

**Unit Plan for TOPIC Theme**  
(Classroom Portfolio Section 2.A.10)

**Carnegie Mellon Children's School**  
**AGE Team**  
**Estimated Timing: DATES**

**• Key Conceptual Focus & Vocabulary**

Topic Area (choose one or more)

- 2.G.02a Life Science
- 2.G.02b Earth Science
- 2.G.02c Physical Science
- 2.J.01 Appreciation of the Arts
- 2.L.11 Social Studies, Geography, History

Vocabulary (choose one or more)

- Scientific Terminology 2.G.08
- Arts Terminology 2.J.04
- General Vocabulary Development Opportunities 2.D.04

A) Basic subtopics of study (i.e., outline of the topic content):

B) Central concepts to learn, i.e., "Big Ideas" phrased as full sentences)  
(3.G.14):

C) Specific vocabulary / terms to introduce:

D) Related skills to explicitly teach (3.G.13 general, 2.J.05 re: arts):

E) Safety (2.K.03), Health (2.K.01), Nutrition (2.K.02) or Medical (2.K.05)  
links:

• **Central Resources** (linking books to themes 2.E.04, artifacts, etc.)

A) Book references with key text:

B) Objects / artifacts to enrich the environment, posters, etc:

C) Reorganization of the environment to support theme learning (3.E.01):

• **Focus Activities** (discussion / problem solving opportunities 2.D.06 & 07)

A) Circle time ideas:

B) Other whole, small group or individual inquiry experiences (3.G.09):

• **Theme Emphasis in Existing Centers** (2.A.08e, 9.A.07b rotation of materials, 2.A.12 play integrated into themes, 3.F.02 play available each day)

NOTE: List ideas for enriching **each** center to support theme learning, including theme-related materials added.

A) Block Area

B) Science Center

Etc.

• **Key Projects** (2.C.03 for fine motor, 2.A.11 a-e for extended projects of different types, 3.D. 11 for group projects)

NOTE: List specific ideas for extended projects that will involve most or all children, and indicate achievable task components / project steps (3.G.11)

A)

B)

Etc.

• **Technology Activities** (2.H.03 tech to extend, integrate, enrich)

List ideas for incorporating computer, listening center, camera ...

A)

B)

Etc.

• **Theme Emphasis on Playground / in Gym** (2.C.04)

A) Playground Ideas:

B) Gym Ideas:

• **Diversity Emphasis** (2.A.08a-d re: materials, 2.L.03 re: opportunities and materials)

Note: Any comparing / contrasting enhances diversity, including but not limited to activities that show practices of different cultures, in different habitats ...

A)

B)

Etc.

• **Adaptations for Individual Children** (3.B.02, 3.E.04) **& Special Needs** (2.L.06)

Note: Include general adaptations for more / less advanced children, plus specific adaptations needed for the children you are serving this year, such as providing alternate materials for a child with visual challenges, learning specific signs if you have a child who is communicating that way, needing extra movement activities if you have a group with many active children, etc...

A)

B)

Etc.

• **Mixed-Age Interaction** (3.D.04)

NOTE: List ideas for connecting with other children ...

A)

B)

Etc.

• **Parent Involvement** (3.F.06, 8.B.01)

NOTE: List ideas for involving all parents and/or parent with special talents

...

A)

B)

Etc.

• **University / Community Connections** (2.L.05, 2.L.07 local environment, mapping, 8.B.01)

Note: List ideas for where to get resources, speakers, field trips ...

A)

B)

Etc.

Once you've listed ideas in outline format, check that you've got good balance re: the developmental objectives by listing in the first column the two or three activities that will MOST support the goal listed in each row. Then plan one or two specific observations or other data collection that you could do as assessments to enhance your conference reports with detailed anecdotes or examples.

**Breadth Check for a Thematic Unit on:**

**Key Developmental Goals and Assessments (3.F.01, 3.G.14)**

<b>Goals Being Fostered</b>	<b>Activities that Highlight each Goal (2.A.10 curric guides broad focus)</b>	<b>Authentic Assessment Opportunities (4.B.05 / 4.D.08)</b>
<b>Emotional</b> (Self-Esteem & Independence) 1.D.04		
<b>Social</b> (Interaction & Cooperation) 1.C.03		
<b>Language</b> (Communication) 2.D oral & 2.E written		
<b>Cognitive</b> (Discovery & Exploration) 2.F and 2.G.03-06		
<b>Physical</b> (Physical Capabilities) 2.C.03 fine & 2.C.04 gross		
<b>Creative</b> (Artistic Expression & Appreciation) 2.J.06 & 2.J.07		
Other		

