



My Big Dreams

Early Elementary Lesson Plan

Aspirations:

Aspirations are the hopes and dreams you have for the future. They are about who you want to be and what you might want to do when you grow up! When you work hard to reach your dreams, you feel excited and happy because you are moving closer to achieving your goals. Working toward your aspirations helps you feel proud and gives you a purpose!

Objectives:

- Students will explore their short-term aspirations.
- Students will learn that goals can be big or small, and they can work toward them step by step.
- Students will create a Big Dream Cloud to visualize their short-term aspirations.

Materials:

Stuffed/paper/imaginary magic star, book for story time (suggestions provided), chart paper or whiteboard, markers, crayons and/or colored pencils, My Big Dream Cloud handout (provided), stickers (optional), My Dream for Today worksheet (provided).

Activity Steps:

- Start by asking your students:
 - ♦ What is something you are excited to learn or do sometime soon?
 - ♦ Do you have a dream for this week? This month? This year? (You may need to clarify that this lesson is referring to dreams for your future, not the kind of dreams you have while sleeping ☺).
 - ♦ Some dreams take a long time to come true, but some can happen really soon! Can you think of something you dream about doing today or this week?
- Pass the Star:
 - ♦ Pass around a stuffed star, paper star, or even an imaginary magic star.
 - ♦ Whoever holds the star says one thing they dream about doing soon (e.g. I want to learn to ride my bike or I want to read a whole book).

- Have an “I Can Do It!” story time: The following are a few suggestions, but feel free to use any book in your collection related to working toward achieving one’s dreams:
 - ♦ *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds (about trying new things even if they aren’t perfect)
 - ♦ *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper (about perseverance)
 - ♦ *Giraffes Can’t Dance* by Giles Andreae (about believing in yourself)
- Discuss:
 - ♦ How did the characters in the story work toward their dream?
 - ♦ Did they give up or did they keep trying? What actions did they take to keep trying?
 - ♦ What is one dream you can work on today?
- My Big Dream Cloud activity: Have students decorate a dream cloud with their short-term aspirations.
 - ♦ Provide each student with a copy of My Big Dream Cloud.
 - ♦ Have students draw or write their short-term dreams inside the cloud. You may need to explain that short-term means sometime soon, versus long-term dreams that will take more time to achieve (e.g. I want to learn how to jump rope or I want to make a new friend).
 - ♦ Let students decorate their cloud (adding stickers is optional).
 - ♦ Have students share their Dream Cloud with the class!

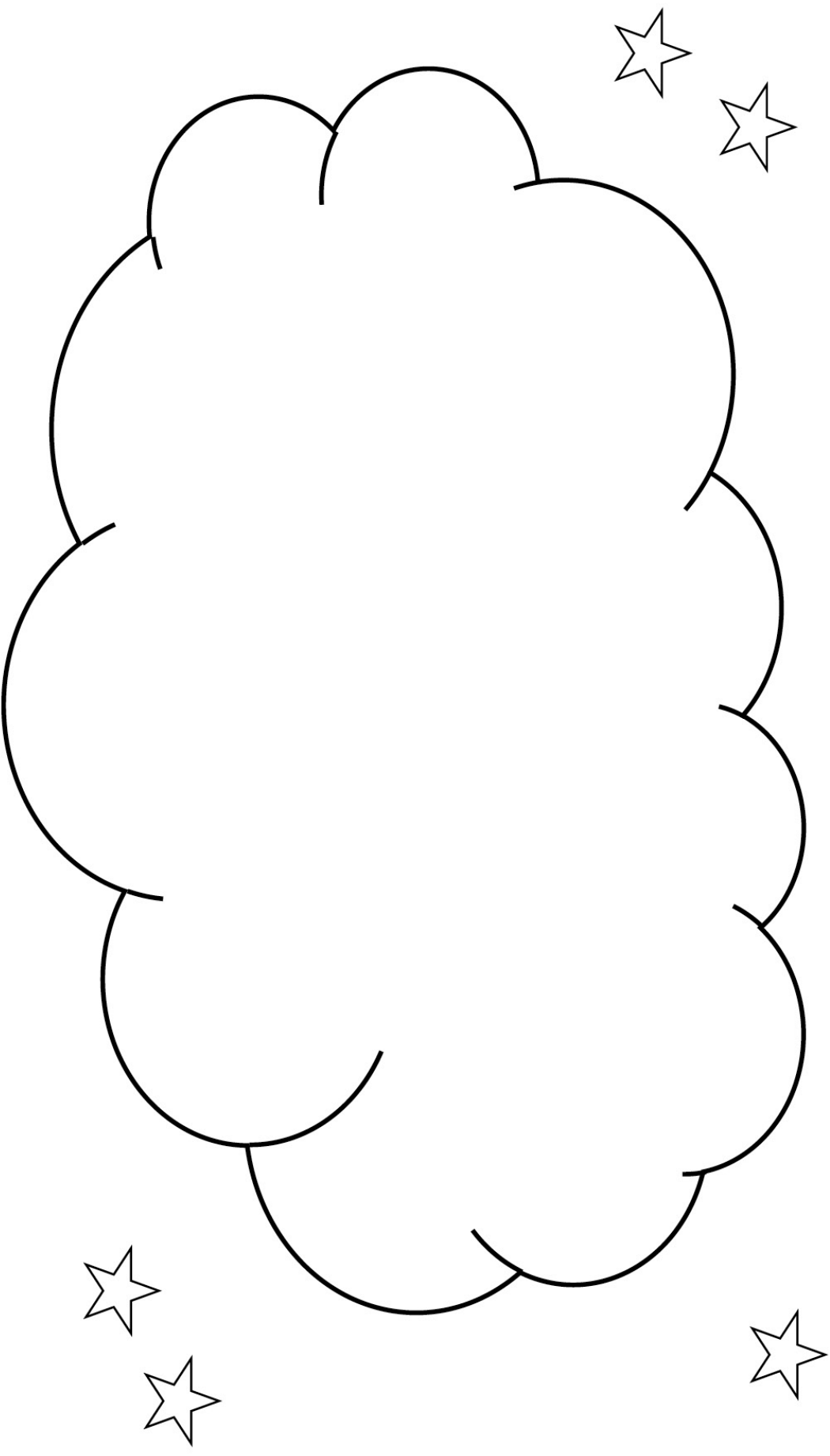
Group Discussion:

- In groups of two or three, have students discuss the following questions. Remind them that each student should be given the opportunity to share.
 - ♦ What dream did you put in your cloud? Why did you pick that dream?
 - ♦ What is one thing you can do today to get closer to reaching your dream?
- Affirmation Time! Have students say together:
 - ♦ I can do anything I set my mind to!
 - ♦ I will work hard to reach my dreams!
 - ♦ I believe in myself!

Extended Learning:

- Future Me Drawing – Have students draw a picture of themselves achieving their short-term dreams.
- Dream Wall – Create a classroom Dream Wall where students can add their short-term dreams and check them off when achieved!
- Guest Speaker – Invite an older student to talk about their aspirations and how they have achieved various goals (such as learning to swim or participating in a spelling bee).
- My Dream for Today – Using the worksheet provided, have students write about a dream they would like to work toward achieving today or during the week.

My Big Dream Cloud



Name: _____



My Dream for Today

Name _____

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dotted midline. There are eight sets of these lines for writing practice.