

Berries



Set-up – If you plan to pick berries or go on a plant walk in the woods, make sure to walk the route before your event if you haven't been there for a while. If it's very muddy, remind families to wear boots and appropriate clothing.

Arrival – (5 min) As families arrive, put coats and gear away, sign-in, join the circle. Encourage everyone to dance and sing as they enter.

Welcome! – (5 min) Sing a Welcome Song as families come in and get settled into a circle.

Story Time – (20 min) Read *Picking Berries*, by Hannah Lindoff

Drum a beat while reading, act out picking the berries, recite parts of the story together. Make this time as interactive as you can.

Stations – (45 min)

1. Berry Imaginative Play
 - a. A great time to get out the puffballs and jump into dramatic play. Model behavior you want children to express, such as good manners, kind words, and sharing.
2. Edible Plants Walk
 - a. Head to the woods with baskets if the berries are ripe. Point out the smells, textures, tastes of edible plants, look for things budding or sprouting. Explore!
3. Sharing Foods
 - a. Before your event, communicate with families to bring their berry foods to share. Gather supplies for muffin making, or send recipes home with families.
4. Name Printing
 - a. Encourage even the smallest of children to explore this station. Using berries and sentence strips, have children print their names with the berries. Just like they would with a stamp or a bingo dauber. Older children may still need their name written in pencil first, so they can follow the lines. Make a sample with your name.
 - b. Offer blank paper, too, for free exploration of making art with berries.
5. Weaving
 - a. If a plant walk is not an option, offer weaving materials and a sample for children to practice with. If you can find local materials to try out, even better!

Cleanup – (10 min) Everyone helps! Sing a clean-up song.

Departure – (5 min) Gather for goodbye song, sing as families get ready to go, drum them out the door.