

# What Do the Daily Lesson Plans Look Like?

The first page of each day includes the following:

**DAY 2**

**Unit:** Balls, Blankets & Boxes  
**Today's Focus:** Fun with Packing Boxes  
**Developmental Areas Addressed Today:**

Picture codes to show the developmental areas addressed.

**Be Healthy & Safe!**

Fresh air and sunshine are very important to the health and well-being of children and adults. Make sure to have outdoor play time every day...weather permitting.

**Teaching Tip of the Day**

Teaching children to push in their chairs after eating is a simple way for them to practice responsibility.

**Transition Time**

Have the children pretend to deliver packages as they move from activity to activity today.

Activities with this symbol build gross motor skills because they get children moving.

The first bullet of each activity explains the "why" behind it.

This group experience invites children to learn how they do best...through exploration! This activity is inclusive of all ages.

**Get Moving!**

**Exploring Together: Deliver the Package**  
 (all ages)

**Materials:**

- Max the Mail Carrier puppet
- Packing/Mailing box with your address printed on the outside** (You can get Priority Mail boxes for free at the post office. See link on page 2).
- Recorded music

- Let's face it...children love to move! This experience incorporates music and movement in a fun way. As the children participate, they will also engage in dramatic play as they pretend to be mail carriers delivering packages. This would be a great experience to take outdoors if the weather is nice in your area.
- Sit on the floor with the Max the Mail Carrier puppet and one of the packing/ mailing boxes. As the children gather, invite them to explore the box. What does the box look like? Are there any words written on the outside of the box? Challenge more advanced children to point out the words they see and then read them to them. Do they recognize any letters within those words?
- Encourage the children to talk about a time when they may have received a box like this in the mail. What was inside? Who sent the box? How do they think the box got from where it was sent to their own house? Use these discussions to help the children learn more about how boxes get from here to there. Sometimes they fly on airplanes, sometimes they go by truck and many times are delivered on foot. This would be a great time to involve Max in the discussions!
- Next, introduce the game, "Deliver the Package." Use a lawn chair, bucket or any other object to designate the turning around point (about 15 feet from the children). Then, turn on recorded music and give one child a box. Have this child pretend to be a mail carrier as he/she runs to the turning around point and then back to the group to "deliver" the package to the next person. Continue playing until each child has a turn to "deliver the package."

This symbol indicates the activity addresses character education.

**Today's Vocabulary**

Use some of these words in conversations with children today!

**package deliver weight**  
**address post office**

**As younger children participate in activities today, model language by...**

- Using words, such as those listed above, while engaging children in conversations during the day's activities.
- Talking with children as they role-play a post office (p. 7).
- Describing children's actions as they use boxes to make music (p. 7).

Tips to help you model language and build vocabulary each day.

**Questions to Spur Thinking**

- What do you see on the box? What do you think those words say?
- How does the mail carrier know where to deliver a package?
- How long do you think it would take to mail a package to (place)?
- Who would you like to mail a package to? What would you send him/her?

Questions to get children thinking and help you engage them in meaningful conversations.



# What Do the Daily Lesson Plans Look Like?

The second page of each day includes the following:

### Packing and Shipping

(Toddlers-4 years, 🗨️ 😊 ❤️ ✂️ 📦 ♀️ 🧑)

Materials:

- Assorted boxes (see note on p. 2 about getting free boxes from the USPS)
- Assorted types of tape, crayons/markers, tissue paper, scissors, etc.

- Children use dramatic play to not only show what they know but also to build skills in many other areas. During this experience, the children can pretend to pack and ship surprises to family or friends. This is also an excellent way for them to build fine motor control. Because different developmental levels will approach this experience differently, we are providing options.
- **Toddlers/Twos/Young Threes:** This age group will just enjoy putting things in boxes and taking them out. As they play, be sure to not only describe the objects they choose as well as their actions. This would be an excellent time to reinforce the opposites in and out as well.
- **Older Threes/Fours/Advanced Preschoolers:** These children can choose items to pack and then tape up the boxes in preparation for "shipping" them. As they do so, your most advanced group can even write their addresses on the boxes or can dictate them for you to write. Be sure to talk about letter names and beginning sounds during this time. Once packed, the children can even pretend to deliver their packages. Then, they can unpack them and repack them again and again. If possible, keep this learning station open for this entire unit.

### DAY 2 - Center/Small Group Activities

#### Questions to Spur Thinking

- Tell me about what you chose to pack and ship.

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- What technique did you find worked best for using the box to make music?

### Banging on Boxes

(Toddlers-4 years, 🗨️ 😊 ❤️ 🎵 ? ♀️ 🧑)

Materials:

- Assorted boxes
- Plastic or wooden cooking spoons

- Using every day items in different ways is a wonderful way for children to think outside the box and use problem-solving skills. During this experience, the children will do all of these things while building fine motor control and eye-hand coordination at the same time. In addition, the children will have the opportunity to make and test predictions as well.
- Set out the boxes as well as the plastic and wooden cooking spoons. As children show interest in these materials, engage them in conversations. Challenge them to use the boxes to make music. Some children may choose to bang on the boxes with the spoons while others may choose to use their hands. Some children may choose to hit the boxes on the sides while others may use the bottoms. Whatever the children decide is great! Describe not only the children's actions but the results as well.
- **Advanced Preschoolers:** These children may think of other ways to use the boxes to make music. Encourage their ideas! This may mean they need to seek out other materials...which is fine. In addition, these children can make predictions about which techniques (or materials) they think will enable them to make the "best" music.

### Your Own Activities

Activities in pink are designed for toddlers and preschoolers.

Many activities are "leveled" to help you meet the differing developmental needs of a mixed age group.

Activities in purple are designed just for infants!

More questions to promote interactions with children.

Activities with this symbol may be done outdoors if desired.

Space to add your own ideas!