

KINDERGARTEN  
TWIN RIDGES HOME STUDY

THIRD LEARNING PERIOD  
By Marguerite Vulfs

Circle

Free Play - Sewing

Science & Mathematics

Story

Looking Ahead to  
Fourth Learning Period

## CIRCLE

I keep Circle simple for this month. You might look up some nursery rhymes you like and create your own hand gestures. A nice hint is to work in and out from the midline of the body. I continue with "Come Little Leaves said the Wind One Day". If you have colored cloth, it is nice to dress up as a leaf. Add "Five Little Pumpkins". I substitute "goblins" for the witches. It is softer in tone for the young child.

Circle in October is also a nice sharing moment. Some children do well holding something like a crystal. It is often helpful for impulse control to hold something. First modeling holding it and speaking as a parent will give your child the idea. Lighting a candle sometimes helps with speaking out and it is cozy and comforting as the days grow darker. Do not forget to snuff it out!

The last week of October introduce rattles if you have one. If not, a simple rattle can be made with a heavy tube and lentils or any beans.

### Bulb Planting Song

"In my garden there is a bulb

I'm the one who put it there

Who will help it now to grow

Earth and sun and rain and air"

Autumn. A Collection of Poems, Songs and Stories for Young Children

Collected & Edited by Jennifer Aulie and Margret Meyerkort

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## FREE PLAY – SEWING

For this learning period, I am giving you ideas for sewing. If you begin now, you will soon have a child who eagerly wishes to sew. There are many ways to begin. I like the idea of working from my own sewing basket and eventually gifting the child with their own. You will need the following:

Embroidery Floss and/or Thread  
Needles with larger eyes  
Felt – wool is nice but other will be fine  
Ribbon  
Muslin  
Buttons  
Small Embroidery Hoop  
Scissors  
Wool for stuffing  
Dried Lavender

Making meaningful toys that are play worthy is important. One method is to begin by making something in front of your child like a simple, small pillow for a stuffed animal or doll. Have them help you with the stitches. Take your time and be careful.

Another method is to set up a small embroidery hoop and let your child stitch away however they wish. You may even add a button or two. If you use this method, make sure you are sewing as well with your own hoop. A sewing hint is to pre-thread the needles for your child. Also show them about sewing up and down through the muslin and not around the outer edge of the hoop. Sometimes the creations are very beautiful.

A third method for a good first project is to sew a small heart cut out. This can be stuffed with dried lavender & wool and then attached to a ribbon as a necklace. You will have to help with guidance and tying off the knots.

For inspiration, you might purchase [Magical Fairy Crafts Through the Seasons](#) by local artists Lenka Vodicka - Paredes and Asia Currie. They have easy patterns for simple sewing as well as inspirational ideas for your own crafting. They also have lovely ideas for teaching stitching.

## SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

We have transitioned to Autumn. For the first two weeks of this learning period, take full advantage of this moment. Get all those nature walks in while the days are still warm enough. Even a rainy day can be a fun walking day this time of year.

Every day spend time walking. Pick out one tree and observe its changes every day. Create a little journal where your child draws, as best they can, the tree during the first week, the second week and the third week. Talk about the tree. Ask your child to create one sentence each day that you record about the tree. It is perfectly fine to have an imagination of something with this but a goal could be to just record what your child sees. Be prepared for them to see things you might not.

- Day 1 - Gather leaves to press between wax paper.  
Put leaf between two pieces of wax paper and iron on low to seal.  
Your child will need help ironing.
- Day 2 - Gather leaves for leaf rubbings.  
Have paper and crayons ready.
- Day 3 - Introduce the numbers 1 & 2 again.  
Use manipulatives to reinforce the numbers. Acorns work well!
- Day 4 - Introduction to "Experiments"  
Buy Narcissus "Paper Whites". You will also need jars and pebbles.  
Get enough for your child to plant one "Paper White" once a week for the next 6 weeks. Label your containers week one, two, etc. for each week. Plant the bulbs in pebbles so your child can see the root formation. A good moment for pictures throughout the cycle.
- Day 5 - Harvest your garden before the frost. Mulch the plants.
- Day 6 - Rake leaves and jump in them or walk in an area that has falling leaves. Gather a small bundle of leaves and have your child guess how many are in the bundle.
- Day 7 - Introduce the number 3. Plant three bulbs in your garden.  
Look around your house and place things in 3's.  
Draw number 3 in the dirt, sand, water, etc.

- Day 8 - Plant your second "Paper White".  
Make sure you label your container "week two".  
Observe growth in first week.
- Day 9 - Bake a cookie recipe with items your child can "count" as they add them – raisins, cranberries, nuts, etc.  
Try to include number 3 in the recipe i.e. 3 T. cranberries.
- Day 10 - Plan to hike with friends. Bring cookies to share!

#### Week Break - October 22-26

For the "Paper White" experiment, try to plant a third paper white this week.  
Make sure you label your container "week three". Observe growth on others.

- Day 11 - Guessing game.  
Fill a jar with stones. Ask your child to estimate the # of items.
- Day 12 - Carve your pumpkin and save the seeds.  
After roasting them, count how many there are altogether.
- Day 13 - Plant your fourth "Paper White".  
Make sure you label your container "week four".  
Observe growth on others.
- Day 14 - Counting candy.  
A good moment for counting and sorting. If the "Pumpkin Fairy" takes your child's treats and gives them something else instead, plan to have items they can count and items to sort.
- Day 15 - End this learning period by experiencing the ending of the life cycle.  
It could be a leaf, a flower, your garden. Whichever tree you have been observing, plan to spend time really looking at it and draw one last time.

## STORY

All of this month, I am telling the story “Hugin and the Halloween Turnip” from The Seven-Year-Old Wonder Book by Isabel Wyatt. The children will act it out the last week of October.

There are many other fun stories for this learning period including “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”, “The Gingerbread Man”, “Billy Goats Gruff” and “Hansel and Gretel”.

Some thoughts on stories for “Dio des Muertos” or Day of the Dead: There are many stories that are transformative in nature for the kindergarten age child. I like a “Gift for Abuelita” by Nancy Luenn and “Uncle Monarch and the Day of the Dead” by Judy Goldman. In the Kindergarten, unless there has been a death in the family, I focus on the transformative aspects of the butterfly for this time of year. If there has been a death, then setting up pictures with flowers and reading stories is a healing experience. Many times, for the young child, even the death of an animal is profound and need to be recognized.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The next learning period begins November 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be introducing Festivals of Light from around the world and giving you information and ideas. As part of this, we will be making lanterns. For the Monday group, we only meet two times in November, so I will begin making lanterns with your group on October 29<sup>th</sup>. You can also make lanterns on your own. I am going to be using the balloon and tissue paper method.

The next learning period is also an excellent moment to cook and use measuring. Now is the time to collect measuring tools if you do not already have them in your kitchen.

I will be telling a Native American Story during the first two weeks of the learning period. On November 26<sup>th</sup> I will change to “The Elves and The Shoemaker” from Grimm’s Fairy Tales. We will do a play in class from this story in December.

Nisenan Heritage Day is November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sierra College. They love to have children attend. This is a free event until 2:45 pm that day.

Created by Marguerite Vulfs October 2018