**EYFS Lesson Plan: Counting Aircraft at the Airport**

**Learning Standards:**

* **EYFS**: Mathematics - Numbers
  + Counting reliably with numbers from 1 to 20
  + Recognising numbers
  + Understanding the concept of quantities and comparing different sets

**Objectives:**

* Demonstrate a strong sense of counting
* Develop skills in recognising and comparing quantities
* Understand that the count remains the same regardless of the order or arrangement
* Introduce basic concepts of aviation and related careers

**Materials Needed:**

* "My First Counting Book" by Cindy Entin
* Template of aircraft pictures (rocket, helicopter, airplane, hot air balloon, and jet)
* Card stock paper
* Velcro

**Part 1: Read-Aloud**

1. **Introduction to the Story**
   * Begin the lesson by reading "My First Counting Book" by Cindy Entin.
   * Engage the children by asking questions about the story as you read, focusing on the numbers and counting elements.

**Part 2: Discussion**

1. **Counting Discussion**
   * Ask the children what kinds of things they like to count.
   * Explain that counting is fun and important.
   * Tell them that they are going to look at pictures of aircraft and count how many there are to ensure the airport runway does not get too crowded.
   * Emphasize that they are learning math and how it helps in real-life situations.

**Part 3: Activity**

**Preparation:**

* Print and cut out pictures of different aircraft (rocket, helicopter, airplane, hot air balloon, and jet) on card stock paper.
* Attach Velcro to the back of each picture.
* Set up an area with Velcro on a wall or easel where the pictures can be easily attached and removed.

**Steps:**

1. **Introduce the Aircraft Pictures**
   * Place five aircraft pictures on the wall or easel using Velcro.
   * Talk about each aircraft, saying “the first one, the second one, etc.”
2. **Counting Practice**
   * Ask the children how many aircraft they see.
3. **Interactive Counting**
   * Remove and replace different numbers of aircraft, each time asking the children, “Now how many do you see?”
   * Encourage the children to count out loud together.
4. **Subitising Practice**
   * Present small quantities of items (1-4) in an irregular pattern and ask the children to identify the number of items without counting.

**Part 4: Aviation Careers Introduction**

1. **Discuss Different Aircraft and Their Uses**
   * Briefly explain the different types of aircraft and their uses, such as passenger planes for travel, helicopters for rescue missions, rockets for space exploration, and hot air balloons for leisure.
2. **Introduce Jobs in Aviation that use Counting**
   * **Pilots**:
     + Explain that pilots are trained to fly different types of aircraft, from small planes to large commercial jets.
     + They need to know how to count passengers and fuel and use maths to navigate and ensure safe flights.
     + Highlight how exciting it is to travel around the world and see different places from the sky.
   * **Aerospace Engineers**:
     + Describe how these engineers design and build aircraft, ensuring they are safe and efficient.
     + They use maths and science to solve problems and improve technology.
     + Mention that some aerospace engineers work on designing rockets and spacecraft, making it possible to explore space.
   * **Air Traffic Controllers**:
     + Explain that air traffic controllers help keep planes safe by directing their movements in the sky and on the ground.
     + They need to count and keep track of many aircraft at once, ensuring they don't get too close to each other.
     + Discuss how they use special equipment and technology to monitor and guide planes.
3. **Engage with Questions**
   * Ask the children if they know anyone who works with aeroplanes or if they have ever been on a plane.
   * Encourage them to think about what job they might like in the aviation field.

**Part 5: Summary**

1. **Review and Reflect**
   * Recap what the children have learned about counting.
   * Discuss how counting helps keep the airport safe by ensuring it doesn’t get too crowded.
   * Emphasise the importance of knowing how to count and how it can be used in everyday life.
   * Reinforce the connection between counting and exciting careers in aviation.

**Extension Activities:**

* **Creative Counting**: Ask children to draw their own aircraft and count them.
* **Role Play**: Set up a mini airport with toy planes and ask children to manage the airport by counting the number of planes taking off and landing.
* **Math Games**: Introduce simple counting games that reinforce the concepts learned during the lesson.

**Assessment:**

* Observe children during the activities to assess their counting skills and understanding of quantities.
* Ask individual children to count the aircraft independently to ensure they can apply the skill on their own.

This lesson plan integrates counting and early numeracy skills with a fun and engaging activity centred around aircraft, making it both educational and enjoyable for young learners while also introducing them to the world of aviation careers.

A helicopter flying over trees

Description automatically generatedA hot air balloon in the sky

Description automatically generated

A plane on the runway

Description automatically generatedA rocket launching with smoke and clouds

Description automatically generatedA jet flying in the sky

Description automatically generated