




Underlined Items may be printed Free from Preschool Post
There are more Optional Activities online as well.

Morning Circle

Review the letter "s" by asking the children if they can repeat the name of the season learned about in the previous lesson. When they say "Spring," take out the "letter bag" filled with objects that begin with "s." Begin by giving clues, such as "I have something in my letter bag that begins with 's.' It's sometimes white, sometimes smelly, and it fits on my bare foot." The children might guess "sock" and they may even say "shoe," which would also be acceptable. Other "s" objects might include a "seven," "spider," "starfish," "sun," "snake," and "spoon."

Explain that today's lesson is about another "s" word... "St. Patrick's Day." Briefly discuss the holiday before reading. Put on some Irish music on in the background while you read

 Eve Bunting's St. Patrick's Day in the Morning. (If possible, use the audio recording of this book along with showing the illustrations. It's narrated in an Irish accent, and will add a special touch to your St. Patrick's Day celebrations.)

Music & Movement:

Use either green scarves or tape green crepe-paper streamers to the ends of short wooden dowels. Use creative movement to dance a jig to a bouncy Irish tune!

Snack Time: Use green sports drinks for beverages, and try some green food like celery, green grapes, green apples, and marshmallows colored slightly with green food coloring.



Art Activity

Tissue Paper Shamrocks

Provide a cut-out shamrock for each child made from white construction or sketch paper. Give each child several shades of green tissue and crepe paper, cut into small squares (make sure these are the type that bleed color when wet.) Instruct the children to place the squares of green paper randomly on their shamrock shapes. Provide either spray bottles filled with water for each child, or a small bowl of water and soft paintbrush for each child. Let the children coat their creations with water. After the water has begun to dry out a bit, carefully peel off the paper to reveal the lovely green watercolors beneath.



Center Activities

1. Have a "green" center. Place lots of green natural objects on a table for the children to examine. Use pine needles, leaves, clover, greenish-hued rocks, flower stems, broccoli, swatches of green fabric made of natural fibers, etc. Lay out several magnifying glasses and make sure the table is well-lit.

2. Little green people. Blow up a green balloon for each child and sit the balloons in bowls or shallow dishes so they sit upright. Provide a container of shaving foam dyed green with food coloring for each child. Let the children put "hair" and "faces" on their balloons with the shaving foam. The balloons will look like little green people. Note: This activity is messy. Protect your learning area and the children's clothing as needed.

3. Social studies center. Surround an area with posters of Ireland (can be obtained from travel agencies.) Provide pillows and chairs and a table with lots of glossy books on Ireland. Decorate area with green and shamrocks, and have a few Irish instruments placed there as well (tambourine, drum, and whistles if you can ensure each child has her own, for sanitary reasons.) Play Celtic music softly in the background in this corner.

Bible Story

Tell the children today's Bible lesson is about yet another "s" word... "shamrock." Ask the children if they know what a shamrock is. Take one out and show them. Explain that they might have seen something similar in their yard called clover. Ask them how many leaves a shamrock has. Ask them what color it is. Ask them if they remember what holiday is coming soon that is all about shamrocks and the color green. Explain that St. Patrick's Day is a very old holiday that celebrates a famous Irish religious person. Tell the children, "St. Patrick used the shamrock to show people about God. He said it can help us remember that God is in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus,) and God the Holy Spirit. (more helpful explanations about St. Patrick's Day and it's origins online. Read, The Story of St. Patrick's Day, by Patricia A. Pingry.

Bible Verse Bracelets:

Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, [a] Father."

Song: "Three In One" (Tune: "Are You Sleeping, Brother John?")

Original Author Unknown.

"God the Father, God the Father, (hold up on finger)

God the Son, God the Son, (hold up two fingers)

God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit, (hold up three fingers)

Three in One, Three in One." (hold up three fingers on both hands)

