Alternatively, cut out all the parts of a teddy bear out of construction paper and let the children put it all back together again.

Art Activity

Fuzzy Teddy Bears!



Cut out the basic shape of a teddy bear out of sturdy cardstock. Cut snips of fuzzy fabric or faux fur scraps (available at craft shops.) Let the children paste the furry scraps onto their bear shapes. Give each child a small snippet of pinkish fabric for a tongue, a small scrap of dark leather for a nose, and either google eyes or teddy bear eyes (also available at craft stores) for the teddies' eyes. This will provide a wonderfully tactile crafting experience for the children.

Bible Story



Read *It's the Bear!* by Jez Alborough.

Ask the children if they enjoyed the story. Ask the children about picnic experiences they've had. Did anyone ever see a bear at their picnic? Ask them, "Did you know that there are stories of picnics in the Bible?" Go on to tell them briefly of the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

Bible Verse Bracelets:

Luke 12:29-30

"Don't always think about what you will eat or what you will drink, and don't keep worrying. ...your Father knows you need them." (New Century Version)

Song: "Isn't He Wonderful?" from the Cedarhurst Kids "Action Songs" CD