**First Week of Summer Camp: Art and Free Time** - Building Connections and Creative Exploration

Description: The first week of summer camp is all about creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for children. It focuses on fostering positive relationships, establishing boundaries, and providing opportunities for free expression and creativity. During this week, children will engage in various art activities and have free time to explore their interests.

**Lesson Plans for Ages 0-3:**

1. **Sensory Art Exploration**
   * Materials: Finger paint, textured objects, sensory bins
   * Duration: 20-30 minutes
   * Description: Encourage infants and toddlers to explore different textures and colors through sensory art activities. Let them use their hands and fingers to create unique art pieces, fostering sensory development and self-expression.
2. **Creative Movement**
   * Materials: Music, open space for movement
   * Duration: 15-20 minutes
   * Description: Engage children in interactive music and movement sessions. Incorporate songs, nursery rhymes, and simple dance movements to enhance their gross motor skills, rhythm, and social interaction.
3. **Nature Collage**
   * Materials: Leaves, flowers, sticks, glue, paper
   * Duration: 30-40 minutes
   * Description: Collect natural materials from the surroundings and guide children in creating a collaborative nature collage. Encourage them to stick the materials onto a large sheet of paper using glue, promoting creativity and connection with the natural world.

**Lesson Plans for Ages 4-7:**

1. **Summer-themed Crafts**
   * Materials: Paper plates, markers, beads, yarn
   * Duration: 30-40 minutes
   * Description: Let children create summer-themed crafts like sun catchers, paper plate crafts, and friendship bracelets using colorful materials. Encourage them to express their creativity and personal style while fostering fine motor skills.
2. **Outdoor Games**
   * Materials: Music, cones, balls, hula hoops
   * Duration: 30-45 minutes
   * Description: Organize group games like freeze dance, relay races, and scavenger hunts to promote teamwork, physical activity, and social interaction. Provide clear instructions and ensure a safe and inclusive environment.
3. **Storytelling and Dramatic Play**
   * Materials: Storybooks, costumes, props
   * Duration: 20-30 minutes
   * Description: Engage children in dramatic play activities where they can act out their favorite summer stories and use their imaginations. Provide storybooks and props to enhance their storytelling experience, promoting language development and creativity.

**Lesson Plans for Ages 8-11:**

1. **DIY Art Projects**
   * Materials: Tie-dye kit, paper, markers, origami paper
   * Duration: 40-60 minutes
   * Description: Introduce various art techniques like tie-dye, papercrafts, and origami. Let children create their own unique art pieces, following step-by-step instructions and exploring their creativity. Encourage them to share their artworks and discuss their inspirations.
2. **Team-Building Activities**
   * Materials: Cones, ropes, blindfolds
   * Duration: 30-45 minutes
   * Description: Plan team challenges and problem-solving activities to promote cooperation, communication, and critical thinking skills. Engage children in activities like building human pyramids, obstacle courses, and trust exercises, fostering teamwork and leadership qualities.
3. **Talent Show Preparation**
   * Materials: Music, props, costumes
   * Duration: Multiple sessions (1-2 hours each)
   * Description: Guide children in preparing for a talent show. Provide opportunities for them to showcase their talents, whether it's singing, dancing, magic tricks, or playing a musical instrument. Help them practice their acts, build self-confidence, and encourage mutual support and appreciation.

By combining these engaging activities, the first week of camp aims to create a positive and inclusive atmosphere where children can build connections, develop their creativity, and embrace the spirit of summer fun.

**Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**