Theme 5

THEME 5: Let's Count!
CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES FOR

Let’s Count!
1. Write an Invitation

**Materials:** sample invitations, drawing paper

**Goal:** Children write and illustrate an invitation to the Feast for 10.

**DAY 1**

**Learning About Invitations**

- Tap children’s background knowledge about invitations.
- Have children talk about special events that they have attended.
- Ask if they have ever sent or received invitations to these events.
- Show and discuss examples of different kinds of invitations.
- Pair children and have them discuss what kind of invitation might be sent to invite someone to a feast like the one in Feast for 10.

**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 3**

**Writing the Invitation**

- Model how to fold a sheet of drawing paper to make a card.
- Tell children to draw a picture on the front that tells something about the Feast for 10.
- Ask a volunteer to review the information found on an invitation—the date, time, and place of the event.
- Tell children to choose a date, day of the week, time, and place for the Feast for 10. Have them write this information on the inside of the invitation.

**English Language Learners:** Show children a calendar and point out the days of the week and the names of the months. You might also want to show children a clock.

**DAY 4**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 5**

**Sharing the Invitations**

Hang a string in a corner of the classroom and have children display their invitations on it.
2. **Penny Rubbings**  **60 MINUTES**  **INDIVIDUAL**  **PAIR**

**Materials:** pennies, pencils, drawing paper

**Goal:** Children make rubbings of pennies and write number and numeral words.

- Give each child or pair of children five to ten pennies. Have children count their pennies aloud.
- Let children examine the front and back of each coin. Discuss whether or not the pennies all look the same.
- Model how to do a coin rubbing, using the side of a pencil and a lightweight sheet of paper.
- Have children make a rubbing that shows all their pennies.
- Tell children to write a numeral and number word under each penny to show how many pennies they have in all. Remind them to look at the number word and numeral chart in the Writing Center to help with spelling.

**Expected Outcome**
- A good coin rubbing activity will include
  - a coin rubbing that shows all the pennies
  - number words and numerals to indicate how many pennies there are

3. **A Feast for Us Book**  **60 MINUTES**  **PAIR**  **INDIVIDUAL**  **GROUP**

**Materials:** drawing paper, crayons or markers, binding materials such as tape or yarn

**Goal:** Children will create pages for a group book about a classroom feast.

- Ask children to think about the feast in the story *Feast for 10*. Then invite them to think about what they could serve at an imaginary classroom feast.
- Have children talk with partners about foods they would want to serve at a feast.
- Have children draw and label pictures that show one kind of food. Tell them to label their pictures with sentences or words. Explain that the labels should include a number word and numeral that tells how much of the food they need.
- Bind the pages together to make a group book. Have a volunteer make a cover for the book. Write the title *A Feast for Us* on the cover and place the book in the Book Center.

**Expected Outcome**
- A good book page will include
  - a picture of a food item
  - writing that tells about the picture
  - a number word and numeral that corresponds to the amount of food shown

**Other Activities**

- TE p. 15, Ongoing Project: Challenge
- TE p. 41, Number Charts
- TE p. 47, Reading Words
- TE p. 59, Building Sentences
- Little Big Books, *Feast for 10* and *Ten Little Puppies*
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
1. Counting-Down Big Book

120 MINUTES  GROUP

**Materials:** large drawing paper, materials suitable for binding

**Goal:** Children draw and write pages for a counting-down class big book.

### DAY 1

**Planning the Pages**
- Tell children they will be making pages for a group book similar to *Ten Little Puppies*, but about another kind of animal. Have children discuss and choose an animal to feature, such as bunnies, kittens, mice, and so on.
- Assign each child one or more number words, starting with *one* and going to *nine*. Explain that the group will be making the page for *ten* together.

### DAY 2

Children continue to work on this project.

### DAY 3

**Drawing and Writing**
- Revisit *Ten Little Puppies* with children. Point out that they know that some parts repeat and some words rhyme.
- Write the sentence frames below on chart paper.
  - One of the __________ __________.
  - Now there are only __________. __________. __________.
- Model for children how to create their pages by making the first page together.
- Have children make pages for their numbers, using their own ideas or the ideas in the book.

### DAY 4

Children continue to work on this project.

### DAY 5

**Sharing the Big Book**
- Together, put the pages in order to make a group book.
- Ask children to suggest a title for the book.
- Have children come to the Author’s Chair to read their page.
2. **Noodle Counting Book**  
**Goal:** Children make a counting book for the numbers 1–10 of things the Noodles might see at the pond.

- Have three volunteers retell what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of *Counting Noodles*.
- Ask another volunteer to explain why Papa Noodle was having so much trouble counting family members.
- Tell children to make a counting book from 1 to 10 of things the Noodles might see at the pond. Be sure children understand that they should write the number words as well as the numerals.
- Remind children that the Noodles already counted one bird, seven ducks, and ten turtles.
- Help children brainstorm a list of other things they might see at a pond. Write their suggestions on chart paper.

3. **Beginning, Middle, End**  
**Goal:** Children identify, draw, and label the beginning, middle, and end of familiar stories.

- Reread *Ten Little Puppies* with children. Ask them what happened at the beginning of the story (the boy had ten puppies), in the middle (the puppies all went off), and at the end (the boy got ten new puppies).
- Tell children to each choose a favorite Little Big Book story to reread. Then have them meet with a partner to discuss the books they read. Tell them to talk to their partners about the beginning, middle, and end of each story.
- Have children use a story map when they draw and write about the beginning, middle, and end of the books they chose.

**Other Activities**

- TE p. 105, Make an Ending
- TE p. 117, Building Sentences
- TE p. 120, Word Bank
- Little Big Books, *Feast for 10* and *Ten Little Puppies*  
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com
1. **3-D Feast Picture** 120 MINUTES INDIVIDUAL PAIR

**Materials:** 11" × 14" construction paper, paper plates, paper napkins, plastic or paper cutouts of forks, spoons, and knives, paper cups cut in half lengthwise, food magazines, grocery store circulars, chart of the food groups or the food pyramid

**Goal:** Children create and label 3-D pictures of their favorite foods.

**DAY 1**

**Finding and Making Pictures**
- Have children talk about favorite foods they would eat for a feast. Write some of their responses on chart paper.
- Display the chart of the food groups or the food pyramid. Have children help you put the foods on the chart into food groups.
- Discuss the importance of eating balanced meals.

**DAY 2**

Children continue to work on this project.

**DAY 3**

**Making the Picture**
- Model how to properly set the table for a meal, placing a paper plate, plastic or paper cutout utensils, napkin, and cup in the proper positions.
- Remind children that they will be labeling the food, so they should leave space for writing.

**DAY 4**

**Labeling the Food**
- Have children write labels for their foods. Have them use a describing word and a naming word.
- Tell children to think about the five senses.
- Have children imagine what is inside their cups and use appropriate words to label the cups.

**DAY 5**

**Sharing the Picture**
- Have children take turns describing their feasts to the class.
- Have children tell what food group each of their foods belongs to.
- Ask children to display their 3-D pictures on a classroom wall.
2. Can You Find Peace and Quiet?

**Goal:** Children draw and write about a place where they can find peace and quiet.

- Review *Peace and Quiet* with children.
- Have children share times when they needed or wanted some peace and quiet. Share one of your own experiences. Children can often relate to a younger or older sibling making lots of noise when they are trying to read, watch television, or do a quiet activity.
- Tell children to draw and write about a place where they go to find peace and quiet. Remind them to think about and use describing words that tell how things look, sound, feel, taste, and smell.
- Ask children to recall that even when the man and woman finally had peace and quiet, they could still hear the floor creaking and the tree screeching. Have children imagine that they are in their peaceful and quiet places—what sounds can they still hear?
- Tell children to add appropriate details to their pictures.

### 3. Puppy Care Poster

**Materials:** poster board

**Goal:** Children create a poster about puppy care.

- Reread *Ten Little Puppies* aloud to children. Ask children if the puppies in the story do things that real puppies do.
- Ask a volunteer who has a dog to share the kinds of things puppies and dogs need. Ask the volunteer to describe how he or she helps to take care of the dog. Children who have other kinds of pets can contribute to a general discussion about pet care.
- Have children work in pairs to brainstorm what a puppy needs. They should use these ideas as they plan their posters.
- Tell each pair to draw pictures of things a puppy needs and to label their pictures.

**Other Activities**

- TE p. 151, Make Your Own Book
- TE p. 171, Autobiography
- TE p. 173, Building Sentences
- Little Big Books, *Feast for 10* and *Ten Little Puppies*
- Education Place: www.eduplace.com