

# Exploring Light

Play-based learning is a developmentally appropriate best-practice for young children. Through **Exploring Light**, students learn about the different types of light. From defining light to exploring its various sources, this guide shares an array of ways that children can have fun learning about different types of light while enhancing their literacy skills. Follow these suggestions to create light-themed centers in your early childhood classroom.

## RIF CAMPGROUND DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Dramatic play inspires imagination, develops speaking and listening skills, fosters social skills such as sharing and turn taking, and supports children to acquire new vocabulary. A dramatic play center should include a theme, props, and adult guidance to enhance language development. Also include environmental print such as signs, labels, and authentic writing opportunities.



### SUGGESTED PROPS

- Flashlights
- Light discovery kit
- Camping tent
- Campfire
- S'mores kit



### RIF PRINTABLES

- "Welcome to RIF Campground" banner
- How to make a S'mores
- Scavenger Hunt
- 5 Senses Nature Walk

**ADULT GUIDANCE:** Use these suggested leveled questions and narrations to support children's play.

- **Level 1:** "Where is the tent? Point to it"
- **Level 2:** "Is it daytime or nighttime?"
- **Level 3:** "What did you see on your nature walk?"
- **Level 4:** "Explain how you make the flashlight work"
- "You are roasting a marshmallow and following how to make a s'mores guide. It looks delicious!"
- "Great teamwork building that tent- it's standing tall and ready for sleeping under the stars."

## WRITING CENTER

Young children benefit from exposure to different styles and purposes for writing. At your writing center include different types of paper and writing materials, a sound-spelling chart, and vocabulary cards. Help children see that writing has different purposes by providing examples of different types of writing such as friendly letters, storybooks, party invitations, and more.

### RIF PRINTABLES

- Light border sheet (with and without lines)
- Flashlight alphabet tracing
- Stargazing journal



Keeping a stargazing journal is a great way to observe and record daily patterns in the sky! Start a weekly Stargazing Journal. As a class, discuss the different components you can include in your journal entries (time of observation, weather conditions, sightings, etc.). Encourage children to illustrate in their journal. Have students practice writing in their journal using RIF's Sound-Spelling Chart and Picture Vocabulary Cards.

## NURSERY RHYME CENTER

Singing nursery rhymes help children develop phonological awareness which is important for developing phonics. Set up a center for children to sing their favorite nursery rhymes. Include the nursery rhyme, hand-made or printed displays, and puppets or props related to the nursery rhyme.

### RIF PRINTABLES

- “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” nursery rhyme
- “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” puppets

