



HighReach Learning Curriculum

Toddlers • Twos • Threes • Pre-K

2010–11 Topic Descriptions

From Home to School

Two of the most important places in a young child's life are home and school. As they explore both, children will discover what makes each place unique and different and also what is similar. Valuable social skills are intertwined with fun experiences as children not only learn how to make friends with peers but with the adults who play various roles in their environments. Best of all, they will learn about the most special part of home and school: themselves!

- Our School
- My Home
- Special Me
- Playing and Making Friends

Harvest Time

From seeds to plants, harvest time is a special opportunity for growing minds and bodies to see how nature grows just like we do! Children's closest interaction with the harvest is through all the yummy foods they eat. Exploring foods will lead to investigations of how food travels to our favorite restaurants and to our kitchens at home, meeting all the people who grow it, sell it, and cook it along the way. Our taste buds will be sizzling with all the tasty samples that we make throughout **Harvest Time**.

- Where Do We Find Food?
- How Does Food Move From Place to Place?
- How Does Food Grow?
- How Is Food Prepared and Enjoyed?

Terrific Tools

Experience with tools is a big part of children's learning. Anything can be a tool, not just the ones that exercise motor skills. An exploration of popular tools will show how they can be handy anywhere in school or at home, inside or outside. In **Terrific Tools**, children will meet familiar people and the tools they need to get the job done. They'll also discover some other things they would not think are tools, like minds, hands, and voices.

- Tools That Make Work Easier
- Tools for Creating
- Fixing and Fastening
- Tools That Let Us See in Different Ways

Sensational Senses

Without trying, children endlessly use their senses to explore their ever-growing world. This topic focuses individually on the senses and opens opportunities to children of how to use their senses that they may not have yet considered. We'll feel our way through our familiar environment, learning that we all have different preferences and everyone has his or her own ways of sensing things. The cold touch of ice, the sweet scent of fruit, and many tasty flavors are awaiting children with **Sensational Senses**.

- Eyes
- Mouths and Noses Work Together
- Ears
- Touching and Feeling

Trucks and Big Machines

Trucks and big machines are a common sight in a young child's world, but what do they do? In this topic, we'll examine how these machines are used to help in our daily lives. Dramatic play opens a lot of opportunities to experience how trucks and vehicles not only help move people from place to place but also transport a lot of items that we use and see every day. By pulling, pushing, crushing, and traveling, we'll investigate how big machines help make work easier to build our homes, deliver our mail, and take us on vacation. Join us on our ride with **Trucks and Big Machines!**

- Pieces and Parts
- Trucks and Machines That Help Us Have Fun
- Trucks and Machines Do Specific Jobs
- People Powered Trucks and Machines

In the Grass

A world of wonder waits right below our feet. It's fun to play and roll around in the grass, but it also serves a lot of important purposes. We'll go underground and investigate the critters that live under it as well as those that use grass for food and shelter. Grass is also very important to people as it helps us grow food, and we can use it to help other plants grow. A big outdoor adventure is awaiting us as we discover what to do and what can be found **In the Grass**.

- Grass Grows
- There Are Many Things In and On and Under the Grass
- Grass Is Used in Many Ways
- Grass Can Be Food

Digging in the Dirt

Children have an innate ability to make dirt fun, but there is much more to it than just playing. This topic introduces how important dirt is to many animals and also to people. Hands-on activities will have us fine tuning motor skills as we dig, dump, and fill. We'll also learn how animals use dirt for hiding, making tunnels and nests, and protecting themselves. Best of all, we'll find all sorts of treasures as we explore from the roots of our flowers to dinosaur fossils and gemstones. It's sure to be a fun time when we're **Digging in the Dirt**.

- What Is the Ground Made of?
- Jobs in the Dirt
- Animals and Dirt
- People Use Dirt

Let's Pretend

Imagination is one of the most special tools of a young child. In this topic, children will go on a guided tour of their minds by pretending to be their favorite animals, book characters, and other things. We'll use our voices, bodies, and ideas to go on many adventures without ever leaving the comfort of our own minds. Our exploration is only limited by what we think of next. We'll also have a chance to practice our emotions to learn to handle feelings and social situations before they happen. Join us as we discover all we can be in **Let's Pretend**.

- I Can Use Sound to Create and Imitate
- I Can Use My Body
- What I Think and Know
- I Can Use Stories

Up in the Sky

There's a lot going on in that big, blue sky. From birds and bugs, planes and balloons, to the moon and twinkling stars, there are so many topics to capture children's wonder. Children's imaginations will soar as we learn what makes flying creatures so special, how do we make machines fly, and where does weather come from. We'll even try a few take-offs and landings ourselves. Children will find themselves winding and twisting in barrel rolls of fun with all our adventures **Up in the Sky**.

- From the Ground Up
- Weather
- Flying
- To the Moon and Beyond!

Splish and Splash

Water, water everywhere with a new discovery at every turn! This topic will expand on children's familiarity with water, taking the fun beyond the bathtub and the puddles outside. We will explore how people use water not just for drinking and washing but also for sailing boats and growing food. There's another world to explore with all the different sea creatures that rely on water just as much as people do. Through some wet and wild fun, children will grow in respect and understanding of water as they are exposed to this precious resource in **Splish and Splash**.

- Making Splashes
- Places to Splash
- Water Moves in Many Ways
- Animals That Splash