



## Morning Circle

Review the letter "O" with the children. Put various "o" objects in the "letter bag." You might use an octopus, an owl, an orange, and an oval. Take this opportunity to introduce some descriptive words such as out, on, over, and open.

Discuss dark and light, day and night, and the colors black and white. Ask the children about what they think creates shadows. Demonstrate shadows by using a bright light and a large sheet hung from the ceiling. Give the children opportunities to take turns making shadows. Consider taking digital snapshots of each child as they take turns, so they can see their own special shadows. You could even make a collage with the images on a bulletin board or other special space.



Read Shadows and Reflections, by Tana Hoban. This textless book offers interesting photographs of children creating various shadows. A nice way to get the children thinking about what causes shadows and other types of reflections.



### Music & Movement:

Shadow dancing. Place a spotlight or other bright light at an angle above the children. Turn off all other lights in the area. Play some music and let the children dance. Watch the shadows that their dancing creates!

Game: "Shadow Me." Group the children into pairs. One partner in each pair "shadows" or mimics every action of the other. Then switch roles so everyone gets an opportunity to be the leader.

## Center Activities

1. Shadow tracing. Place a couple of bright reading lights (the gooseneck variety, if available) on a table. Scatter white paper and pencils around the table, and encourage children to make shadows with their hands and trace the shadows on the paper. Watch closely so no hands get burned on the lamps!
2. Collages. Provide heavy black and white construction paper and smaller bits of black and white paper, card, buttons, stickers, pieces of cloth, and other black or white objects. Let children create their own black and white collages. As an alternative, help the children to make white patterns on black paper, or black patterns on white paper.
3. Create a "fort" with sheets in one corner. Place a spotlight in a safe place about six or seven feet away from one side. Let the children play or read in the "fort," and help them discover how the shadows of others moving about the room appear to them while they're inside. Play a nature recording of night sounds to add ambiance.

## Bible Story



### Bible Storytime:

Read Owl Moon, by Jane Yolen. Discuss how God made the nighttime, and some of the creatures that were made especially to be active at night. Point out the illustrations and descriptions of the various shadows mentioned in the story.



### Bible Verse Bracelets:

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness." Genesis 1:3-4:

### Bible Song: "This Little Light of Mine."

Discuss with the children how light chases away darkness. What happens when we turn a light on in a dark room? Shine a flashlight into a dark corner? Let the light of Jesus shine through us in a troubled world?

**Snack Time:** Have black and white snacks, such as raisins and marshmallows.

## Art Activity

### Dried Glue Silhouettes

Mix black tempera paint with white wood glue until fairly dark. Spread out waxed paper on a table. Give each child a cookie cutter shape such as a "gingerbread man," cat, bird, etc. Help each child pour the black glue into the shape. Wait until the glue sets to take the cookie cutters away. Carefully peel the dried shapes from the waxed paper, and display the "shadows" all around the room. (Note: it may take a couple of days for the glue to set properly.)



## Additional Activities

Shadow charades or a shadow play