DAILY PLANNER: Weeks 31 and 32



New Life

Phonics focus: b
Day: Tuesday
Term: 4

Big Book story: *A spring surprise*
Poster: New life

1. Arrival time
Greet learners. Ask learners if they noticed the new spring leaves and blossoms on the trees. Remind them to keep their lockers neat and tidy. Let them give their lockers a 'spring clean'.

2. Health check
Arrival time is a good time to do a quick and discreet check on each learner's personal hygiene. Check that the learners' hair is clean and groomed. Check for lice/nits.
If there is a problem let the caregiver know immediately as it is highly contagious.



3. Morning circle
Welcome learners to ring. Use the weather board to introduce the topic of spring. Discuss the four seasons. Learners say how they know when it is winter or summer. Read the theme message: today we are learning about spring.
Use Poster 16 to help learners identify all the things that happen in spring-time. Attach flashcards where needed.

4. Work time
Go outdoors. Look for signs of spring/new life. Talk about different animals and how they bring babies into the world: mammals give birth to live young; reptiles and birds lay eggs. Ask them to think about why many animals give birth at this time of year.

Put out plastic animals – try to include sets of mother animals and their babies for learners to group (pair) together. If possible, supply leaves and old plastic flowers for learners to create gardens. Paint a flat piece of packing styrofoam green and let learners stick the leaves and flowers into it.

Work time: work stations

Creative table: Put an egg-shaped template (which you have made beforehand), broken egg shells and glue on the table. Learners glue the egg shells pieces onto the templates.
Numeracy table: Put paper, ink and ear/eyedroppers on the table. Learners fold paper in half, drop some ink onto the fold line, then fold the paper in half spreading the ink with their hands. They open up to reveal the butterfly.
Literacy table: Let learners cut out pictures of babies and the letter 'b' from magazines and make a little collage to take home.
Science and technology table: Let learners make plasticine silkworms while observing real silkworms in a box.
Literacy/reading corner: If possible play some musical rhymes for learners to listen to.

5. Small group time
Introduce the letter 'b' to the learners. Remember to teach the sound 'bih' and not the letter name '*bee*'. Make a big letter b and draw eyes, nose and mouth into the round part of the 'b' so that it looks like a baby's face. Identify learners whose names begin with 'B'. Ask what other sounds start with 'b'. Let learners cut out or draw pictures of objects that begin with the 'b' sound.

6. Tidy up time
Divide learners into small groups. Give each group a different animal name (frog, silkworm, etc.) and a specific tidy-up task. Use an egg timer to show when time is up. The group that completes tidying first is the winner. Clap to reward them and stick a star on their foreheads.

7. Hand washing
Learners wash hands before snack time. They line up like butterflies and 'fly' quietly to the bathroom. At the basins remind learners to keep the area clean. Discuss why keeping clean is good for our health. Remind learners to close the tap properly after use. Remind learners to save water – a precious resource in short supply in South Africa.

8. Snack time
Ask a few learners to be helpers who serve juice, fruit and sandwiches to the others in their group. Remind learners to respect their food and not to play with it or waste it. Choose a learner to say a 'word of thanks' for the food. Remind learners that many animals have babies at this time because the weather is warmer and there is food at this time.

9. Music and movement ring
Remind learners that they were once babies too. Show them a photo of yourself as a baby. Explain that every grown person (even their granny, grandpa, mom, dad) was once a baby. Let learners show photos of themselves as babies. Learners wiggle like a newborn baby, crawl like a baby, totter like a toddler, walk like a child, stride like an adult, shuffle with a 'stick' like an old person. Play appropriate music and let learners move like growing flowers to the music. Sing and act out *Frogs jump, caterpillars bump* on Poster 16.

10. Outdoor play
Let learners pretend to be tadpoles swimming around. Ask them to wriggle and dart, jump up and down and spin around as they 'swim'.

Follow up: Learners note each stage of metamorphosis. (This will take approximately 12 weeks.) They use plasticine to make their own tadpoles and frogs, matching the developmental stages over time. They can complete Worksheet 3 at the end of the 12 weeks.

11. Hand washing and toilet time
Learners walk like baby chicks to the bathroom.
Remind learners to flush after using the toilet, and then to wash and dry their hands. Remind learners to close the tap properly after use.



12. Story time
Talk about the poster. Read the sight words with the learners. Encourage learners to use the sight words in sentences.
Turn to the story *A spring surprise* on page 46 of the Big Book. Ask: 'What is a surprise? Do you like surprises? What surprises you?' Look at the pictures and ask the learners to say what they can see.
They predict what the story is about. Read the story. Discuss how the child in the story feels on pages 1, 2 and 3.
This is a rhyming story (in English) so at the end of it say some of the words aloud and get learners to think of words that rhyme. Here is a list of words from the story to use: *eggs, butterfly, bees*.



Theme table
Use the following ideas to create a theme table to stimulate discussion and discovery.
Use Poster 16 as a backdrop for the theme table. Place a green tablecloth on the table.

New life
Place toy animals on the table. Try to find sets that have baby animals too. Label the parent and baby animal with the correct names. Have pictures of blossoms and buds. Place a bird's nest on the table and label this too. Cut some twigs with spring blossoms and place them in a jar of water on the table.
Place books about babies, animals and their young, and spring on the table too.

Fantasy corner
Have a selection of animal masks and outfits for learners to dress up in. You can make these from cheap materials. Also include soft and plastic animals. Provide dolls with baby products, e.g. nappies, baby powder, pram.