# 5 DAY PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

## Crooksie the Cat Curious About Colors

story • nature • art • belonging • building

Teacher-ready invitations for ages 2-5

# Your week at a glance

The goal is to help children discover that each object gets one count, that small groups can be compared, and that feelings belong in mathematical play too.

WHAT TO GATHER Keep it simple: the book, a few baskets, safe colorful objects, large paper, crayons, washable paint, brushes or sponges, colored tissue, and blocks. Set out only the materials needed each day. The same finds can be revisited all week.

HOW TO SUPPORT EVERY CHILD: Younger children can look, point, match, and explore one or two colors. Older children may compare shades, predict changes in light, and mix materials. Accept words, gestures, eye gaze, sign, and a child's own descriptions. Children with color-vision differences can explore contrast, texture, and pattern too.

WHAT TO NOTICE: Watch for close looking, comparisons, new questions, chosen materials, changes of plan, and descriptions such as lighter, darker, bright, or soft. Record a child's words or action, not a color-naming score.

# MONDAY Story Grove

Today's invitation: Read Crooksie is Curious About Colors. Pause at pictures that catch the children's attention. Invite them to point to a color, pattern, or detail and find something nearby that reminds them of it.

SAY ““What caught your eye?”

NOTICE Listen for the child's own description, comparison, or question. Naming a color is optional.

QUICK SETUP Place the book beside a basket with two or three familiar colorful objects. Let each child choose what to compare.

EXTEND OR REVISIT Return to a favorite picture later and ask, “Do you notice anything new?” Invite children to dictate their discoveries.

ONE-LINE DOCUMENTATION Child's words or action:

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# TUESDAY Nature Lab

TODAY'S INVITATION Take a slow color walk indoors or outdoors. Look closely at leaves, bark, shadows, sky, stones, and flowers. Invite children to arrange safe found objects or photos by colors they think belong together.

SAY “What colors do you notice when you look closely?”

NOTICE Watch for attention to light, shade, tiny details, and children's own ideas for grouping.

QUICK SETUP Bring a small basket and, if available, a camera. Collect only teacherapproved loose items; leave living things growing.

EXTEND OR REVISIT Look at the same place in sun and shade, or at a different time of day. Let the children describe what changed.

ONE-LINE DOCUMENTATION Child's words or action:

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# WEDNESDAY Art Garden

TODAY'S INVITATION Offer large paper. two or three washable paint colors. and brushes or sponges. Invite each child to explore marks. overlaps. and mixtures in any way they choose. Do not show a sample picture.

SAY "What happened when these colors met?"

NOTICE Notice the child's choices, movement, experiments, revisions, and sensory preferences. Ask before interpreting the artwork.

QUICK SETUP Cover the table and put small amounts of paint in shallow trays. Offer a dry crayon option and a place to wash hands.

EXTEND OR REVISIT After the paintings dry, revisit them together. Ask what the child would like to call the work, if anything.

ONE-LINE DOCUMENTATION Child's words or action:

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# THURSDAY Culture Trail

TODAY'S INVITATION Invite families to share a photo or description of a colorful textile, artwork, garden, building, or celebration meaningful to them. Look together and notice colors and patterns. Children may arrange paper scraps into their own designs.

SAY “What do you notice about these colors or patterns?”

NOTICE Listen for personal connections, respectful curiosity, and different ways children create a pattern.

QUICK SETUP Use authentic family contributions when available; otherwise choose familiar community images. Provide large colored paper pieces and glue sticks.

EXTEND OR REVISIT Display the children's designs with their words. Invite families to add stories if they wish; avoid assigning any color to a whole culture

ONE-LINE DOCUMENTATION Child's words or action:

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# FRIDAY Wonder Workshop

TODAY'S INVITATION Build a color laboratory with transparent colored tissue or safe color sheets, a window, paper, and blocks. Children overlap colors, move them into light, or make a backdrop for Crooksie's next adventure.

SAY "What would you like to try next?"

NOTICE Observe predictions, surprise, problem solving, storytelling, and how children change their setup.

QUICK SETUP Tape safe transparent materials to a low window or light surface. Offer blocks, paper, and crayons for children who prefer building or drawing.

EXTEND OR REVISIT Invite each child to share one discovery or question from the week. Photograph the setup or jot down their words for next week.

ONE-LINE DOCUMENTATION Child's words or action:

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# Notice, reflect, carry forward

Use these prompts to capture the learning you saw without turning play into a test.

1 A color, shade, or pattern a child noticed...

2 A question a child asked or investigated...

3 A surprising art or building choice...

4 A child who found a new way to participate...

5 Something worth offering again next week...

The richest evidence is often a child's strategy, story, or caring response.