# 2023-2024 Activity Schedule

## Theme for Displays: Racetrack to Learning

		FunShine Digital			Online Christian
		Buttercups® Ages 0-3 Years	Fireflies® Ages 3-5 Years		Lessons Ages 3–5 Years
Months	Themes	Color/Shape	Letters/ Numbers	Color/ Shape	Bible Story
Sept.	Wonderful Me Where We Live		A, B, C I, 2, 3		Creation of Adam and Eve Genesis 1:26-2:25
Oct.	Curious Critters Fairy Tale Friends		D, E, F 4, 5, 6		The Parable of the Lost Sheep  Matthew 18:10-14  Luke 15:3-7
Nov.	Cooling Down Barnyard Bash		G, H, I 7, 8		Baby Moses Exodus 1:1-2:10
Dec.	Five Super Senses Merry Memories		J, K, L 9, 10		Christmas - Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-20
Jan.	Snow Friends Scribbles and Splats		M, N, O II, I2		Jesus Teaches Us to Pray Matthew 6:5-14 Luke 11:1-4
Feb.	Kindness Counts Food Parade		P, Q, R 13, 14		Manna to Eat Exodus 16:1-36
Mar.	My Toybox Hopping & Hatching		S, T, U 15, 16		Easter - He Is Risen <i>Mark 16:1-11</i>
Apr.	Puddle Play Sail Away		V, W, X 17, 18		Jonah and the Big Fish Jonah 1-2
Мау	Flower Shop Animals All Around		Y, Z 19, 20		Noah's Ark Genesis 6:1-9:17
June	Fun in the Sun Summer Safety		Review	Review	Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10
July	Frogs and Friends Beach Vacation	Review	Review	Review	Jesus Calms the Storm  Mark 4:35-41
Aug.	Camping Adventure Picnic Pals	Review	Review	Review	Jacob's Dream Genesis 28:10-22



# Fireflies® Theme Summaries 2023–2024

FunShine Express follows a four-year rotation of themes and activities.

Themes for Buttercups and Fireflies are coordinated. Schedule is subject to slight changes.

## September

Letters: A, B, C
Numbers: 1, 2, 3
Shape: Circle
Color: Red

**Wonderful Me:** Every child brings unique qualities, experiences, and perspectives to preschool. During this theme, children will explore ways of getting to know each other and engage in activities that promote pride in their work. Feelings, friends, and families will be covered, as well as ways to establish good routines for a wonderful preschool year.

Where We Live: This theme invites children to investigate the different types of homes and neighborhoods in their community, as well as around the world. Children will learn about who builds homes and what makes a home. They will measure, explore tools, and build. Animal homes are touched upon as well.

#### October

Letters: D, E, F
Numbers: 4, 5, 6
Shape: Triangle
Colors: Orange, Black

**Curious Critters:** Curious critters are everywhere! Help children learn about the fascinating and unusual creatures that share our world. Rodents and primates are among the creatures children will learn about in this theme. Look for autumn activities sprinkled throughout.

**Fairy Tale Friends:** Enter a land of castles, kings, queens, unicorns, and dragons as children read classic fairy tales. Pretend to climb beanstalks, search for treasure, build castles, make crowns, and more as children embark upon imaginary adventures.

### November

Letters: G, H, I
Numbers: 7, 8
Shape: Rectangle
Color: Brown

**Cooling Down:** Snuggle up to learn all about hibernation, migration, and early signs of winter. Children will explore how people and animals prepare for and survive the winter season in cold and snowy climates. They will discover ways to stay cozy and warm as the cold settles in.

**Barnyard Bash:** Preschoolers love learning about farm life! During this theme, they'll learn about the animals that live on farms, the foods that grow there, and the machines that work there. Roll up your sleeves for barnyard fun!

#### December

Letters: J, K, L Numbers: 9, 10 Shape: Star Color: Green

**Five Super Senses:** Sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—these are the five super senses! This theme provides many opportunities for hands-on discovery and learning. Children will explore seasonal textures, sounds, scents, and more. Tips on sensory development will be offered as well.

**Merry Memories:** Enjoy this festive time of year by making merry memories together! This theme will cover baking, family traditions and celebrations, and all the sights and symbols associated with December holidays. Reflect on the current year together, and make goals for the new one!

## **January**

Letters: M, N, O
Numbers: 11, 12
Shape: Octagon
Color: White

**Snow Friends:** Bundle up and embark upon a chilly adventure to the polar regions! Children will discover the places in the world that stay cold and wintry year-round. They'll learn about animals and camouflage, as well as characteristics of winter, such as snow, wind, and ice.

**Scribbles and Splats:** Tap into children's inner artists and art critics during this theme all about self-expression. Children will develop fine motor skills as they practice familiar ways to create art and explore new art processes. Explore the history of crayons, coloring mixing, sculpting with playdough and foil, and much more!

## **February**

Letters: P, Q, R
Numbers: 13, 14
Shape: Heart
Color: Pink

**Kindness Counts:** Acts of kindness, whether random or intentional, go a long way! Children will explore the concept of self-care and ways they can show care for others. They'll reflect on what it means to be a good friend and family member and learn positive ways to share thoughts, ideas, and emotions.

**Food Parade:** Good nutrition helps our bodies stay healthy and strong. Children will learn about the food groups and have the opportunity to prepare, cook, and taste foods. March into the kitchen, it's time for a food parade!

#### March

Letters: S, T, U
Numbers: 15, 16
Shape: Oval
Color: Blue

**My Toybox:** What are the children's favorite toys? Find out during this fun theme that explores the history of toys, different types of toys and games, and the many ways children play. Turn-taking, sharing, and imagination are essential to this theme.

**Hopping & Hatching:** Come learn about bunnies, chicks, and other baby animals in this sweet spring theme. Children will explore characteristics of different animals, move like animals, and enjoy animal stories. Look for early signs of spring together. It's sure to be a hopping good time!

### **April**

Letters: V, W, X Numbers: 17, 18 Shape: Rhombus Color: Yellow

**Puddle Play:** Splash your way into spring with this weather-inspired theme. Puddles, mud, storms, rain, clouds, and regrowth are among the topics covered. Investigate natural wonders as you learn about the water cycle, dig in the dirt, and study trees.

**Sail Away:** Ahoy! Sail the seas to learn about different bodies of water and the wildlife that lives there. Research boats, ships, and other vessels that float, and hunt for buried treasure! Engage in water play, and test items to see if they float or sink in this aquatic theme.

#### May

Letters: Y, Z Numbers: 19, 20 Shape: Square Color: Purple

**Flower Shop:** Tulips, and daffodils, and daisies, oh my! Summer is just around the corner and flowers are blooming. Have fun in a pretend play flower shop during this theme. Learn how flowers grow, engage in simple gardening, and discover caterpillars, butterflies, and other garden insects.

**Animals All Around:** Big and small, short and tall, scaly and furry—animals are everywhere! Children will learn fun facts about animals from all around the world. This theme also focuses on different habitats, pet care, and animal safety rules.

#### June

Letters: Review
Numbers: Review
Shape: Review
Color: Review

**Fun in the Sun:** Summer is on the horizon. This theme explores all types of sunny day fun. Outdoor and water play opportunities invite children to engage in hands-on learning. Playing games invites the children to learn about teamwork too.

**Summer Safety:** Summer has finally arrived! This theme teaches children how they can stay safe as they enjoy the great outdoors. Bike safety, water safety, sun safety, and car safety are included.

## July

Letters: Review
Numbers: Review
Shape: Review
Color: Review

Frogs and Friends: Croak! Croak! Invite children to learn about our pond-loving friends and the freshwater habitat they call "home." Frogs, toads, turtles, ducks, and fish are among the creatures explored. Children will learn about metamorphosis, water plants, and insects as well.

**Beach Vacation:** Grab a towel and a beach umbrella—it's time for a vacation! Children will learn all about islands, ocean creatures, and seashells during this theme. Build sandcastles, bounce beach balls, and take a pretend airplane trip together. Even imaginary vacations can be fun and relaxing!

## August

Letters: Review
Numbers: Review
Shape: Review
Color: Review

**Camping Adventure:** Unpack your backpack and pitch your tent—it's time to go camping! Children will learn about camping activities and safety during this theme. Enjoy the outdoors and sing campfire songs around a pretend fire. This theme is full of discovery and exploration!

**Picnic Pals:** People love picnics, and so do many types of insects! This theme provides opportunities for children to plan for and enjoy a picnic. They will also discover the many benefits of insects that can sometimes feel like pests during these special occasions. Children will also review basic learning concepts to prepare for back-to-school.