

Theme: Independence Day

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Older children may enjoy learning how to play “Capture the Flag.”
- Have an Olympics event in the back yard and hand out “medals” on red/white/blue ribbons to the children for participating. Make sure everyone gets a medal!
- Tie short red/white/blue streamers to the handlebars of the tricycles, etc., and see how they blow in the wind as children ride!
- Give the children “windmills” to wave around in the wind....
- Put on swimsuits and run through the water sprinklers!

Math Activities:

- Counting/sorting stars
- Counting/sorting blocks
- Sort shapes
- Talk about the # 4. Count 4 of everything... flannel board pieces, colors, shapes, etc.

Science Activities:

- What happens when you mix red/white/blue paints together?
- Make “pop rockets” outside. Mix a little vinegar and a little baking soda in a film canister—the clear kind works best that has the lid fitting “inside” the canister). Have the children stand way back out of harm’s way and see what happens when you mix the two together, quickly put the lid on and sit one on the ground. This is guaranteed fun!

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Puzzles
- Lincoln Logs construction
- Use stickers & ribbon to decorate bookmarks with a patriotic theme.
- String a pasta necklace; dye the pasta red & blue; use a white string.

Snacks:

- Decorate star-shaped cookies.
- Red, White, and Blue Kabobs: use wooden toothpicks to make kabobs out of strawberries, bananas and blueberries.
- White chocolate-dipped pretzels; dip the pretzel in melted white baking chocolate and roll in red/white/blue sprinkles. Lay on wax paper to dry.
- Make Jell-o Jigglers out of berry blue and strawberry Jell-o.
- Serve white yogurt with blueberries and raspberries or slices of strawberries.

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

As discussed in other activities, decorate the room with stars the children decorate, paper flags, etc. Hang their windsocks outside from trees and the edge of the porch roof line.

Songs & Fingerplays: See fingerplay cards.

Books:

The Scrambled States of America, by L. Keller

Independence Day, by N. I. Sanders

George Washington and the General's Dog, by F. Murphy & R. Walz

George Washington's Teeth, by D. Chandra, M. Comora & B. Cole

George Washington's Breakfast, by J. Fritz

Meet George Washington, by J. Heilbroner

If You Grew Up with George Washington, by R. B. Gross & E. McCully

Meet Abraham Lincoln, by B. Cary

If You Grew Up with Abraham Lincoln, by A. McGovern & G. Ulrich

The Story of Abraham Lincoln, by P. A. Pingry & S. M. Britt

Happy 4th of July, Jenny Sweeney, b. L.

Kimmelman & N. Cote

Hooray for the Fourth of July by W. Watson

Biscuit's Fourth of July, by A. S. Capucilli...

Apple Pie Fourth of July by J. S. Wong..

Fourth of July Mice! by B. Roberts...

The Fourth of July Story by A. Dalglish...

Corduroy's Fourth of July by D. Freeman...

A Fourth of July on the Plains by J. V.

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Dramatic Play:

Make paper hats from newspapers so children can pretend to be George Washington. Make a boat out of cardboard; let the children help paint it as part of their art activities. The "boat" can be carried around as the children pretend to be Revolutionary War heroes riding around in the boat with George Washington.

Art:

- Help children make a U.S. flag out of construction paper and star stickers/stamps.
- Make hand flag pictures. Fingers are the stripes & the palm is blue. Paint fingerprint white stars.
- Make patriotic windsocks by painting white stars on a sheet of navy construction paper. Staple it into a cylinder shape. Add red and white streamers (cut them from a cheap plastic table cloth from the dollar store) and hang them outside in the yard. Children will love to see the wind blowing their windsocks!
- Let the children decorate large stars; string them up and hang them across the room or from the ceiling for decorations, then take them home on Friday.

Circle Time Activities:

- USA Alphabet – Cut letters of the alphabet out of colored paper and spread them out on the floor. Let children help you find things throughout the house/center that start with each letter. Younger children will need help sounding out the letters. This would make a fun "treasure hunt" type of activity!
- Teach children the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Talk about the U.S. flag and how it came to be. Discuss Betsy Ross and her role in creating the first flag.
- Give children small U.S. flags and march around the room to patriotic music—have a mini-parade!
- "F" is for flag. Teach children to spell the word "flag" as part of a flannel board activity. Sound-out the word.
- Famous Americans.... Introduce children to Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others. Books can be found at your local public library, or you can use information found online.
- Teach children about how the United States came to be, a little about the Revolutionary War, and why we celebrate July 4th.