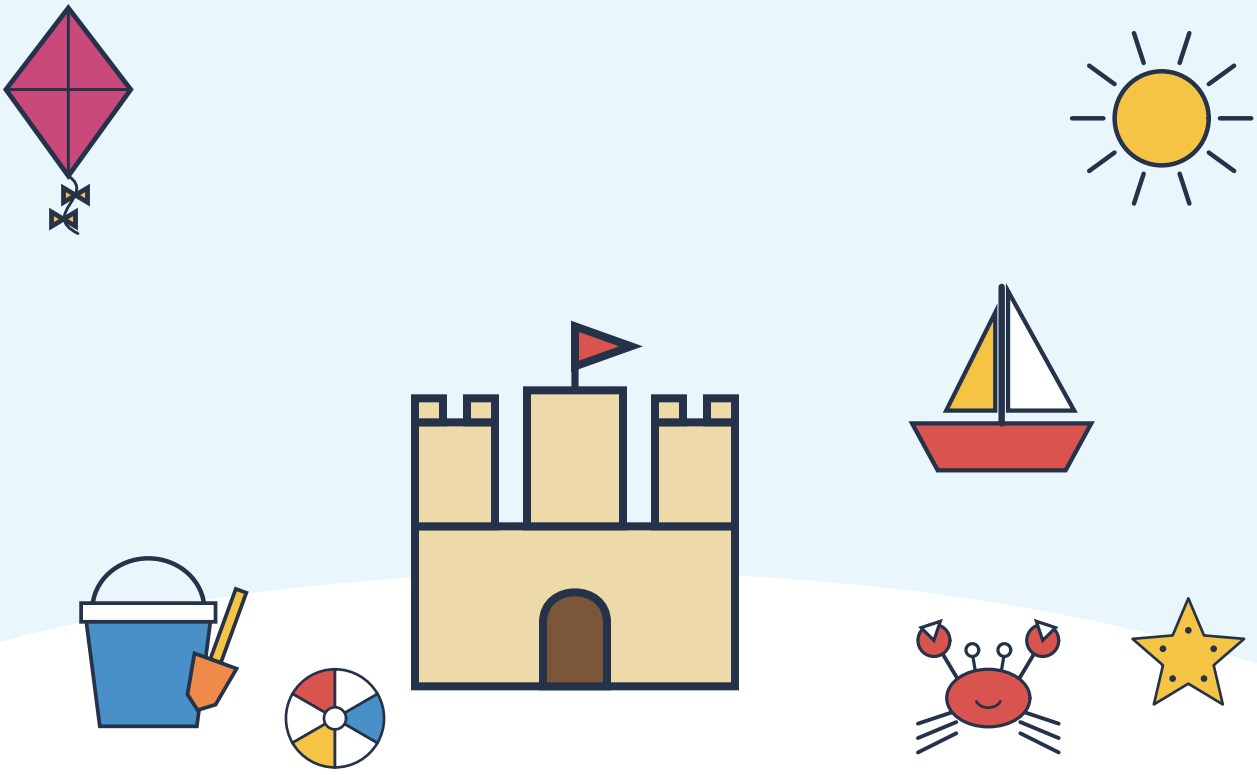
A ONE-WEEK LEARNING PACK FOR AGES 3–5

Summer Outdoor Week

5 days of circle time, centers, art, and movement for home daycares and small child care programs



Counting 1–10 · In, on, under · Big & small letters · Color + ink-saver

28 pages · US Letter · Full color · © 2026 Jackson Miller

EDUCATOR GUIDE

Welcome, How to Use & Contents

Summer Outdoor Week is a complete five-day plan for mixed groups of children ages 3 to 5. Children count paper shells, practice the position words in, on, under, and next to, match big and small letters on fish, sort sea and land animals, build a paper sandcastle, and follow a summer day from morning to night. No water play, sand, or trip to a beach is needed.

A typical day

- **Circle time**, 10–15 min: a short read-aloud story and talk prompts
- **Math center**, 10–15 min: hands-on counting, comparing, or sorting
- **Literacy center**, 10 min: oral vocabulary and sound games
- **Art & fine motor**, 15–20 min: low-cost paper projects
- **Movement**, 5 min: a short movement game with seated options

Mixed ages

Each day plan has a **Simpler** idea (often right for younger 3s) and an **Extension** (often right for older 4s and 5s). Choose by what each child is ready for, not by age alone. Printed pages are tools for play and talk, not tests.

Printing

Print on US Letter paper at **100% / Actual size**. The color and ink-saver files have the same pages and page numbers. Send the family letter (p. 27) home on Day 1.

What is inside

- 5 educator day plans and a week-at-a-glance
- 5 original read-aloud stories + 1 counting rhyme
- 12 vocabulary cards · 10 number cards · 6 movement cards
- Counting mat, 16 paper starfish counters, letter fish match
- Position words page, day-to-night sequence, 2 sorts
- Sandcastle builder, beach count, optional tracing, letter, keys

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EDUCATOR GUIDE

Week at a Glance

Pick and choose; every activity is optional



	DAY 1 Sunny Days	DAY 2 Where Is Little Crab?	DAY 3 Under the Sea	DAY 4 Building at the Beach	DAY 5 From Morning to Night
Words	sun, shade, hot, cool, hat, water	in, on, under, next to, hide, beach	sea, land, fish, whale, starfish, swim	square, triangle, rectangle, circle, build, tower	morning, midday, evening, night, first, last
Circle time	Leo Finds the Shade + counting rhyme	Where Is Little Crab?	Finn Meets the Sea	Ana and Jay Build a Castle	A Long Summer Day
Math	Shells in the Bucket	In, On, Under, Next To	Count the Sea Friends	Count the Shapes	Beach Count & Color
Literacy	Summer Words	Where Is It? Talk	Big & Small Letter Fish	Ww and Tt Sound Sort	Morning to Night
Art & fine motor	Shady Tree Picture	Hide-and-Seek Crab	My Sea Friend	Sandcastle Shape Builder	Starry Night Sky
Movement	Sun Stretch	Crab Walk	Fish Swish	Build a Tower	Summer Freeze Dance
Big idea	Counting 1–5; staying cool in the sun	Position words: in, on, under, next to	Sorting by where animals live; matching big and small letters	Naming and combining shapes; first sounds /w/ and /t/	Ordering times of day; counting a collection

Before the week starts

- Read the day plans (pp. 6–10) and stories (pp. 11–12). Skim the safety notes (p. 5).
- Print and cut using the prep list (p. 4). Adults pre-cut for children not yet using scissors.
- Copy the family letter (p. 27) for each family and fill in your program name.
- Find a small soft toy and a box for Day 2. Plan a shady or indoor movement space.

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EDUCATOR GUIDE

Educator plan

Day 1: Sunny Days

Today's words: sun · shade · hot · cool · hat · water

Prep today: Cut the number cards (p. 15) and 16 starfish counters per child at the center (p. 17). Print the mat (p. 16). Yellow and plain paper for art.

Circle time

10–15 min

- Read **Leo Finds the Shade** (p. 11).
- Ask: "What helped Leo feel cooler?" (shade, a hat, water) Count the three things on your fingers.
- Show the **sun**, **sun hat**, and **water bottle** cards (p. 13).
- Say **Shells in My Bucket** (p. 12), adding one finger for each verse.
- Transition: children "walk in the shade" on tiptoes to a center.

Math: Shells in the Bucket

Pages 15, 16, 17

1. Child picks a number card 1–5.
2. Touch and count the shells on the card, one touch for each.
3. Place the same number of paper starfish in the top row of the mat, starting at the left.
4. Count again and say the total: "Five shells, five starfish."

Literacy: Summer Words

Vocabulary cards, pp. 13–14

Show 4 cards: sun, sun hat, sunglasses, water bottle. Name each and say when we use it ("I wear a hat in the sun"). Ask: "Would you wear sunglasses at night?" Silly questions build talk.

Movement: Sun Stretch

Card on p. 26

Start small like the sun rising, then stretch up and out with arms wide like sunshine. Wiggle fingers like sun rays.

Art: Shady Tree Picture

Paper, crayons

Children draw a big sun and a tree. Under the tree, they draw themselves resting in the shade. Talk: "Where is it cooler, in the sun or in the shade?"

Simpler

emerging / younger 3s

Use cards 1–3 only. Count aloud while the child touches each shell. Draw just the sun.

Extension

ready / older 4s & 5s

Use the ten-frame cards 6–10 and fill both rows of the mat. Ask: "How many more to make 10?"

Look for

informal notes

One touch for each object. Says the last number to tell how many. Names one way to stay cool.

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CIRCLE TIME

Read slowly; pause for children to predict and act it out

Read-Aloud Stories, Days 1–3

Day 1: Leo Finds the Shade

original story, about 1–2 min

The sun was big and bright. Leo ran across the playground. "It's so hot!" he said, wiping his face.

His teacher, Ms. Rosa, pointed to a big tree. "Look, Leo. The tree makes shade. Shade is cooler than the sun."

Leo sat in the shade. He put on his sun hat. He took a big drink from his water bottle. Ahh.

"A hat, some shade, and water," said Ms. Rosa. "Those help our bodies on a hot day."

Leo counted his friends in the shade: one, two, three, four, five. "There's room for everybody!" he said.



Pause & ask: *What helped Leo feel cooler? How many friends were in the shade?*

Day 2: Where Is Little Crab?

original story, about 1–2 min

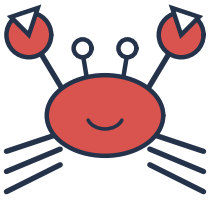
Little Crab liked to play hide and seek at the beach. "Find me!" she called.

Ben looked in the bucket. Nobody there. He looked under the umbrella. There was Little Crab!

"My turn to hide again," said Little Crab. She scuttled sideways and climbed on top of the sandcastle.

"I see you on the sandcastle!" laughed Ben. Little Crab hopped down and hid next to the tent.

"In, on, under, next to," said Ben. "You hide everywhere!" Little Crab waved her claws. "That's why I'm good at this game."



Pause & ask: *Where did Little Crab hide? Show me "under" with your hands.*

Day 3: Finn Meets the Sea

original story, about 1–2 min

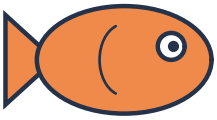
Finn the little fish swam out of his cave. Swish, swish! The sea was big and blue.

First he met a starfish resting on a rock. "Hello, Starfish! Do you swim like me?" "I creep slowly," said Starfish.

Next, a huge whale glided by. "Hello, Whale! You are so big!" "And you are small and quick," said Whale.

Finn swam to the top and peeked out. On the land, he saw a rabbit hopping. "Can you come swim with me?" "No, I live on land," said Rabbit.

Finn swam home. "Some friends live in the sea, and some live on land," he said. "I like them all."



Pause & ask: *Who lives in the sea? Who lives on land? How does a starfish move?*

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LITERACY

Find the small letter that goes with each big letter.

Letter Fish Match: Big & Small Letters





A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L

✂ *Cut on the dashed lines. Small letters are for the answer key only.*

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