MONTH AT A GLANCE FEBRUARY • BEGINNERS



Language & Literacy

COMMUNICATION

Shows steady growth in words used and understood (e.g., descriptive words, spatial vocabulary, labeling items)

Asks simple questions

Follows two-step directions with visual cues if needed

Responds to and verbally states first and last name

Talks to oneself and others about what he/she is doing, routines followed, and events participated in

Communicates in short sentences that follow the word order of home language

Begins to use words such as "think," "pretend," and "remember" to reflect on previous knowledge or experiences

LITERACY _

Recognizes first name in print

Acquires new vocabulary through shared reading experiences

Answers questions about a story

Provides words or phrases in familiar stories, songs, or rhymes

Connects events in story to own life

Talks about characters and events in a story

Retells a familiar story in own words

Begins to engage in reading behaviors independently (e.g., pretends to read a book, retells story using pictures, repeats familiar phrases while looking at a book)

Tells a simple story from sequenced pictures

Understands realistic symbols and environmental print within the classroom (e.g., classroom material labels, visual handwashing procedure, cubby labels)

Understands that text is meaningful and can be read (e.g., student asks teacher to dictate what he/she says about the illustration)

Uses pictures to describe and predict stories and information in books

WRITING

Transitions from holding writing utensil from fist grip to a pronated grip (between thumb and forefinger)

"Reads" own writing aloud

Makes circular and horizontal marks on paper

Mimics authentic writing behavior by scribbling (e.g., taking notes, making lists, taking an order)



Mathematical Thinking

NUMBER AND NUMBER SENSE

Repeats numbers 1–20

Understands the number concept of five

Uses fingers or objects to represent numbers 1-5 (e.g., holds up 2 fingers to indicate age)

Demonstrates understanding of the concept of "more," "all," and "none"

GEOMETRY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Begins to compare and contrast objects by color, shape, and size

Sorts objects by color, shape, or size

Identifies and matches objects by colors, shapes, or other objects

PROBLEM-SOLVING AND REASONING

Completes 3 to 10 piece puzzles

Notices and shows interest in patterns occurring in the environment

Uses picture references and deductive reasoning to determine who is and is not present at school

Understands and uses amount and size words to describe objects (e.g., big/little, fast/slow)

Explains everyday occurrences using simple reasoning

Participates in learning experiences that explore weight, size, and speed of various objects

Identifies and describes differences in size

Scientific Exploration

SCIENCE

Identifies and explores seasonal changes in nature

Begins to increase ability in identifying and classifying nonliving and living things

Begins to explore and identify animals, animal families, and their habitats

Begins to identify local and common forms of weather

Uses simple tools to investigate objects and materials with guidance (e.g., magnifying glass, scoop-and-pour containers)

Notices changes in materials (e.g., size, weight, texture, speed) when they are mixed or manipulated (e.g., water freezing, melting, combining)

ENGINEERING

Watches others and is motivated to repurpose common items for various purposes (e.g., uses basket as a hat, uses a rainboot as a planter)



Citizens of the World

SOCIAL STUDIES

Actively participates in keeping the classroom environment clean and organized (e.g., materials, furniture, centers)

Explores common forms of transportation in the community

Explores various jobs of people in the community (e.g., community helpers, mail carrier, grocery store clerk)

Recognizes and identifies common places in the local community (e.g., school, house, grocery store, gas station) Talks about pets in the home

DIVERSITY

Explores music from other cultures around the world (e.g., multicultural dance, instruments)

Begins to explore various celebrations and traditions (e.g., family, classroom)

Talks about self (e.g., favorite foods, hair color, eye color, age, identifies body parts)

Explores animals from around the world

Talks about family (e.g., family members, traditions, memories, routines, food shared)

WORLD LANGUAGES

Introduces new Spanish vocabulary

Reviews previously acquired Spanish vocabulary

Begins to explore languages spoken throughout the world (e.g., languages spoken in the classroom and beyond)

Creative Expression

MUSIC, MUSICIANS, AND MOVEMENT

Begins to show preference for a familiar song

Claps in rhythm with music

Moves body expressively to music with or without props

Sings and acts out familiar songs, fingerplays, or rhymes

Makes simple musical instruments

Begins to participate in discussions around different genres of music, musicians, and movement concepts

ART AND ARTISTS

Paints with an object other than a paintbrush (e.g., flowers, sticks, fingers)

Creates art using basic shapes

Draws a picture that begins to resemble student's intention

Begins to make prints and collages using various materials

Paints or draws on a vertical surface (e.g., fence, classroom wall, easel)

Creates 3D art using various materials

Begins to participate in discussions around different forms of visual art and artists (e.g., shape art, 3D art, nature art)





Creative Expression continued

DRAMATIC PLAY

Uses dress-up props or props created to pretend to be characters, animals, or objects (e.g., uses block as a cell phone, clothing, baby dolls)

Engages in pretend play connected to personal experiences, season, or literature (e.g., familiar routines, events, and/or people)

碗 Social-Emotional Learning

SELF-HELP

Verbalizes need to use the bathroom or diaper change

Expresses needs and wants

Assists in dressing/undressing

Eats and drinks independently (e.g., uses spoon, fork, and drinks from open cup)

Accepts redirection from adults

Seeks support from caregiver when needing assistance (e.g., sad, frustrated, help with shoes)

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Initiates play interactions with peers

Shows varied feelings

Begins to talk about emotions and show empathy toward others

Recognizes and labels some emotions in self and others (e.g., happy, sad, angry)

Begins to understand personal space

Follows classroom behavior expectations (e.g., indoor voice, calm body, center management system)

Adjusts behavior to fit the expectations of different situations (e.g., whispering during rest time, running outside, walking to lunch seat)

Seeks a preferred playmate; shows pleasure when seeing a friend



FINE MOTOR

Uses safety scissors

Uses wrist and finger movements to complete a task (e.g., turns knobs, cuts straight line)

Begins to use pincer grasp to pick up smaller objects

Puts small objects in openings with increasing control

Uses hands and eyes together to complete complex fine motor tasks (e.g., completes puzzles, laces lacing cards, draws, stacks blocks)

Squeezes and manipulates playdough



Wellness continued

GROSS MOTOR AND BALANCE

Begins to use flexible body movements with balls or smaller objects (e.g., throws, catches, kicks ball or bean bag)

Begins to sustain balance during simple movement activities (e.g., jumping off of a step, jumping over an object, walks forward along edge)

Begins to engage in more complex body movements, promoting gross muscle development (e.g., jumping jacks, running, galloping, jumping, yoga, pedaling tricycle, stop-and-go movements, stretching)

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION

Begins to show awareness for safety rules and the need to follow them (e.g., playground rules, fire drill procedures, sun safety, weather safety, nature safety)

Begins to discuss and explore healthy eating habits (e.g., identifies a variety of foods, sorts foods into healthy and unhealthy groups, identifies favorite foods/beverages)

Begins to discuss and explore ways to keep our bodies healthy (e.g., sleep, exercise, coughs/sneezes in elbow, handwashing procedures)