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# Introduction

*Early Learning Thematic Lesson Plans* provides the early childhood teacher with a wealth of information, activities, and well-organized lesson plans for the most popular themes taught in early childhood programs. All the research, planning, and scheduling has been done for you. Open the book, choose a theme, and you can immediately begin teaching.

Although the lesson plans have been written for you, it is highly recommended that the teacher or parent use their own judgement when selecting and introducing various theme-related activities. You are the true expert when it comes to understanding where your children are developmentally. Always remember to adapt or change the activities according to the specific needs and abilities of your children.

The primary focus in *Early Learning Thematic Lesson Plans* was to offer a wide-range of cross-curriculum activities for each thematic unit. The teacher or parent will find: theme-related vocabulary, basic language concepts, child-interactive bulletin boards, music, fingerplays and poetry, stories, science, math, pre-reading, dramatic play, creative art, and cooking experiences woven through the individual thematic units. The last few pages of *Early Learning Thematic Lesson Plans* offers a delightful children's literature reference guide for every thematic unit.

You will also find that many of the themes have reproducible mini-books or activities where "printed words" are provided for the children. The goal here is not to teach reading, but to provide young children with materials that will help create a print-rich environment. Research has proven that young children who are surrounded with words, stories, books, and expressive language will become good readers.

The topics and activities in *Early Learning Thematic Lesson Plans* have been designed to make your lesson planning easier and to engage young learners! This book is a must for everyone who loves working with and teaching young children!



## Includes:

- Organized lesson plan pages
- Popular themes taught in all early childhood programs
- Children's literature reference guide
- Reproducible patterns and student activity pages
- Integrated activities