

History Calendars Activity – Birthday Walk

Materials:

- Birthday child!
- Months of the year Tray
- Small candle in votive glass holder (or yellow ball on top of votive glass holder)

Teacher keep lighter in her pocket with safety on at all times.

Presentation:

1. During circle time, say to the children, “Today, we are going to celebrate (name of child) birthday by **walking around the Sun!**”
2. The teacher should invite the birthday child to take the picture of the sun and place it in the center of the circle.
3. The teacher should invite the birthday child to help place the **Months of the Year Cards** around the picture of the sun (as you have shown the children how to do before this presentation).
4. Now the teacher should say, “These are the names of the months in one year. There are 12 months in one year and it takes one year for our planet Earth to circle the Sun.”
5. The teacher should now say, “If you would like to say the names of the months for one year please start with me now....(The teacher should point directly underneath each month in turn starting with January) January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.”
6. Invite the birthday child to stand next to the month in which they were born.
7. The teacher should light the votive candle.
8. The teacher should then say to the children, “(Name of child) was born on (give month, day and year of birth). This card reads (name of month). When (name of child) was born she could not walk or talk. What did you do when you were first born (name of child)?”
9. After the child has answered alone or with your help, say, “(Name of child) is growing up and since there are 12 months of a year, she will walk around all the months for the first year of her life.”

10. After the child has walked around the sun one time have her stop at her birthday month again and say, “(Name of child) is now 1 year old! (Name of child) what did you do when you were 1 year old?”
11. Have the child continue to walk around the sun one time for each year they have lived.
12. When the child has completed the times “around” the sun and is standing by her birthday month, invite the children to join you in singing “Happy Birthday.”
13. Invite the child to blow out the candle.
14. The teacher should invite the birthday child to pick up the cards starting with January, February, March, etc., and put them on the tray.
15. The teacher should invite the birthday child to pick up the picture of the sun and put it on the tray.
16. The teacher should invite the child to put the **Months of the Year** tray back on the shelf where it belongs.
17. The teacher should put the small candle and votive glass holder on the shelf where it belongs.
18. Invite the children to take turns working with the **Months of the Year** tray.

Variations and Extensions:

1. Invite parents to bring up to 8 pictures of the child to share (the teacher will place an appropriate picture next to the birthday month each time the child completes circling the sun.

Points of Interest:

1. The times you get to go around the sun depends on how many years you have lived.
2. Every child has a birthday every year and will have a turn at walking around the sun.

Control of Error:

1. The teacher has explained the activity in a way that the children understand it. This is an abstract idea and the very young children will be able to “do” the activity but will not understand it until they are a little older.

Aims:

The birthday walk around the sun helps a child to experience **History** for themselves as the study about how people, places and things in our world

Age:

2 ½ and up

Language:

History, months, names of the months, birthday, etc.