



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**PROJECT  
CORNERSTONE**  
A YMCA of Silicon Valley Initiative

# Project Cornerstone

## Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten Year Two Overview

### Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten • Foundation

Project Cornerstone's ABC Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten program utilizes a series of books for TK/K students. The activities developed in partnership with these books help students develop social and emotional learning skills. Classroom discussions and activities will enable students to learn and internalize the following tools and skills.

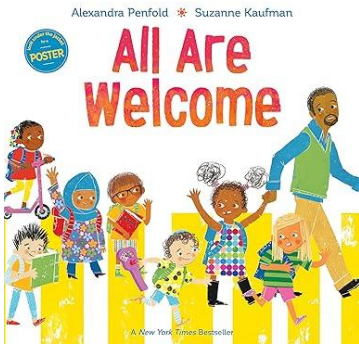
### September

#### ***All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold***

*This lesson teaches children that everyone belongs and is valued in the school community, regardless of their background, appearance, or abilities. It promotes acceptance and belonging by showing diverse children learning, playing, and celebrating together.*

#### **Tools**

- Understanding that everyone belongs.
- Appreciating diversity.
- Practicing ways to welcome and include others.



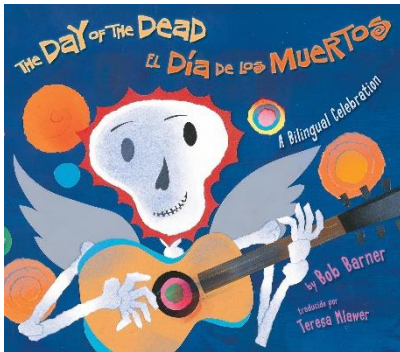
### October

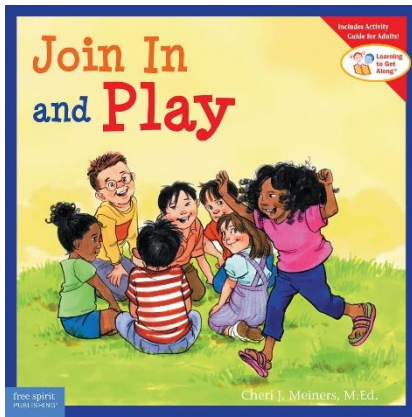
#### ***The Day of the Dead by Bob Barner***

*This lesson introduces the Day of the Dead as a joyful, colorful, and family-centered holiday that honors and remembers loved ones who have passed away. It emphasizes that it's a celebration, not a sad occasion, highlighting traditions like altars, marigolds, and sugar skulls.*

#### **Tools**

- Learning about the cultural significance of the Day of the Dead.
- Understanding different ways to remember and celebrate loved ones.
- Appreciating cultural differences in traditions.





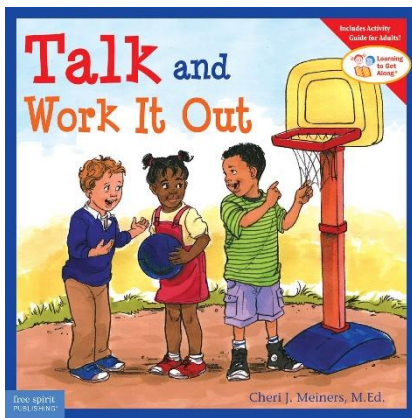
## November

### **Join in and Play by Cheri J. Meiners**

*This lesson focuses on teaching children how to be a friend, make a friend, and play together. It covers essential social skills like getting along, being a good sport, cooperating, and inviting others to join in group activities.*

#### Tools

- Strategies for inviting others to play.
- Importance of cooperation, sharing, and taking turns.
- Developing positive peer relationships through inclusive play.



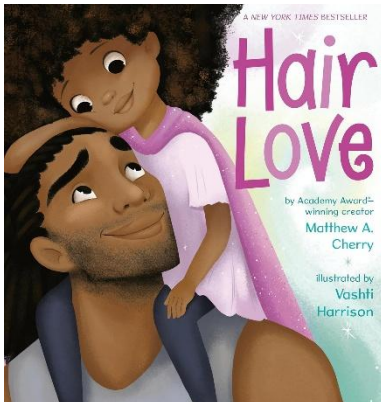
## January

### **Talk and Work it Out by Cheri J. Meiners**

*This lesson teaches children specific tools and steps for peaceful conflict resolution. It focuses on verbalizing problems, actively listening, brainstorming solutions, and choosing the best plan, while emphasizing respect for others' feelings and perspectives.*

#### Tools

- Step-by-step process for resolving conflicts peacefully.
- Identifying and expressing their own feelings and recognizing feelings in others.
- Practicing active listening and empathetic understanding.



## February

### **Hair Love by Matthew Cherry**

*This lesson uses the story of Zuri and her dad styling her hair to celebrate self-love, acceptance, and the beauty of natural hair. It highlights the loving bond between father and daughter and affirms individual differences, promoting the idea that uniqueness is a superpower..*

#### Tools

- Celebrating their own uniqueness and individual appearance.
- Appreciating diverse hairstyles and personal expressions.
- Understanding the value of self-love and perseverance.

## March

**Quinito's Neighborhood by Ina Cumpiano** This lesson introduces children to a vibrant community through Quinito, who knows and values all the people and their contributions in his neighborhood. It highlights diverse community helpers and their important jobs, emphasizing interconnectedness and how everyone contributes to making a place special.

### Tools

- Learning about different people and jobs within a community.
- Understanding the importance of neighbors and how they help each other.
- Appreciating the diverse roles and contributions that make a neighborhood special.

## April

### **Be Polite and Kind by Cheri J. Meiners**

This lesson emphasizes the significance of good manners, courtesy, respect, and kindness in daily interactions. It guides children to understand that these behaviors make everyone feel comfortable, valued, and happy, fostering positive relationships and a harmonious environment.

### Tools

- Understanding the importance of politeness and kindness.
- Learning and practicing "magic words" (please, thank you, excuse me).
- Recognizing how polite and kind actions affect others.

## May

### Review

This is an opportunity to review all you and your students have learned and shared together this year. Show the cover of each book and discuss what was learned.

### Tools

- All Are Welcome: Tell me one way you can make someone feel welcome in our classroom.
- The Day of the Dead: Name one way families celebrate or remember loved ones during the Day of the Dead.
- Join in and Play: What is one polite thing you can say to invite someone to play?
- Talk and Work it Out: What is the first thing you should do when you have a problem with a friend?
- Hair Love: Tell me one thing you love about yourself or your hair.
- Quinito's Neighborhood: Name one person in our community who helps others.
- Be Polite and Kind: What is one "magic word" you can use to be polite and kind?

