

Farmschool at Lolly & Pop's

Monthly Curriculum

Preschool (Ages 3–5) • August through May

Aligned to the Missouri Early Learning Standards (MELS)

Curriculum Summary

This document consolidates the full year of Farmschool's monthly curriculum. Each month is organized around a seasonal theme and structured by the Missouri Early Learning Standards (MELS) domains — Approaches to Learning; Social-Emotional Development; Language & Literacy; Math and Science; Physical Development; and Expressive Arts — with Special Events noted where they apply. Activities are farm-based and hands-on, following the natural rhythm of the seasons from fall orientation through spring graduation. The table below shows each month's theme and how it is structured; the full monthly plans follow.

Month	Theme	Structure & Focus
August – September	Welcome to Farmschool	Orientation month. Establishes routines, rules, and animal care; introduces free play, egg handling, and an apple-themed science unit. Includes Grandparents Day.
October	Changing Seasons	Harvest and seasonal change. Teamwork in chores, farm idioms in literacy, and a broad science unit on harvesting and observing the changing environment. Includes Trunk or Treat.
November	Gratitude and Sense of Community	Gratitude and community. Donation collection, thankfulness discussions, name writing, and preparation for cold weather.
December	Come See What's Happening in the Barn	Faith and performance. Centered on the Christmas Show, the birth of Christ, winter animal care, and cold-weather science. Includes the Annual Christmas Show.
January	Strength and Endurance	Winter resilience. Shelter building, letter shapes through movement, and an extensive winter-science unit including seed starting for spring.
February	Wind and Water – Love and Friendship	Emotions and the senses. Animal expressions, the human body and five senses, weather science, and a Presidents' unit. Includes the Valentine's Day exchange.
March	Mud and Manners – Signs of Spring	Manners and early spring. A focused social-emotional unit on table manners and courteous language, paired with hatching and baby-animal science.
April	Growth and Life Cycles	Growth and life cycles. Easter and resurrection themes, spring planting, and life-cycle observation (tadpoles, seeds, new babies).
May	Independence and Celebration	Culmination and readiness. Graduation preparation, kindergarten-readiness literacy, baseball skills, and year-end celebration. Includes Graduation and the class time capsule.

August – September

Theme – “*Welcome to Farmschool*”

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Learning to “Take the Leap” and beginning free play
- b. Exploring the farm
- c. Dirt and dandelions
 - i. Making dandelion play dough
 - ii. Making mud and playing in the mud kitchen
 - iii. Gathering pine needles for mud kitchen
- d. Learning to take care of the animals

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Learning the Farmschool Routine
 - i. Learning where boots and gloves go
 - ii. How to put our boots and gloves on and off
 - iii. Playing with friends
 - iv. Meeting the animals
- b. Learning Farmschool Rules
 - i. Raising your hand when you want to speak
 - ii. Running to the sound of the teacher's whistle
 - iii. How to handle the eggs
 - iv. Safety rules
 - v. Cleanliness rules

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Reciting the daily prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Responding when your name is called
- c. Learning the Farmschool Song

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. How to count and sort the eggs
- b. Apple orientation – All things apples
 - i. Apple sauce volcanoes
 - ii. Apple sauce paint
 - iii. Apple monster mouths
 - iv. Apple tasting

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. How to not break the eggs
- b. Learning to climb ladders
- c. Learning how to climb into the trailer
- d. Introduction to obstacle courses

6. MEL – Expressive Arts

- a. Music
- b. Acorn collecting and painting

7. Special Events

- a. Grandparents Day

October

Theme – “*Changing Seasons*”

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Pure joy and freedom with independent free range play on farm
- b. Teamwork during Daily Chores
- c. Chicken wrangling teamwork

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Courtesy to others during lining up and trailer rides
- b. Excuse me and move over please
- c. Keeping clean water for the animals
- d. Bedding for animals during cold nights

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Amelia Bedelia stories
- b. Introduction to farm idioms and the difference of literal and figurative speech
- c. Daily story time in the warm sunshine room

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Math
- b. Science
 - i. Harvesting apples, grapes, pumpkins and seeds
 - ii. Observing and describing our changing environment during our routine rides
 - iii. Observing trees, sky, air temperature and surroundings
 - iv. Identifying insects, caterpillars and cicadas
 - v. Storing hay for animals for the winter
 - vi. Harvest of our vegetables and flowers
 - vii. Jars for seeds, fruits and veggies
 - viii. Difference between hay and straw
 - ix. Differentiating insect bites and snake bites

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Being accustomed to loud sounds
- b. Being in close quarters
- c. Coordination of getting in and out of trailer and helping our friends
- d. More experienced animal feeding with larger animals – horse, donkey and pig
- e. The “run and dump” method

6. MEL – Expressive Arts

- a. Music
- b. Art

7. Special Events

- a. Trunk or Treat
- b. Mom helpers come in and volunteer to do a class

November

Theme – “*Gratitude and Sense of Community*”

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Hunting for hidden pumpkins
- b. Building obstacle courses
- c. Playing with leaves and leaf piles

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Collecting donations of pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks and leaves for the animals
- b. Learning that nothing goes to waste on the farm

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Learning the Mittens Song
- b. Discussing what we are thankful for
- c. Introduction to writing your name

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Preparing for cold weather
 - i. Trading rain boots for winter boots
 - ii. Trading gloves for mittens
 - iii. Keeping mittens dry
 - iv. Wearing snow pants every day
 - v. Gathering leaves for animal bedding
- b. Learning about pumpkin seeds
- c. Making home made cinnamon play dough
- d. Learning about the changing of the leaves
- e. Learning about the Pilgrims and Native Americans
- f. Gathering twigs and logs for outdoor fires

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Moving donated items to the animal yard
- b. Introduction to the lasso
- c. Hay bale obstacle courses

December

Theme – *“Come See What's Happening in the Barn”*

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Speaking in front of others during Christmas Play
- b. Understanding the role of practice in delivering a good performance
- c. Playing with snow
- d. Making snowmen

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Learning patience during play practice
- b. Growing faith through learning about the birth of Jesus Christ
- c. Providing warm bedding for the animals
- d. Saying goodbye to friends before Christmas break

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Learning Silent Night in sign language
- b. Memorization of Luke 2:10
- c. Reading Christmas stories

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Taking care of animals in the cold weather
- b. Keeping clothing free of water and snow in cold weather
- c. Learning about ice and snow
- d. Walks/rides to observe winter animal behavior (squirrels, geese, birds, foxes)
- e. Propagating Christmas Trees
- f. Learning about winter solstice

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Doing chores in the cold weather
- b. Cold weather play and walks
- c. Fun with sleds

6. MEL – Expressive Arts

- a. Daily Christmas Show play practice
- b. Singing Christmas show songs
- c. Making ornaments

7. Special Events

- a. Annual Christmas Show “Come See What's Happening in the Barn”

January

Theme – “*Strength and Endurance*”

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Making shelters from sticks and limbs
- b. Using donated Christmas trees to make evergreen forest play areas
- c. Pretend hunting

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Empathy for the animals during cold weather

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Learning the shapes of letters through physical movement
- b. Practice drawing lines, curves, crosses and circles
- c. Tracing letters in the air with sticks
- d. Marching while making letters

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Learning about shorter days
- b. Learning about animal hibernation
- c. Counting geese flying over
- d. Observing bare trees and likeness to our lungs
- e. Observing our breath in the cold air
- f. Making frozen bubbles with ice, baking soda and salt
- g. Learning what clothing works best in the cold
- h. Learning why chickens slow egg production
- i. Starting seeds for spring lettuce, spinach, cabbage, broccoli and lavender
- j. Using milk jugs as green houses
- k. Christmas tree propagation using sand, honey and flour

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Learning how to get warm if you are cold through movement
- b. Pulling wagons in the snow

February

Theme – *“Wind and Water – Love and Friendship”*

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Playing with shadows
- b. Learning how to stay out of the wind
- c. Playing with ice / ice chunk games
- d. Playing in areas with wind blocks
- e. Show and Tell – “The Floor is Yours...”

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Working hard to ensure the animals have water and food
- b. Providing extra food/treats to keep animals warm

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Feelings Stories
 - i. The Berenstain Bears
 - ii. Frog and Toad
 - iii. Amelia Bedelia
- b. Transitioning from using our body to make letters to drawing large letters on the large chalkboard
- c. Singing the Mittens Song

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Learning about animal expressions
 - i. Compassion – gorillas
 - ii. Loyalty – geese, killer whales
 - iii. Grief – elephants
 - iv. Parental Devotion – eagles
- b. The Human Body
 - i. The role of neurons with feeling hot and cold
 - ii. Listening to heart beats in bunnies
 - iii. Learning about pupils
 - iv. Learning about the 5 senses
- c. Learning about colors and senses (red hot, blue cold, etc.)
- d. Learning about the cold north wind
- e. Learning about shade (cold) and sun (warm)
- f. How ice forms and objects stick together
- g. Why chickens start laying again
- h. Preparing for the birth of baby animals
- i. Learning about the Presidents Washington, Lincoln and Reagan
- j. Learning about Ground Hog Day

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Walking on ice
- b. Holding crayons and pencils

6. MEL – Expressive Arts

- a. President's Day reenactments

7. Special Events

- a. Valentine's Day exchange

March

Theme – “*Mud and Manners – Signs of Spring*”

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Fun with mud

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Learning manners and self control
 - i. How to hold our silverware
 - ii. How to pass food
 - iii. How to set a table
 - iv. How to make our bed
 - v. How to place our napkin on our lap
 - vi. How to clean up
 - vii. How to do the dishes
 - viii. How to dry the dishes
 - ix. How to put the dishes away

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Using courteous language
 - i. Please and Thank you
 - ii. Ordering food
 - iii. Asking to be excused

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Baking soda and vinegar rockets
- b. Learning about broody hens
- c. Marking eggs to keep for hatching
- d. Raising chicks
- e. Raising/feeding baby goats
- f. Learning about milking the goats
- g. Observing longer days and the start of spring
- h. Observing the growth of Kindness Garden

April

Theme – “*Growth and Life Cycles*”

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Dying Easter Eggs
- b. Playing in puddles
- c. Feeling accomplished that we made it through winter

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Showing respect for others by not splashing them with mud or water

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Writing letters and names with crayons and pencils
- b. Learning about the resurrection of Christ – the empty egg
- c. The symbolism of the egg and the bunny

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Observe weather changes from winter to spring
- b. Planting spring gardens
- c. Learning about the needs of different seed types
- d. Learning about protecting new plants from early spring frost
- e. Transplanting propagated trees into pots, observing roots
- f. Observing tadpoles and catching frogs
- g. Making home made dyes with plants
- h. Observing mom animals taking care of new babies
- i. Learning to collect milk

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Learning baseball skills
- b. Finding and picking snow peas

6. MEL – Expressive Arts

- a. Learning Star Spangled Banner
- b. Learning Take Me Out to the Ball Game
- c. Coloring Easter pictures and making Easter crafts

May

Theme – *“Independence and Celebration”*

1. MEL – Approaches to Learning

- a. Making batting tees for batting practice
- b. Persistence and practice in hitting and fielding

2. MEL – Social-Emotional Development

- a. Building pride in what we have accomplished throughout the year
- b. Graduates receiving worn boots upon graduation as a symbol of what they have accomplished
- c. Understanding that older friends who are graduating will be leaving and being happy for them

3. MEL – Language & Literacy

- a. Learning the rules of baseball
- b. Signing names in yearbooks
- c. Preparing for graduation ceremony in front of parents and loved ones
- d. Reading the book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”
- e. Writing the alphabet
- f. Intro to sight words

4. MEL – Math and Science

- a. Observing the weather changes and grass turning green
- b. Observing the growth of our new babies

5. MEL – Physical Development

- a. Learning baseball skills
 - i. Throwing
 - ii. Hitting alfalfa cubes into the goat yard
 - iii. Sliding
 - iv. Catching

6. MEL – Expressive Arts

- a. Practicing graduation songs, dances and ceremony

7. Special Events

- a. Graduation and year end baseball game
- b. Burying of class time capsule