

Independence Day Activities

Infants (Birth–12 months)

1) Red, White & Blue Sensory Basket

Materials: soft fabric squares, ribbon, textured balls, baby-safe mirror, board books with colors

How: Babies explore items on a blanket with close supervision.

Teacher talk: “Red, white, and blue! Soft and safe.”

2) Star Light Play

Materials: star cutouts, flashlight, light projector (optional)

How: Gently move stars on the wall for babies to follow with their eyes.

Teacher talk: “Look—stars! Up...down...slow.”

3) Handprint Flag Art

Materials: washable paint, cardstock, wipes

How: Make one handprint; add star stickers (teacher).

Teacher talk: “Your handprint is special!”

Young Toddlers (12–24 months)

4) Sticker Stars Collage

Materials: large paper, star stickers, crayons

How: Children place stickers anywhere (process art).

Teacher talk: “You’re making stars, great job!”



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5) Mini Parade: Wave & March

Materials: streamers or ribbon wands, music

How: March in a short circle, wave, stop/go, practice listening.

Teacher talk: “We walk together. We stop together.”

6) Red/White/Blue Sort

Materials: colored pom-poms or blocks, 3 bowls (supervise small items)

How: Sort by color (or use larger items for safety).

Teacher talk: “This one is red. This one is blue.”

Toddlers (2–3 years)

7) Fireworks Painting

Materials: paper, paint, toilet paper tubes (cut fringe), sponges

How: Dip and stamp “fireworks” bursts—no loud noises needed.

Teacher talk: “Pop, pop—on paper!”

8) “Community Helpers” Dress-Up

Materials: vests, hats, toy tools, pretend mail, doctor kit

How: Set up a center: “People who help our community.”

Teacher talk: “Helpers keep us safe and cared for.”

9) Picnic Blanket Story Time

Materials: blanket, books about families/community, pretend picnic food

How: Sit together and read; practice sharing and turn-taking.

Teacher talk: “We can celebrate by spending time together.”



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Preschool (3–5 years)

10) Classroom “Declaration”

Materials: chart paper, markers

Prompt: “In our classroom, everyone has the right to...”

Ideas: “be safe,” “be kind,” “learn,” “play,” “be included.”

Teacher talk: “We make rules that are fair for everyone.”

11) STEM: Build a Parade Float

Materials: blocks, recycled boxes, tape, paper, stickers

How: Build a float for a stuffed animal; add decorations.

Teacher talk: “Let’s plan, build, and work as a team.”

12) Safe Sparkler Alternative: Ribbon Wands

Materials: dowels/pencils + ribbons (or store-bought wands)

How: Make patterns in the air: circles, zigzags, waves.

Teacher talk: “We can celebrate safely.”

Whole-Group & Family Engagement

13) Star-Spangled Kindness Chain

Materials: paper strips, star cutouts

How: Each child adds a “kind act” link: “I can help clean up.”

Display: “Our class shines with kindness!”



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14) Family “Celebrations Look Different” Board

Invite families to share (optional): “How does your family spend July 4?”

Keep it inclusive and respectful of all backgrounds.

15) Safety Mini-Lesson

Talk about: staying with a grown-up, water safety, ear protection, fire safety

Teacher talk: “Celebrations are fun when we are safe.”



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