

TREASURE CHESTS & TALL TALES

Guiding little explorers

through seas of wonder



Petals & Play Thursday

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Ahoy, Gro Families & Friends,

This week, Petals & Play Thursday is setting sail for **Talk Like a Pirate Day!** With treasure maps, tall tales, and playful pretend, children will explore their world with imagination and confidence.

Behind every pirate hat and treasure map is a child learning to cooperate, imagine, and create. These activities build social-emotional growth, strengthen language, support coordination, and spark curiosity. By pretending and storytelling, children uncover treasures far greater than gold: confidence, connection, and a love of learning.



Each activity — from designing maps to balancing on a “plank” — helps your little pirate chart their own course through joyful, WMELS-aligned play.

At Home Idea: Pirate Treasure Hunt

Hide toys, paper coins, or snacks around the house. Give simple rhyming clues like **“Look under the chair if you dare!”** to blend problem-solving and imagination while sharing the excitement of hidden treasures.

At The Gro Academy, we believe every child deserves to feel like an explorer. Thank you for joining us on this voyage — we can’t wait to see what treasures your little ones discover this week!



Sparking big adventures and little ‘Arrrs!’

with bright horizons,
the gro  academy
team



TREASURE CHESTS & TALL TALES

Little pirates, mighty imaginations!

Ahoy, mateys! 🏴‍☠️ This Petals & Play Thursday, we're setting sail for Talk Like a Pirate Day! With treasure maps, tall tales, and playful pretend, children will dive into imagination and discovery. Each activity sparks creativity, teamwork, and exploration while supporting WMEELS domains. From crafting treasure chests to marching in a pirate parade, little learners will practice problem-solving, language, and cooperation as they chart their own course through play. 🌊✨

TREASURE MAP MAKERS

Materials:

- Paper
- Crayons/markers
- Stickers
- "X" cutouts

Instructions:

Children draw their own treasure maps, adding paths, landmarks, and of course an "X"! Hide small items around the room and let children follow their maps to find them.

Targets WMEELS Domains:

- Cognition & General Knowledge (mapping, sequencing)
- Language Development (storytelling, symbols)
- Physical Development (movement, spatial awareness)

TREASURE CHEST COLLAGE

Materials:

- Small boxes/paper cutouts
- Tissue paper
- Stickers
- Glue
- Craft gems

Instructions:

Children decorate treasure chests and fill them with "treasures" — drawings of things they love, positive words, or small found objects.

Targets WMEELS Domains:

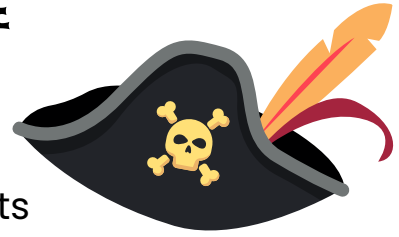
- Creative Arts (collage, crafting)
- Social Emotional (expressing values, sharing ideas)
- Language Development (labeling treasures, vocabulary)



PIRATE HAT PARADE

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Tape/staplers
- Stickers
- "X" cutouts



Instructions:

Children make pirate hats and decorate them with their own pirate symbols. Then, march around the room together chanting "Ahoy!" and "Arrr!" like true pirates.

Targets WMELS Domains:

- Creative Arts (designing hats, self-expression)
- Physical Development (movement, marching)
- Social Emotional (group participation, confidence)



Materials:

- None (optional: treasure chest with "story starters" inside)

Instructions:

Begin a pirate adventure story as a group, then pass it along with each child adding their own piece. The story grows taller and sillier as it goes around the circle.

Targets WMELS Domains:

- Language Development (vocabulary, sequencing, storytelling)
- Social Emotional (turn-taking, listening)
- Cognition (creativity, problem-solving)

WALK THE PLANK

Materials:

- Tape/balance beam
- Beanbags/gold coins
- Craft gems

Instructions:

Tape a "plank" on the floor and challenge children to balance as they walk across. Add treasure (beanbags or coins) for them to carry safely to the other side.

Targets WMEELS Domains:

- Physical Development (balance, coordination)
- Cognition (planning, problem-solving)
- Social Emotional (confidence, persistence)

