Sample Short-term Curriculum Plan

This is a sample template to help you create short-term plans for children’s learning and development based on their interests and upcoming celebrations and events. This planning involves observing, listening, talking to and playing with children and organising interesting and fun activities and experiences with them. Below is an example of how a pre-school practitioner used the template.

What interests the children? What do they want to do and find out? How can we help them?
What seasonal events and celebrations do we need to plan for? What will we do?
(Prompts: Observe the children play. Listen and talk to them. Talk to parents. Find information in books, websites and through visits. Make things. Add new props.)

Shopping
Noticed children were playing ‘shopping’ so started a discussion about on-line shopping. Decided to shop on-line for playgroup supplies.
- Make a list of what we need using drawings, etc.
- Shop on-line for groceries.
- Organise delivery.
- Check delivery against order and liaise with the delivery driver.
- Encourage children to show their parents how to shop on-line.

Halloween is coming
Had discussion about what happens at Halloween. Decided to organise a Halloween party and invite our mams and dads to join us.
- Make masks, hats, capes.
- Read stories about Halloween/being scared.
- Play with new words from the stories.
- Find out why Halloween is celebrated.
- Organise a party – create invite list; design invitations; order/make food; make decorations; plan games; finalise costumes.

What resources can we use? How will we support the children’s language development?
(Prompts: materials, visitors, interaction strategies, ‘special’ words linked to the interest/event/celebration)

Shopping
- Laptop, pens and paper for lists and drawings, credit card
- Baskets and packages for deliveries
- Clipboard/portable unit for signing on delivery
- Story books about shopping
- Shopping related words like credit card, delivery van, heavy, light, groceries.

Halloween
- Paper, cardboard, pens, fabric, large needles and thread, sewing machine (if available), stapler, elastic, food, fruit
- Words for dress-up characters such as cackle, witch, pumpkin, spooky
- Story books about Halloween

How will we find out what the children have learned? How will we document and share this?
(Prompt: See Aistear’s theme posters. Think about photos, learning records and stories, drawings and writings, discussions, portfolios, journals, meetings with parents.)

- Take photographs and add short captions.
- Make learning stories with the children. Display and share with parents.
- Encourage conversations between children and parents about what we’re doing.
- Link with Aistear: Shopping – Exploring and Thinking, aim 1, learning goal 2; Halloween – Communicating, aim 3, learning goal 3.

Group: Pre-school room
Date: 18/4/2013

This resource was developed through the Aistear in Action initiative.