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Preschool Theme Kits

BIRTHDAYS



FOR YOU: a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

Welcome to the *Birthdays* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

BOX CONTENTS

BOOKS

Happy Birthday, Moon

Frank Asch

Happy Birthday, Sam!

Pat Hutchins

A Birthday for Frances

Russell Hoban

Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born

Jamie Lee Curtis

Sheep in a Shop

Nancy Shaw

Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present (Book with CD)

Charlotte Zolotow

Happy Birthday

Debbie Bailey

Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green

Sneakers

Merle Peek

Flower Garden

Eve Bunting

DVD

Happy Birthday, Clifford!

TOY

Birthday cake and ten candles-felt pieces (11 pieces)

Balloon felt pieces (6 pieces)

ADULT RESOURCES

Kids' Party Games and Activities

Penny Warner

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS -
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

Related Activities

-Fun and Games-

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A BIRTHDAY?

Children have a hard time understanding how long a year is, between one birthday and the next. Parents of little ones get weary listening to statements of what the little one expects, "on my birthday", which is over 6 months away! You could have a birthday theme week and "celebrate" in some of these ways: *

- Create a birthday chart or pie graph. Decorate it with pictures of cakes, hats, gifts, etc. Put in each month of the year, with a column or wedge and ask every child when his/her birthday is. Talk about which month is current, whose birthday is next; take note of other special days or holidays.
- Having a birthday means we are getting bigger. Let the children measure themselves with a variety of objects: rulers, blocks, shoestrings, etc.
- Wrap some items in birthday paper. Start with very distinctive shapes, like a ball; also wrap items that may be more difficult to guess. Each day of the birthday theme, set out a wrapped item and let children guess what it is.

ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!

Find out if the children know stories about when they were born. Where were they born? Who was in their family that welcomed them home from the hospital? Do they have a picture of their first day(s) of life? Why did their parents choose their name (maybe some know of special family significance)? Do any have stories about the birth of younger brothers or sisters?

Read **Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born** (be sure to read it yourself first). Maybe some of your children are adopted and want to talk about that.

Extension: Make a classroom book with a sentence from each child about the day or night s/he was born. Have the children illustrate his or her page.

IDEAS TO CELEBRATE WITH A BIRTHDAY CHILD

If you celebrate individual birthdays, here are a few ideas:

- Make cupcakes during the day, using a cake mix. Parents can help send the supplies.
- Let the birthday child choose a story they want read to the group.
- Collect used books in good condition and put them in a birthday box. Let the birthday child choose one to keep.
- Let the birthday child wear a crown during the day.

TEN LITTLE CANDLES – Use with felt pieces included in this kit, or as fingerplay: hold up ten fingers. At “Wh!, Wh!” bend two fingers down, until there are none.

Ten little candles on a chocolate cake;
 “Wh! Wh!” now there are eight.
 Eight little candles on a candlestick
 “Wh! Wh!” now there are six.
 Six little candles, and not one more;
 “Wh! Wh!” now there are four.
 Four little candles, red, white and blue
 “Wh! Wh!” now there are two.
 Two little candles, birthday cakes are fun!
 “Wh! Wh!” now there are none.

Or do this one, using only five felt candles or five fingers.

FIVE BIRTHDAY CANDLES

Five birthday candles, wish there were more.
 Blow out one and then there were four.
 Four birthday candles, pretty as can be.
 Blow out one and then there were three.
 Two birthday candles, birthday cakes are fun.
 Blow out one, and then there is one.
 One birthday candle, a birthday wish is fun.
 Blow out one, and then there is none!

KIDS’ PARTY GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Adult resource in this kit

One of the reasons kids love birthdays so much is the games and activities. Why wait for a birthday to enjoy a party? In these “hundreds of exciting things to do at parties for kids 2 -12” you will find some that work for you. For example, try these:

- Copy Cat (p. 16) The children sit in a circle and copy body movements, as they are added one by one.
- Sense-sational (p. 29) Prepare fun- to-touch items, and fun-to-sniff items. These will be put into a mystery bag and passed around the circle: can you guess what it is? The children will enjoy watching one another’s reactions.
- Funny Paper Race (p. 39) You’ll need the comic section of the newspaper, file cards and glue to prepare this matching game. The kids can help and then play!

Birthdays Theme Kit

Questions or Suggestions:
 Call the Youth Services Dept.
 at (360) 384-3150

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

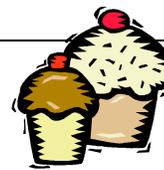
DELICIOUS CAKE

Traditional

Mix the batter, stir the batter
 Shake some flour in.
 Mix the batter, stir the batter,
 Pour it in a tin.
 Then put some sprinkles on
 Put the batter in to bake.
 Open up the oven door –
 Out comes a delicious cake.

MAKE A WISH

Big chocolate cake
 Ice cream in a dish
 Here are the candles
 Now make a wish!



*Make one arm into circle, make stirring motion with other
 Shake in flour and stir
 Make motions of pouring
 Sprinkle
 Pretend to put cake into oven
 Open oven door again
 Pretend to sniff - yummy!*

*Make round circle with arms
 Cup hands together
 Hold up fingers
 Pretend to blow out” candles” by making a fist.*

BALLOONS FOR A PARTY *

Use the felt balloon pieces in this kit; make construction paper balloons, or blow up real ones, and give them out to the children as you read this poem.

Here are balloons for a party
 Because it’s my birthday today.
 I have balloons for all of my friends
 Who are coming over to play.

Here is a pretty round blue balloon
 As blue as a baby’s eyes.
 Here is a bright round red balloon
 Just about your size.

Here is a happy round yellow balloon
 Yellow as bright sunshine.
 Here is a lovely round purple balloon
 Like purple grapes from the vine.

Here is a little round orange balloon
 Like oranges from the store.
 Here is a light round white balloon,
 And now there are no more.

MY BIRTHDAY CAKE – use with felt pieces included in this kit.

My birthday cake is green and white
 The lighted candles make it bright!
 1,2,3,4,5 bright candles –
 What a pretty sight!



BIRTHDAY FOR PIGLETS

Fingerplay, touch each finger one by one.

This baby pig had a birthday
 This baby pig fixed the lunch.
 This baby pig wrapped presents
 This baby pig mixed the punch.
 This baby pig – what did she do?
 She sang “Happy Birthday,
 Happy birthday to YOU!”

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How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.