

# Happy Fourth of July!

## Enjoy these FREE activities from Gee Whiz

Enjoy these activities with your group as you celebrate the Fourth of July! If you like these experiences, you will LOVE the Gee Whiz curriculum. Everything we do is designed with family child care providers in mind!

### Let's Have a Parade! (all ages)

(Developmental Areas: 😊 🖐️ 🎵 🗣️ 🎨 ❤️ 💬)

Many communities have parades and celebrations on the 4th of July. Why not have your own? As children participate in this experience, they will build gross motor skills, practice cooperation and explore musical instruments.

Provide children with red, white and blue crepe paper streamers to decorate riding toys. Get out the rhythm band instruments as well. Some children can ride while others play instruments.

As children participate, be sure to describe their actions as well as the instruments they choose to play. This is an excellent way to help them build both receptive and expressive vocabulary skills.



### Star March (Toddlers - 4+ years)

(Developmental Areas: 😊 🖐️ 🗣️ 🌍 🗣️ ❤️ 💬)

For this experience, you will need to cut stars from red, white and blue construction paper and tape them to the floor to create a "path." You will also need some recorded music. Music by John Phillips Sousa would be great! Check for some on Pandora, Spotify or Apple Music.

As children notice the star path, turn on the music and invite them to march from star to star. Then, randomly turn off the music and have children who are developmentally ready identify the color of star on which they are standing. Continue in this fashion for as long as the children show interest.

If you are working with more advanced children, you may want to incorporate numbers into this experience. Instead of playing music, give these children directions of how many stars to step on before they stop.

### Red, White & Blue Sensory Shakers (Toddlers - 4+ years)

(Developmental Areas: 😊 ? 🗣️ 🗣️ ❤️ 🗣️ 🖐️)

For this activity, you will need a clear plastic water bottle (with lid) for each child. Additionally, you will need red, white and blue curling ribbon, dry rice (or pasta), funnels, glue and duct tape. Have child-safe scissors on hand as well.

Each child will choose what to put inside his/her red, white and blue sensory shaker. If you are working with Toddlers/Twos or even young Threes, you may want to cut the curling ribbon into short pieces ahead of time.

Once the children are happy with what is inside their shakers, put glue inside the lid and screw it on. Wrap with duct tape to secure. The children can then use their shakers as they dance to patriotic music.

**NOTE:** Make one of these shakers for your infants to explore! Be sure to describe the shakers as the infants play with them.

Mixed-Age  
Group?

Ready for School?

Budget Friendly?



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