

Passports™: Experiences for Pre-K Success – Containers E-Z Planner

Take Home Opportunities

A sampling of learning experiences, that provide ways to connect and engage families in the topic of study.

Skill and Concept Focus

An easy way to see a sample of learning experiences that focus on colors, shapes, numbers, and/or letters.

Subtheme 1: Common Containers

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
Paper Bag Puppets	16
Clay Bowls	16
Beautiful Bottles	16
Soap Carving	17
Wrapping Gifts	18

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
Oil and Water	11				
Rhyming Box	12				
Sequencing	13				
Counting Up and Down	14				
Artisan Visit	17				
Wrapping Gifts	18				

Subtheme 2: Purposes of Containers

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
Take a Trip	23
Keeping It Cool	25
Bubble Print Paintings	30
Tool Time	31
Woodsy Walk	31

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
Great Grocery Containers	23				
Pack a Picnic	24				
Cereal Search	26				
An Egg-cellent Game!	28				
Bubble Print Paintings	30				
Grocery Mural	30				

Subtheme 3: Natural Containers

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
Human "Containers"	38
Fabulous Fingerprints	39
How the Elephant Got Its Trunk	40
Body Sketches	40
Natural Mosaic	45

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
Strong Shells	37				
Elephant Trunks	37				
Bead Patterns	41				
Flashlight Color Words	41				
Scoop It	43				
Tile Creations	45				

Subtheme 4: Unusual Containers

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
Add Another Page	55
Frozen Paint	58
Homemade Piñatas	58
Two by Two	59
Ornithologists	59

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
The Language of "Food Containers"	54				
Spelling Train	55				
Bouncing Balloons	56				
Graphing Gloves	57				
Gone Fishin'	57				
Homemade Piñatas	58				

Supercenter Ideas

What are Supercenters?

Supercenters are elaborate centers for play and exploration that inspire deeper investigation of a topic. To expand an area into a Supercenter, choose materials that add complexity, variety, and choices of things to do for discovery and dramatic play.

Subtheme 1: Common Containers

Set out a box, basket, bag, bowl, and bottle (weighted with sand or rice) along with a variety of balls, some beanbags, and a few hoops. Children can invent their own large muscle games using these materials and teach their games to classmates. Children can even create a class book of their games by drawing pictures to show others how to play them.

Subtheme 2: Purposes of Containers

A wide variety of containers with several purposes can be found in grocery stores, so set up a grocery store right in your classroom! Some items to include in this supercenter are: cereal boxes, cans of soup, bags of pretzels, paper bags, plastic bags, toy shopping baskets and carts, and a cash register (complete with play money). Invite children to help you set up the store, then step back and watch the dramatic play begin!

Subtheme 3: Natural Containers

Place several plastic eggs of various sizes in the sensory table. To make this a supercenter experience, change the filler of the table every few days (sand, water, rice, shredded paper, goop, etc.). You will be surprised to see all the different ways that children use the plastic eggs with each of the new materials.

Subtheme 4: Unusual Containers

Many articles of clothing can be considered containers because they cover (contain) and protect our bodies. Mittens, gloves, socks, shoes, hats, and helmets are excellent examples of clothing containers. Provide a variety of these items for children to explore in the dramatic play center. Winter mittens, gardening gloves, silly socks, clown shoes, baseball caps, and firefighter helmets can lead to varied and interesting pretend play opportunities.