

# BLUE SKY WHITE STARS

SARVINDER  
NABERHAUS

*Illustrated by*  
KADIR NELSON



## In honor of Memorial Day

We remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the armed forces.

# Blue Sky, White Stars

"An inspiring and patriotic tribute to the beauty of the American flag, a symbol of America's history, landscape, and people, illustrated by New York Times bestselling and Caldecott-honor winning artist Kadir Nelson

Wonderfully spare, deceptively simple verses pair with richly evocative paintings to celebrate the iconic imagery of our nation, beginning with the American flag. Each spread, sumptuously illustrated by award-winning artist Kadir Nelson, depicts a stirring tableau, from the view of the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island to civil rights marchers shoulder to shoulder, to a spacecraft at Cape Canaveral blasting off. This book is an ode to America then and now, from sea to shining sea."

Tips for  
Caregivers

More  
About the  
Author

Florida  
Standards



Resource from [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLyAulxJ\\_Wk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLyAulxJ_Wk)



## How to best use this platform

These daily activities are a basic framework of ideas.

Follow your child's lead and feel free to use as many or as few of the content areas throughout the day or week.

Base your selections on your child's interest and abilities, and most of all, have fun!





# Sarvinder Naberhaus

Sarvinder Naberhaus is the author of Boom Boom and the forthcoming Lines. She was born in India and grew up in the heartland of America. She lives in Iowa with her family.



Resource from <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/252473/sarvinder-naberhaus>



# Preschool Language and Literacy Standards

## **A. Listening and Understanding**

1. Demonstrates understanding when listening
2. Increases knowledge through listening
3. Follows directions

## **B. Speaking**

1. Speaks and is understood when speaking

## **C. Vocabulary**

1. Shows an understanding of words and their meanings (receptive)
2. Uses increased vocabulary to describe objects, actions, and events (expressive)



Adapted from the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards <http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/>



## Patriotic Play-dough

Make your own play-dough!

Let your child measure all the following ingredients with a measuring cup and spoons. Let him combine all the dry ingredients and slowly add the water and oil. Let him knead it with his hands until it is soft and smooth.

- 2 cups of flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 1 cup of warm water (possibly a 1/2 cup more)
- 2 tablespoon of baby oil (or cooking oil)
- 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar
- Red and blue food coloring

Have him separate the play-dough in 3 separate balls. Add blue and red food coloring to make red, white and blue play-dough ready for some weekly activities. Store in air-tight containers.





## Memorial Day

Memorial Day, do you know what it stands for?  
It is for the many brave soldiers who went off to war.  
Men and Women who wore different uniforms,  
But fought for the same reason, to keep us from harm.

Army, Navy, Marine, Air force, Coast Guard too.  
Carried the flag of red, white, and blue.  
We are grateful for them, each and every one.  
We salute you and thank you for a job well done!

Original poem by Patricia Hickman from the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties, Inc



## Word of the Day

In reading the story for this week, “Blue Skies, White Stars” choose a word that is repeated throughout the story and tell your child that the word of the day is \_\_\_\_\_.

When you come to the word of the day, pause and give your child the opportunity to say the word.





## Memorial Day Pom Pom Run and Sort

Materials Needed: Blue, white, and red pom poms, buckets or baskets for sorting, blue, white, and red construction paper for marking the baskets for sorting, and tape.

Mark each of the three baskets or buckets with the construction paper on the bottom of the basket using the tape.

One person spreads the different color pom poms all around the outdoor space. Players line up, side by side and on the count of three they run to pick up the pom poms and put them in the matching designated bucket or basket. All the pom poms must be picked up from the outdoor space and sorted.

The first player finished wins!

Adapted from <https://www.dayswithgrey.com/blog/2017/4/27/pom-pom-sort-and-dash>





# Paper Plate Emotion Masks

Getting your kids to talk about their feelings is not always easy. One way to encourage talking is through play.

These emotion masks can be elaborate with colors, or as simple as black and white. The goal of this activity is not to have award winning artwork, instead it's to play with and open up a dialogue about feelings with your kids.

Materials needed:

- Paper plates: cut plates in half
- Popsicle sticks (or tongue depressors)
- Crayons or markers, scissors, and tape

Tape the Popsicle stick to the mask to use as a handle. Draw one emotion per plate using 4 emotions: happy, sad, angry, and silly. Act out the emotions.

Talk about what are your eyes doing and how they look for each emotion. What would make you feel that way? Have fun and enjoy!

Adapted from <https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2011/05/paper-plate-emotion-masks.html>





# Memorial Day

(Tune: On Top of Ole Smokey)

Memorial Day, last Monday of May

A time to remember the soldiers so brave,  
who laid down their lives that we may be free  
They paid a great price for our liberty.

Adapted from <https://childcarelounge.com/pages/memorial-day-theme-for-preschool>



## Creating 3D Shapes and Structures

Materials needed:

- Child's scissors
- Straws (preferably paper)
- Homemade Play-dough

Make small play-dough balls of different colors. Use balls as connectors between straws. Experiment with different shapes and structures. Discuss with your child how shapes can be combined and separated to make new shapes.

Encourage your child to make a star, a rectangle, a square. Introduce new shapes such as pyramids and cubes. Let your child cut straws to adjust lengths.

Adapted from <https://in.pinterest.com/pin/58406126386983442/>





## Expressive and Receptive Language

The American flag is made up of red, white and blue colors. Explain to your child that red and blue are primary colors, and secondary colors are green, orange and purple (those made by mixing primary colors).

Expressive language is the use of words, sentences, gestures and writing to convey meaning and messages to others.

Discuss primary and secondary colors with your child while examining the flag colors. Encourage your child to use expressive language by naming the primary and secondary colors.

Receptive language is the ability to understand information. After your discussion, evaluate if your child knows the names of the primary colors? Does your child know the names of the secondary colors?



## Memorial Day Tag

### Rules:

Choose one player to be "it". Let all other players select a red, white, or blue ribbon to hold while they run around. When "it" tags a player, the player hands over their ribbon. When "it" has collected a ribbon in every color they win and another player is designated to be it!

Materials Needed: Small pieces of blue, white and red ribbon



# Hopes and Dreams

Hope and dream are terms that are used to discuss our expectations and desires for the future. Dream can be a cherished ambition or desire, or an idea created in your imagination. Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a thing to happen.

People try to fulfill their dreams; however, they don't usually make a physical effort to make a hope come true. This is the main difference between hope and dream. By setting goals for ourselves, we create hopes and dreams.

Help your child brainstorm some goals and write those on pieces of paper. Do the same regarding your goals for your child as a parent. It is important not to censor their dreams, even if you disagree. See example left.



Build conversations around the puzzle pieces pointing out how your goals are can fit together, showing them that you are both working together for success.

You can relate this lesson to the book by pointing out all the hopes and dreams people had to make a better life for themselves and our country.

Adapted from <https://thekindergartensmorgasboard.com/2014/09/hopes-and-dreams.html>



## Thank You Soldiers - Memorial Day Song

This song, sung by children, says  
“Thank You” to the men and women  
who serve in the military.

On Memorial Day we give special  
thanks for each branch of service  
for their sacrifice.



Video location <https://youtu.be/5pfBUUZNbFM>



# Patterns

Patterns are all around us. Practice recognizing patterns around the house and activities. Patterns exist in many forms, tiles on the floor, clocks ticking, dance movements, clapping. Children learn best by manipulating concrete materials. Color is the most visual attribute children can relate to. Patterning similar materials (Duplos, blocks, unifix cubes) that vary only by color are a great first choice.

## **Patterning activity**

Homemade blue, red and white play dough (see Monday's math activity for the recipe)  
Have your child roll out balls of each color of play dough and start patterning with him.

For example: Line up the balls and name the colors, "Blue, red, white...blue, red, white...blue..." Pause and then ask, "What do you think comes next?"

Have your child practice creating his own patterns, then ask him to explain how his patterns work.





## Visual Syllables

Place a basket of at least five Duplo blocks (or any other stacking blocks) in front of your child. Tell your child that you are going to play a game called Counting Syllables.

Using the video book, "Blue Skies, White Stars" pause the video and point at the pictures.

Choose one of the words and say it slowly, pausing slightly at each syllable. Count the syllables in that word. Let your child connect the correct number of blocks for that word, using one block per syllable.

Have your child say the word, touching one block for each syllable.

Adapted from <https://thisreadingmama.com/counting-syllables-lego-bricks/>



flag



glo-ry



li-ber-ty



# Soda Explosion

The kids will enjoy this Memorial Day with some outdoor science FUN!

Materials Needed: Eye protection is recommended, a two-liter bottle of diet coke, 2 rolls of mentos mints, one piece of construction paper, and tape.

Steps to create the science experiment:

Set the Diet Coke on a flat surface and remove the lid.

Roll the paper into a tube around a pack of Mentos mints, secure it with tape and pull it off the roll of mints.

Have an adult hold their finger over one end of the paper tube and have the child fill it up with half of the package of Mentos mints, and stand back.

The adult holds the tube of mints over the mouth of the bottle. Start a count down and when you shout “one,” quickly dump the mints into the bottle and quickly stand back.

Watch the CREATED EXPLOSION!



Adapted from <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/diy-soda-explosion.html>



## Young Children and Resiliency

Children may not always be able to express their anxieties and fears. Although you may think they are too young to understand what is happening, even very young children can absorb frightening events from the news or from conversations they overhear.

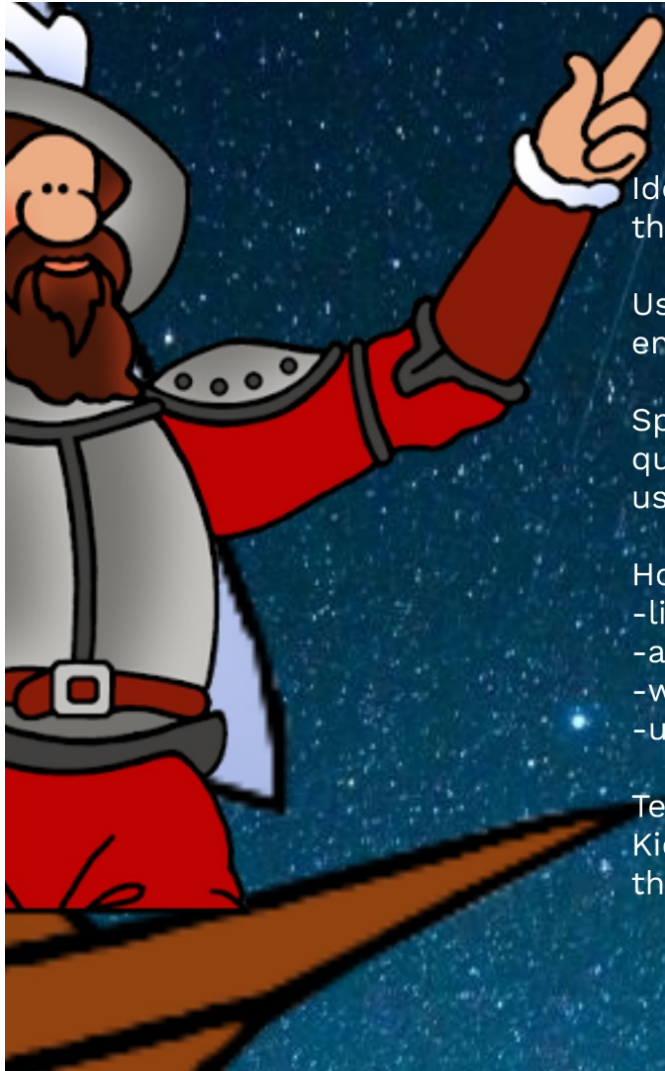
Watch your children for signs of fear and anxiety they may not be able to put into words. Have your children become extra clingy, needing more hugs and kisses than usual? Have your children started wetting the bed or sucking their thumb after you thought they had outgrown that behavior? They may be feeling the pressure of what is going on in the world around them. Use play to help your children express their fears and encourage them to use art or pretend games to express what they may not be able to put into words.

Use your family like a security blanket for your children: wrap them up in family closeness and make sure your children have lots of family time. During times of stress and change, spend more time with your children playing games, reading to them or just holding them close.

Young children especially crave routine and rituals. If bedtime is the time you read stories to your children, make sure you keep that time for stories. Your child may be less able to handle change when he or she is going through a particularly rough time.

Resource <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/resilience>





## Feelings and Play-dough Faces

Identifying and labeling feelings (your own and others') is a valuable life skill that takes lots of practice.

Using the play-dough you made on Monday, found in our math activities, engage your little ones to create a face using different feelings.

Spark conversations by using parts of the story to answer the following questions. Once they have answered, allow them time to create a feeling face using the play-dough to show the feeling they described.

How would you feel if you were\_\_\_\_\_?

- living in a covered wagon for months?
- able to ride in a rocket or Space Shuttle?
- watching the fireworks in the night sky?
- unable to play with your friend because they were a different color?

Teaching your child about his emotions will help him become mentally strong. Kids who understand their emotions and have the coping skills to deal with them will be confident that they can handle whatever life throws their way.

Adapted from <https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-to-teach-kids-about-feelings-1095012>





## Alphabet Exploration

Go on an alphabet hunt: Decide what letter of the alphabet that you wish to teach this week. Example: Ss.

After reading the book go back and count how many S's did you see. Name the photo that began with Ss (stars, stripes, etc.)



Sing this song with your child while waving a flag, or pretending to wave a flag.



## Did You Ever Wave a Flag?

*Sung to Did you Ever See a Lassie?*

Did you ever wave a flag?  
A flag, a flag?  
Did you ever wave a flag  
Up in the sky?  
Wave this way and that way,  
And this way and that way.  
Did you ever wave a flag  
Up in the sky?

Resource from <https://www.preschooleducation.com/sfourth.shtml>



## Vanilla Parfait with Blueberries and Strawberries

Ingredients and materials needed:  
Vanilla yogurt  
Blueberries  
Strawberries  
Measuring spoons  
Dice



- 1 Put fruits in a colander and have child rinse.
- 2 Let him scoop 2 tablespoons of vanilla yogurt and put in a clear tall glass.
- 3 Let him roll dice and have him tell you the number.
- 4 Let him count that many pieces of fruit and put on top of yogurt.

Repeat steps 1 thru 4 until glass is filled.  
Decorate with granola and mint leaves.

Adapted from <https://www.blog.birdsparty.com/2017/06/red-white-blue-recipe-summer-berry-parfait-no-bake.html>



# Tic Tac Toe

Make a jumbo version of tic-tac-toe, using a burlap square and ten bean bags. Use two different colors of bean bags or mark five with an “x” and five with an “O”. To make the game more festive, outline the game board with red or blue duct tape.

## Rules:

Two players stand two feet away from the tic-tac-toe board. Give each player five of the same colored bean bags or separate them by the “X’s” and “O’s”. Take turns tossing the bean bags, one at a time. The first person to get three bean bags in a row wins that round.

## Materials needed:

Burlap material, Bean Bags, red and blue duct tape



## Baseball Throwing

Include America's favorite pastime in your Memorial celebration. The person who can throw a baseball the farthest wins. Have an adult mark the distance each time with an object.

Materials Needed: Baseball, pinecone or rock to mark the distance.





# My Flag - A Patriotic Song

My Flag

My flag is red.

My flag is white.

And in the corner it is blue.

My flag stands for my country.

I love red, white, and blue!

Fifty white stars

On a field of blue-

A star for each state it is true.

My flag stands for my country.

I love red, white, and blue!

From North to South

And East to West

We pledge to the flag each day.

Our flag stands for our country.

We all love red, white, and blue!

We are all Americans.

And so we always say I CAN!

We try and do our best

Because we are Americans!

**March in place**

**March with arms in the air making  
sparkles by opening and closing your fists**

**March pointing in front, behind,  
to the right and then the left**

**Hand over heart**

**March alternating fists in the air**



Video location <https://youtu.be/R2PgpbfIt7g>



The background of the slide features a close-up of the American flag's red and white stripes waving, set against a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. The flag is positioned in the upper left, with its stripes flowing across the top of the frame.

## Fun Facts About the American Flag

You can discuss with your child that there are 50 stars and 13 stripes on the American flag.

Explain that red, white and blue were chosen as the colors to represent valor (red), liberty and purity (white), and justice and loyalty (blue).

Count the red stripes and the white ones. Discuss more and less.

Write 6 and 7 on construction paper and have your child make play-dough numbers shapes to cover them .

Count the stars and have your child make as many play-dough balls as the stars.





## Literacy Connections

Try out these books to keep your learning experience going:

**Pledge of Allegiance** by Scholastic Inc, is a recitation of the National Pledge using beautiful photographs.

**Color** by Ruth Heller - a book that deals with the concept of color and what happens when colors are combined.

**Little Blue and Little Yellow** by Leo Lionni - when little dots of blue and yellow hug, they become green, making it impossible for their parents to recognize them.

**Mouse Paint** by Ellen Stoll Walsh is a book where three white mice climb into jars of paint and make new colors as they step into each other's puddles.

**White Rabbits Color Book** by Alan Baker is a story of how white rabbit makes discoveries about new colors as he climbs in and out of paint cans.



## Friendship Lesson

Teaching kindness is an important part of creating a safe culture for our kids to grow and learn in. If we take a moment and refer to our story, you can see there are many key moments, which defines us as Americans, that involved some level of kindness. Here are a few behind-the-scenes from the book, "Blue Sky, White Stars", that allows us to take a moment and think how kindness was used during these times.

Adapted from <https://sarvinder.wixsite.com/blue-sky-white-stars>

WHITE ROWS of wagon trains moved people westward on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trail. Some trains were up to 200 wagons long, with nearly 2,000 cattle and 10,000 sheep. This dangerous trek usually took a family 4-6 months to travel.

"ALL AMERICAN" means things that are iconic symbols of everyday American life. These symbols include baseball, apple pie, hot dogs, and our flag. It also means we are all Americans, all entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—freedoms guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence, and guarded by our veterans.

WOVEN TOGETHER implies the internal struggle for equality of races which marched on into the next century. Different races came together to support the Civil Rights Movement and the March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. Our nation was woven with *people* of different colors, just as our flag was woven with *threads* of different colors.



## References

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