



Kit Descriptions

Looking at the World – Item 571069

Looking at the World explores how we look at the world: through photography, our eyes, animal eyes, and things that help us see. **Looking at the World** examines the sense of sight from both the human and animal perspectives. Analyzing how we see and what we see provides an opportunity for children to investigate and understand facets of the sense of sight. An examination of things that help us see and photography will provide children with a well-rounded collection of experiences relevant to everyday life.

Subtopics included:

- Photography
- Our Eyes
- Animal Eyes
- Things That Help Us See

Communication – Item 571068

Communication explores the varied aspects of human verbal and nonverbal communication, as well as basic aspects of animal communication. After exploring these topics, children will be better able to express their needs, wants, thoughts, and feelings through a variety of media. Children will be more empowered within their own world and will be able to interact more competently with other children and adults. In practicing cooperation when communicating ideas, children will begin to better understand the diversity among people and the ways they communicate with each other. Subtopics included:

- Speech and Writing
- Familiar Signs, Symbols, and Signals
- Communicating Without Words
- Animal Communication

Tools – Item 571816

Tools make tasks easier to perform and are commonly found in environments surrounding children. As children increase in their ability to use tools, they grow in independence. **Tools** examines handheld tools, gadgets, and devices and their functions and purpose. Investigating what tools are and how they work allows children to analyze and understand the benefits of these simple devices. Subtopics included:

- Tools That Measure
- Tools That Hold Things Together and Take Things Apart
- Tools That Dig, Scoop, Collect, and Carry
- Tools That Stir, Smooth, and Spread

Architecture – Item 571811

Architecture is the study and science of designing and building structures. Architecture surrounds us and abounds in our lives; it protects us, houses us, decorates our world, and is part of our environment. Since children are surrounded by architecture daily, they can appreciate, investigate, and make meaningful connections with it. Through analysis and exploration of design elements, architectural materials, homes, and other unique structures, children will have opportunities to explore an abundance of skills and concepts in the context of local and global communities. Subtopics included:

- Design Elements
- Architectural Materials
- Homes
- Unique Structures

String – Item 571815

String makes connections in our world possible. Through an analysis of how they use and interact with different types of string, children will be challenged to think outside the box and expand their perceptions of what string really is. **String** broadens children's perspectives of an ordinary item and provides a web of experiences looking at different types of string, different purposes of string, artistic uses of string, and how string can be fun! Subtopics included:

- Different Types of String
- Different Types of String Have Different Purposes
- String Can Be Used in Artistic Ways
- String Can Be Fun

Shoes and Feet – Item 571814

Four-year-olds love to get new shoes. New shoes represent growing bigger and stronger, running faster, and jumping higher. Feet and shoes are topics that are part of the daily lives of four-year-olds. Important ideas can be learned from a study of shoes and feet. Children can discover cultural variations and geographical considerations as they explore opportunities to analyze, synthesize, and compare. **Shoes and Feet** focuses on concrete ideas that provide opportunities for children to actively explore their world in a context that is meaningful to them. Subtopics included:

- Our Feet
- Special Shoes
- We Buy Shoes to Protect Our Feet
- Animal Feet

Doors – Item 571812

Doors mark entryways and allows us to go into other places. When we think of doors in a traditional sense, we might consider such things as wooden doors, metal doors, car doors, elevator doors, or even store doors. If we look beyond the traditional definition, however, we arrive at the broader understanding; we may then consider caves, tunnels, cupboard doors, holes, oven and refrigerator doors, and more. Being able to think beyond what we typically consider a door provokes the use of higher order thinking skills. Join in the fun as we explore the different avenues that doors will open for us. Subtopics included:

- Doors and Their Parts
- Purposes of Doors
- Animal Doors
- Tales and Rhymes About Doors

Trees – Item 571817

Trees branch into nearly every aspect of our lives. They help purify our air. They beautify our environments. They provide shade, shelter, food, and nourishment to humans and animals alike. When you think of what our world would be like without trees, you realize the vast impact they have on things we take for granted that are part of our everyday lives. A greater appreciation, awareness, and consciousness of our natural environments can be promoted in the early childhood classroom and beyond through this topic.

Subtopics included:

- Trees and Their Parts
- Tree Habitats
- Tree Products
- Preserving Trees

Containers – Item 571835

Containers are everywhere and can have many purposes, including holding, protecting, and transporting objects. It is difficult to look around your surroundings and not see some sort of container. Challenge yourself to seek out items you may not have noticed as containers before, and you will see just how many items can be classified as containers. By investigating this concept, young children can explore fundamental skills through everyday objects that they use routinely, and extend their knowledge into new areas. Subtopics included:

- Common Containers
- Purposes of Containers
- Natural Containers
- Unusual Containers

Wheels – Item 571810

The wheel is thought to have originated in ancient Mesopotamia in the fourth millennium BC. While the history of the wheel is very interesting, the definition of a wheel provides rich opportunities for investigation and application. What items do we encounter every day that are wheels? Where can we find items that are symmetrical? What is symmetry? Are all symmetrical items wheels? Are all symmetrical items round? What does it mean to be round? Do all symmetrical items move in a circle? What is an axle? Is an axle required in order for an object to roll? Children's explorations of questions like these take them beyond just recognizing a car or bicycle tire as a wheel and encourage critical thought leading to a deeper understanding of their world. Subtopics included:

- Properties of Wheels
- Wheels Take You Places
- Wheels Make Work Easier
- Wheels Are Fun

Protection – Item 571813

During this study of **Protection**, children will not only explore important safety issues, but will also delve into a deep investigation of the world and the everyday processes within it. Hands-on experiences will promote curiosity and excitement and will allow children to investigate numerous subjects related to natural and human-made protection. For example, children will discover and explore parts of the human body that protect us from the elements and other hazards, ways animals protect themselves from predators and the environment, protective gear we can use to protect ourselves, and the people in the community who work to protect us. Subtopics included:

- Animal Protection
- Protective Gear
- Our Bodies
- People Who Protect

Water – Item 571818

Water . . . colorless, odorless, tasteless. We might think it's the simplest thing around, but it's not that simple. Water is essential for the survival of all known forms of life. So what is it about water that makes it so important to us? While studying this topic, children will dive into an exploration of water in its three states (liquid, solid, gas) and its many uses. As they travel around the water cycle, children will discover how water moves around our planet over and over again. Plunging deeper into the topic, children's natural curiosity will guide them to investigate different bodies of water and ways to interact with water while having fun! Surface with a deeper understanding of the powerful substance we call water. Subtopics included:

- Ways We Use Water
- Bodies of Water
- Different Forms of Water
- Fun with Water

Sound and Rhythm – Item 571897

Sounds are vibrations that can be detected by ears. When variations and accentuation are added to a series of sounds, rhythm is created. On this journey through **Sound and Rhythm**, children will not only be exposed to objects within their environment that make sound, they will also have the opportunity to create their own sounds using everyday items. As children move and groove through this topic, they will discover that music is a form of sound that can have rhythm and that instruments not only produce sound but can also be used to create rhythm. Children will have opportunities to play with and explore words that rhyme and when put together, can create poetry, silly stories, and songs. An investigation of the intriguing natural sounds in your local area, such as birds chirping in the trees, leaves crunching on the ground, or thunder roaring in the sky, will provide children with a forum to explore sound and rhythm in the context of the natural environment. Subtopics included:

- Everyday Sounds
- Movin' & Groovin'
- Rhythm & Rhyme
- Sounds of Nature

Noses – Item 571892

Noses work very hard! They search for smells and odors, help us breathe, and protect us. In this topic, children can explore and examine the parts of their noses as well as how their noses work. Children will have opportunities to discover how our noses are different, leading them to a celebration of their own uniqueness. Children's noses will be put to the test as they experience sweet aromas and stinky odors . . . they will delight in discovering those they like best and those they would rather not smell again! As they nose their way through this topic, children will be able to look into the fascinating world of animal noses, discovering their many similarities and differences. Children will also be able to examine the varying locations, sizes, and shapes of animal noses and the jobs they perform, such as protecting, warning, poking around, and smelling. No matter the size, shape, or location of one's nose, it certainly has a lot of responsibility! Subtopics included:

- We Have Unique Noses
- Animals Have Special Noses
- Noses Smell
- Famous Noses

Color – Item 571896

Color is a powerful communicator and useful tool. It appeals to our senses and affects our emotions and feelings. During this topic, children will be able to explore the colorful world they live in and celebrate the uniqueness of how each of us sees color. **Color** will lead investigations into our natural environment and the many tints and shades of nature. Color found in our everyday encounters will provide children with opportunities to experience the communication of color and its function in our lives and daily routines. Children will have many opportunities to bring color to life, and their understanding of color will broaden to a new spectrum through multiple experiences stemming from this topic. Look, experience, discover, and celebrate as we invent and explore color! Subtopics included:

- Exploring Color
- Making Color
- Natural Color
- Color as a Communicator

Measuring – Item 571893

Children use measuring all the time to evaluate the world around them. Measuring takes place most often through everyday experiences without ever using a ruler, a tool that most preschool children are not yet ready to use. This topic highlights experiences that encourage children to use early math concepts in ways that are meaningful and relevant to them. Measuring in early childhood is heavily rooted in one thing as it relates to another – how things relate to or compare to one another versus how many inches long an item is or how many pounds it weighs. A foundational understanding of early math concepts brought forth in this way will prepare children to move towards more advanced concepts in elementary school. Subtopics included:

- Relating to Myself and Others
- Number Concepts
- Speed and Time
- Spatial Concepts and Geometry

Fasteners – Item 571895

We encounter fasteners everywhere. We use them to tie our shoes, button our shirts, seal containers, and close backpacks and bags. Many young children may not understand what the word *fastener* means, but when you discuss how you might fasten various items such as a door, a shoe, pants, or jars, children learn meaning through the function of fasteners and how they are part of almost everything we do!

Subtopics included:

- Ways to Fasten
- Fasteners We Wear
- Fasteners Around Us
- Fasteners We Create With

Growing – Item 571894

Everyday, everywhere things are growing! Through hands-on exploration, children will be offered opportunities to experience and discover not only how their bodies grow, but also how the world around them is continually growing. No matter how we look at it, growing is a big job that gets bigger each and every day! Subtopics included:

- Our Bodies
- Growing Up
- What Things Need to Grow
- Things That Grow or Get Bigger