Theme 1 Hello, School!

Launch the Theme

How do we learn and play at our school?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We are going to play games, read, sing, and learn as we answer this question: How do we learn and play at our school? We will learn about our classroom, our school, and make new friends. We are going to have a lot of fun and adventures. To start, we are going to play a game called "Hey, Javi Helicopter!"

Game

Hey, Javi Helicopter

Set Up

- This game is similar to "Please, Mr. Crocodile." Place two tape lines (masking, duct) on the floor about 4–5 feet apart. There should be nothing in between. Line children up on
- one line.

Introduce the Game

- Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game to children.
 - This is Javi the Helicopter. He will help us play the game.
 You need to get from the line that you are on to the other line. Point out the lines on the floor.
 - You say: Please, Javi the Helicopter! What is your favorite color? Then Javi and I will name a color. If you are wearing that color, you take two steps. If you are not wearing that color, you stay where you are. The first person to the other line wins the game.

Practice the Game

Help children say "Please, Javi the Helicopter! What is your favorite color?" Call out a common color. Help children to take two step if they are wearing that color.



Let's Celebrate!

School Is Cool!

The culminating, rich experience to wrap up Theme 1 will be enjoyed by your children and their families.

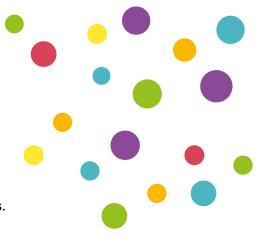
Prepare

Guide children as they practice speaking to an audience. Gather and display children's artwork and writing. Help children write invitations for their families.

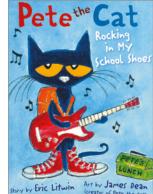
Celebration Day

Children's "home families" meet their "school family." Help children prepare and enjoy the day.

- · Greet families and guests at the door.
- Children sing a favorite song and talk about the Morning Meeting routines.
- · Read a book aloud as children act it out.
- Have children demonstrate and explain Centergize activities.
- Children show good behavior when using computer applications.
- Families and guests stroll through the Gallery of Writing and Art.
- Children teach a favorite fingerplay or song to their families or guests.
- Everyone reflects on this celebration.









Theme 2 Marvelous Me!

Launch the Theme

What makes me special?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We're going to read, learn, and play to try to answer this question: *What makes me special?* We'll learn all about ourselves, our favorite things, and our families. We'll learn new things and have lots of fun! We're going to start by playing a game called "Javi, Javi, Can You See . . ."

Game

Javi, Javi, Can You See . . .

Set Up

This game is similar to "I Spy with My Little Eye."

Introduce the Game

Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game.

- This is Javi the Helicopter. I will help him play this game.
 A spy will look around the room to find a favorite thing.
 The spy will not say what the thing is. We will guess from the spy's clues.
- The spy might say, "Javi, Javi, can you see . . . something that is purple." Or, "Javi, Javi, can you see . . . something that you build with."
- We will raise our hands if we have a guess. We will take turns guessing until someone figures out the favorite thing.

Practice the Game

Help children say, "Javi, Javi, can you see . . . " Select the first spy. Guide children to take turns guessing until the favorite thing has been identified. The child who guessed correctly becomes the next spy.



Let's Celebrate!

Marvelous Me!

The culminating, rich experience to wrap up Theme 2 will be enjoyed by your children and their families.

Prepare

Guide children as they practice speaking to an audience. Collect children's self-portraits and the eye-color chart to display. Help children write invitations for their families.

Celebration Day

Children's "home families" meet their "school family." You and your children are well prepared for this day. Enjoy!

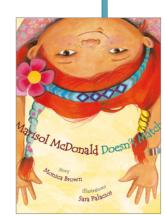
- Greet families at your door, or play a video.
- Families match self-portraits of individual children and families.
- Share and summarize the eye-color chart.
- Guests join children in playing the Friendship Circle.
- Read Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match aloud, and have children explain what Marisol taught
- Children and guests draw self-portraits together.
- Sing "I Am Special" to wrap up the celebration.
- Everyone reflects on the time shared by reciting a rhyme:

Our celebration is at last done.

We and our guests had lots of fun.

And we know for sure at the end of the day,

We are all marvelous in every way.







Look Outside

Launch the Theme

How are the seasons different?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We're going to read, learn, and play to try to answer this question: *How are the seasons different?* We'll talk and learn about the four seasons—fall, winter, spring, and summer. We're going to start by playing a game called "Four Seasons."

Game •••

Four Seasons

Set Up

This game is similar to Four Corners. Place one or more pictures representing a season in each corner of the room so that each corner is a different season.

Introduce the Game

Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game to children. Point out the corners of the room and name each season.

- One person will be "it." That person has to close his or her eyes. The rest of us will go to any of the four corners of the room: Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer. When we are ready in our corners, the person who is "it" guesses which corner has the most children by pointing to that corner.
- Javi will be the first to be "it."

Practice the Game

- Point out that children should be quiet to try to trick "it" into thinking their corner has fewer children. Also reinforce understanding of seasons by using the season's name when children point to it.
- After Javi has a turn, allow other children to take turns as "it." Encourage them to think about what senses they are and are not using. Encourage children to use their listening skills.



Let's Celebrate!

Author's Chair

Children invite their families to share what they have learned about the seasons. At this celebration, children read their own seasons books in the Author's Chair.

Prepare

Guide children to write books about the four seasons. Provide time for children to practice reading aloud and sharing their books with an audience. Designate an "Author's Chair." Create and decorate a banner, as well as a gallery of leaves, flowers, snowflakes, and suns. Help children write invitations for their families.

Celebration Day

Children celebrate what they have learned with their families and guests.

- Greet guests at your door.
- Share a favorite song or chant about the seasons.
- Have children take turns sitting in the Author's Chair to "read" their books.
- Families take a gallery stroll of the seasons bulletin boards.
- Children teach their guests how to do the pattern hop.
- Everyone reflects on the time shared.









Taking Care

Launch the Theme

How do we care for ourselves and others?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We are going to sing, read, and learn as we try to answer this question: How do we care for ourselves and others? We will learn about caring for other people, ourselves, and our planet. It will be lots of fun! We are going to start by playing a game called "Javi Says!"

Game

Javi Says!

Set Up

This game is similar to "Simon Says." Have children line up in one or two lines where you can see everyone clearly and there is room to move.

Introduce the Game

Use Javi the Helicopter to help explain the game to children.

- I will help Javi play this game. Javi or I will give you directions to do something. If I say "Javi says," you should follow directions. If you don't hear the words "Javi says," don't follow the directions. Make sure all the children can see you.
- Javi says pretend you are brushing your teeth. Have anyone
 who didn't pretend to brush their teeth move to the side.
 Stretch! Have anyone who stretched move to the side.
 Repeat with different actions. Last one in the game wins.

Practice the Game

Help children do a variety of actions that demonstrate taking care of ourselves and others. Remind children that they should only follow the directions if they hear "Javi says."



Let's Celebrate!

Second Time Around

This culminating, rich experience to wrap up Theme 4 will be enjoyed by your children and other children from your school.

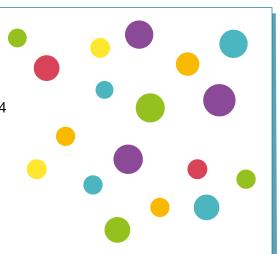
Prepare

Guide children as they practice speaking to an audience. Sort the reusable items children have collected into groups and separate the groups.

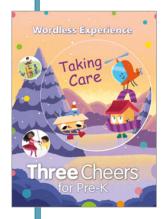
Celebration Day

Children from other classrooms will meet the children from your classroom. Remind your children that they are prepared and ready for this day. Have fun!

- Greet other classes at the door. Accept any donations of items to be recycled.
- Read the book and have children complete the sentences.
- Make shakers at the Shaker Station.
- Sing a song and discuss reusing items.
- Discuss ways to sort the recyclable materials and use the materials to make a new item.
- All children sing two songs, using their shakers.









Everyday Helpers

Launch the Theme

How do people in our community help us?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We're going to read, learn, and play to try to answer this question: *How do people in our community help us?* We'll learn all about helpers in our community and what they do. We're going to start by playing a game called "Javi, Javi, Who Am I?"

Game •••

Javi, Javi, Who Am I?

Set Up

- This game is similar to charades. Write the names of these helpers on slips of paper: mail carrier, firefighter, police officer, vet (veterinarian), doctor, dentist, nurse, carpenter, crossing guard, farmer, chef, artist, astronaut. Place the slips
- underneath Javi.

Introduce the Game

- Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game.
 - This is Javi. I will help him play this game. Javi is sitting on some slips of paper. On each slip is the name of a helper in our community. One child will take a slip. She will look at the name. Then she will act out what this helper does.
 - We will take turns guessing until someone figures out who the helper is.

Practice the Game

Choose the first actor. Have the child select a slip of paper. Quietly help the child read and understand the name. Guide children to take turns guessing. After the helper is identified, select another child to continue the game.



Let's Celebrate!

Everyday Helpers

The culminating, rich experience to wrap up Theme 5 will be enjoyed by your children and their families.

Prepare

Guide children as they practice speaking to an audience. Collect children's community helper cutouts to display. Help children write invitations for their families.

Celebration Day

Children's "home families" meet their "school family." You and your children are well prepared for this day. Enjoy!

- Greet families at your door.
- Sing "We Are Firefighters" and have children perform gestures they have learned.
- Children march in the Community Helper Parade as families watch.
- Guests join children in strolling through the Community Helper Hall of Fame.
- Children talk about the community helper they chose to be for the parade.
- Everyone reflects on the time shared.





From Farm to Table

Launch the Theme

How does our food get from the farm to our homes?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We are going to read, learn, and play to try to answer this question: *How does our food get from the farm to our homes?* We will learn about what kinds of food grow on a farm and how these foods get to the stores where we buy them. We're going to start by playing a game called, "Huckle Buckle Beanstalk."

Game

Huckle Buckle Beanstalk

Set Up

Gather a few plastic fruits and vegetables that can be hidden. Decide the area that is fair game for hiding the objects.

Introduce the Game

Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game to children.

- Have children form a circle and show them the object (fresh fruit or vegetable) that Javi will hide. As you close your eyes, Javi will hide this [apple]. Then, you will open your eyes and try to find it. When you see the [apple], don't tell anyone. Keep the hiding place a secret. Instead, return to the circle, sit down, and say "Huckle Buckle Beanstalk."
- Let children know where Javi might hide the object and which areas (if any) are off limits. The object should be hidden where children can see it without moving things around.

Practice the Game

Have children close their eyes. Hide the object. Then, count to three and have children look for it. Remind them to keep the hiding place a secret. When most children have found the object, have Javi tap one of the children on the carpet to tell where the object is located.



Let's Celebrate!

Healthy Foods for Us

Children invite their families to bring their favorite food to a celebration. The children share what they have learned about healthy foods.

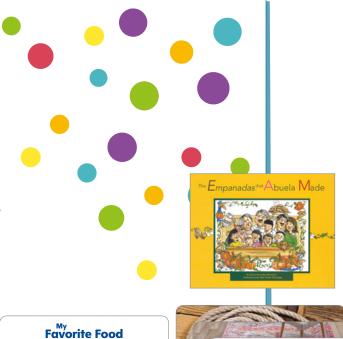
Prepare

Help children write invitations for their families. Invite families to bring in a favorite food, with the ingredients clearly listed. Make a graph to show which healthy snacks are the class favorites. Work together to make a snack for the class to share.

Celebration Day

Children celebrate what they have learned with their families and guests.

- · Welcome the guests.
- Sing "My Favorite Food."
- Children demonstrate what they do each day to care for plants, pets, and classroom materials.
- Families participate in an Alphabet Scavenger Hunt.
- Everyone reflects on the time shared.





On the Go!

Launch the Theme

How do we get from here to there?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We are going to read, sing, play, and learn to try and answer this question: How do we get from here to there? We will learn about different forms of transportation, including trains and airplanes. To start, we are going to play a game called "Follow the Transportation Leader."

Game

Follow the Transportation Leader

Set Up

- This game is "Follow the Transportation Leader." Children will take turns acting out various forms of transportation. You may want to have a few suggestions ready, such as being
- an airplane, galloping like a horse, beeping like a car horn,
- opening the doors on a bus, and clanging like a fire engine.

 Have a timer so that each child gets a turn to be the leader.

Introduce the Game

- Line up the children. Give the first child in the line Javi the Helicopter. Then explain the game.
 - Tell the first child to act out a form of transportation. You
 want to act out a way that we get around. It could be an
 action, like being an airplane, or making a noise, like the
 beeping of a horn. If it is a noise, everyone has to march too.
 - When the timer goes off, help the first child give the next child Javi and move to the end of the line. The new leader gets to choose a new action or noise.

Practice the Game

Help children play "Follow the Transportation Leader." If necessary, suggest different actions for children. Remind all the other children in line to follow the actions of the leader.



Let's Celebrate!

Let's Get Moving

This fun and culminating experience to wrap up Theme 7 will be enjoyed by your children and classroom visitors.

Prepare

Guide children as they practice speaking to an audience. Remind them to speak clearly.

Celebration Day

Children invite special visitors to the classroom to celebrate how we get places. You and your children are ready for the day. Have fun!

- Children greet their visitors and show them where to stand.
- Children sing "Who Will Win the Race?"
- Visitors go to the train station where children show the box train they made.
- In the plane station, children teach visitors how to make a paper airplane.
- In the Need for Speed station, children will talk about rolling a toy car on a flat surface and ramp.
- Children and visitors share what they liked the best about the celebration.





Animals All Around

Launch the Theme

How are animals the same and different?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We're going to read, learn, and play to try to answer this question: *How are animals the same and different?* We'll learn all about animals, their characteristics, and life cycles. We will also learn about their habits. We're going to start by playing an animal game called "Snail, Snail, Ostrich."

Game

Snail, Snail, Ostrich

Set Up

This game is similar to Duck, Duck, Goose.

Introduce the Game

Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game.

- This is Javi. Javi will help you play this game. You will all sit in a circle. One player, who is a snail, will walk around the outside of the circle holding Javi. The snail will tap some people on the head gently with Javi and say "snail."
- Then he will tap one person, say "ostrich," and drop Javi. The ostrich will pick up Javi, chase the snail, and try to tag the snail before he gets all the way around the circle.
- If the snail gets all around the circle without being tagged, the ostrich is it. If not, the snail tries again.

Practice the Game

Choose the snail. Have the rest sit in a circle. Model how to gently tap another child on the head with Javi. Then play the game.



Let's Celebrate!

Let's Go to the Zoo!

The culminating, rich experience to wrap up Theme 8 will be enjoyed by your children and their families.

Prepare

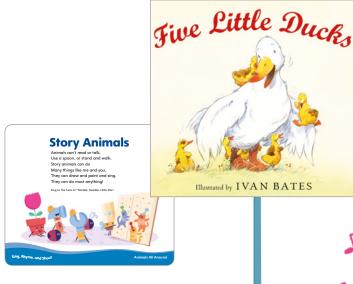
Guide children as they practice speaking to an audience. Collect tickets and children's animal artwork to display. Help children write invitations for their families.

Celebration Day

Children's "home families" meet their "school family." You and your children are well prepared for this day. Enjoy!

- Welcome families at your door with a ticket to the zoo.
- Line up together, walk to the zoo, and collect tickets at the zoo.
- Guests tour the zoo exhibits as children describe them.
- Children and guests participate in a dramatic reading of Five Little Ducks.
- Children teach their guests to sing "Story Animals."
- Everyone reflects on the time shared.







Earth, Moon, and Sky

Launch the Theme

What do we see in the world around us?

Introduce children to the theme's Guiding Question. We are going to read, learn, and play to try to answer this question: What do we see in the world around us? We will learn about the earth, the sun, the moon, and other things in space. We're going to start by playing a game called, "Javi, May I?"

Game ••••

Javi, May I?

Set Up

This game is similar to Mother, May I? Place two tape lines on the floor several feet across and with nothing between them. Then line children up on one line.

Introduce the Game

Use Javi the Helicopter to help you explain the game to children.

- Point out the lines on the floor. You need to get from the line you're on to the other line. Let's pretend that line is the moon!
- Javi is in charge of getting you all there safely. He will tell you what you need to do. For instance, he might tell all the girls to take one large step forward. Or he might tell everyone who has on sneakers to take two steps on tippy toes. Before you move, you have to ask, "Javi, may I?" If Javi says "Yes, you may," then you can take your steps. If you forget to ask Javi for permission, you have to return to the starting line. The first person to the other line wins.

Practice the Game

Have Javi call out commands. Guide children to follow his instructions.



Let's Celebrate!

Ready for Kindergarten!

Children invite their families and friends to celebrate all that they have done this year and how they are ready for kindergarten.

Prepare

Help children write invitations for their families and friends. In addition, collect examples of work that demonstrate children's academic growth. Prepare a treasure hunt with a map for the day of the celebration.

Celebration Day

Children celebrate what they have learned with their families and guests.

- Greet the guests.
- Sing "Astronauts."
- Review some of the things you have learned this year.
- Take a walk through the "Gallery of Learning."
- Invite families to participate in a treasure hunt.

