



BCDI
Black Child
Development Institute
ATLANTA

NATIONAL BLACK CHILD DEVELOPMENT WEEK

AFROFUTURISM: THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE US

JUNE 9-13, 2025

AGES 3-8



ACTIVITY GUIDE

FOR PARENTS & EARLY EDUCATORS

bcdiatlanta.org



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National Black Child Development Week 2025 Activity Guide

*This activity guide celebrates National Black Child Development Week 2025 with the powerful theme "Afrofuturism: The Future Looks Like Us." Through this lens, we affirm that Black children are not just part of the future—they **ARE** the future, carrying forward ancestral wisdom while pioneering new possibilities.*

Our activities are designed around the BCDI-Atlanta core themes:

- 1) **Healthy Birth and Developmental Milestones**
- 2) **Early Learning Experiences**
- 3) **Nutritious and Inclusive Meals**
- 4) **Affirming Self-Identity**
- 5) **Joyful Childhood Experiences**
- 6) **Supportive Communities**

Each activity reinforces the message: "The Future Looks Like Us"—celebrating Black children as innovators, leaders, healers, creators, and visionaries who will shape tomorrow's world.

Focus Area 1: Healthy Birth and Developmental Milestones

1 Afro-naut Training Academy (3-5 years)

- **Materials:** Balance beam or tape line on floor, hula hoops (3-4), soft balls or bean bags, large cardboard boxes, pictures of Mae Jemison and Guion Bluford and other Black astronauts, "Afro-naut badges" (stickers or paper badges).
- **Instructions:** Set up stations with a balance beam for "spacewalks," hula hoops on the ground for "planetary rings" to jump through, and boxes as "spacecraft" tunnels to crawl through. Show children pictures of Black astronauts and explain they are training to be "Afro-nauts," then guide children through each station while encouraging them and celebrating their efforts. Award "Afro-naut badges" for participation and effort, and have children demonstrate their favorite station move.
- **Discussion:** Look at these amazing Black astronauts who traveled to space! You're training just like they did. What do you think it feels like to float in space? How are you getting stronger for your future adventures? The future looks like us - strong, brave, and ready to explore!

2 Mind-Body Future Preparation (6-8 years)

- **Materials:** Yoga mats or towels, calming music, pictures of peaceful African landscapes, simple breathing exercise cards, journals for reflection.
- **Instructions:** Teach breathing techniques inspired by African meditation traditions and guide children through visualization exercises that focus on achieving their goals. Then, practice mindfulness activities that connect to nature and community, while introducing simple yoga poses with African animal names. End with journaling or drawing about how they felt and connect mental wellness to future leadership and academic success.
- **Discussion:** Great leaders take care of their minds and bodies! How did the breathing exercises make you feel? What did you see when you imagined your future? Taking care of ourselves helps us take care of others. The future looks like us - calm, focused, and ready to lead!

Focus Area 2: Early Learning Experiences

1 Future City Architects (3-5 years)

Materials: Wooden blocks in various shapes, recycled materials (toilet paper rolls, boxes, bottle caps), construction paper, markers and crayons, pictures of futuristic cities and African architecture, large cardboard base for building.

Instructions: Show images of both traditional African architecture and futuristic city concepts, then challenge children to design a "Future Wakanda" city that helps communities thrive by including schools, hospitals, gardens, parks, and "space ports." Have children work in small groups of 2-3. Let each group present their city, explaining its special features. Then, create a gallery walk where children can admire each other's work.

Discussion: What makes a city great for families and children? How did you make sure everyone in your future city has what they need? Look at all these brilliant architects! You're designing spaces where the future looks like us - creative, caring, and innovative.

2 Future Engineer Design Challenge (6-8 years)

Materials: Engineering design materials (cardboard, tape, string, wheels, etc.), real community problems to solve (printed scenarios), pictures of Black engineers and inventors, notebooks for planning, measuring tools, testing materials.

Instructions: Present real community challenges like safer crosswalks or better playground equipment while showing examples of Black engineers who solved similar problems, then guide children through the engineering design process of ask, imagine, plan, create, test, and improve with children working in teams to prototype solutions. Test prototypes and make improvements, then present final solutions to community members.

Discussion: Black engineers like Mary Jackson and George Washington Carver solved important problems! What was the hardest part of your engineering challenge? How did working as a team help you? You're already thinking like engineers and inventors. The future looks like us - problem-solvers and builders!

Focus Area 3: Nutritious and Inclusive Meals

1 Future Farmers Market (3-5 years)

Materials: Play food representing African diaspora cuisines, small baskets or bags, price tags and play money, tablecloths for market stalls, pictures of foods from different African countries and diaspora communities, aprons for "vendors."

Instructions: Set up market stalls with different cultural foods and assign children roles as vendors and shoppers. Vendors learn 2-3 facts about their foods to share with shoppers, while shoppers "buy" ingredients to make healthy meals for their future families. Rotate roles so everyone experiences both perspectives, then end with a group discussion about favorite discoveries.

Discussion: Food connects us to our heritage and fuels our future! What healthy foods will help you grow strong? How do these foods from our ancestors around the world make us powerful? When you're older, what foods will you cook for your family? The future looks like us - nourished and strong!

2 Future Food Scientists (6-8 years)

Materials: Traditional foods for experiments (various fruits, vegetables), pH strips, magnifying glasses, measuring cups, notebooks for observations, pictures of Black food scientists and nutritionists.

Instructions: Conduct simple experiments with traditional foods by testing the pH of different fruits, observing textures and colors under magnifying glasses, and measuring nutritional content while connecting to food science careers and agricultural innovation. Create healthy recipe modifications of traditional dishes and document findings in science notebooks, then share discoveries with the group.

Discussion: Food science helps us understand how to eat healthy and help our communities! What surprised you most about these experiments? How might food scientists help solve hunger in the future? The future looks like us - curious, scientific, and caring about nutrition!

Focus Area 4: Affirming Self-Identity

1 Future Leader Portrait Studio (3-5 years)

Materials: Costume props (lab coats, stethoscopes, hard hats, paintbrushes, microphones, etc.), a backdrop with a space or futuristic theme, a camera or tablet for photos, career picture cards featuring Black professionals, and poster board for gallery display.

Instructions: Show children pictures of Black professionals in various careers and set up a photo booth with career props, allowing each child to choose props representing their future career interests while taking individual photos of them as "Future President," "Future Doctor," etc. Ask each child to share why they chose their career, then create a gallery wall titled "The Future Looks Like Us."

Discussion: Look at all these amazing careers! What excites you most about your future job? How will you help people in your community? You can be anything you dream of becoming. The future looks like us - leading, healing, creating, and inspiring!

2 Future Biography Project (6-8 years)

Materials: Research materials about Black historical figures, biography templates, art supplies for illustrations, computers or tablets for digital presentations, photos of children for "future chapters."

Instructions: Have children research a Black historical figure and write their own "future biography," imagining their life at ages 25, 40, and 60, while including the obstacles they might overcome and the contributions they'll make. Create illustrated books or digital presentations incorporating their research and future planning, then share biographies in a "Future Leaders Gallery Walk."

Discussion: History is full of people who looked like us and achieved amazing things! What obstacles did your historical figure overcome? What obstacles might you face, and how will you overcome them? What legacy do you want to leave? The future looks like us - resilient, accomplished, and making a difference!

Focus Area 5: Joyful Childhood Experiences

1 Invention Convention (3-5 years)

Materials: Recyclable materials (boxes, tubes, bottle caps, etc.), tape, glue sticks, child-safe scissors, markers and labels, chart paper for invention descriptions, "patent certificates" to award, pictures of Black inventors.

Instructions: Present children with community problems to solve (keeping playgrounds clean, helping elderly neighbors) and show pictures of Black inventors and their creations, then give children time to design solutions using recyclable materials and help them build prototypes of their inventions. Set up an "Invention Convention" where children present their inventions to community members and award "patent certificates" celebrating their creativity.

Discussion: Black inventors have always solved problems and made life better! What problem did your invention solve? How will it help your community? You are already inventors and problem-solvers. The future looks like us - creative, helpful, and always innovating!

2 Afrofuturistic Art Gallery (6-8 years)

Materials: Art supplies (paints, pastels, collage materials), examples of traditional African art techniques, futuristic art examples, gallery display materials, artist statement templates, and cameras for documentation.

Instructions: Create artwork combining traditional African art techniques with futuristic themes by exploring patterns, colors, and symbols from African cultures while imagining how they might appear in future worlds. Organize a gallery opening for families and community members, with children serving as docents to explain their artistic choices and the connections between their heritage and future vision.

Discussion: Art is how we express our dreams and share our vision of the future! What African art techniques inspired your work? How did you imagine these traditions in the future? What story does your art tell about who we are and who we're becoming? The future looks like us - artistic, visionary, and proud of our heritage!

Focus Area 6: Supportive Communities

1 Community Dream Board (3-5 years)

Materials: Large poster board or banner paper, magazines with diverse images, child-safe scissors and glue sticks, markers and crayons, photos of the local community, decorative materials.

Instructions: Take a neighborhood walk to observe the community and discuss what children love about their neighborhood and what they'd like to improve. Then, create a collaborative vision board showing the community's positive future, with children contributing drawings, magazine images, and ideas. Include both realistic improvements and creative dreams, then display prominently in the community space.

Discussion: What makes our community special? What would make it even better for all families? How can you help make these dreams come true as you grow up? The future looks like us - caring about our community and working together!

2 Future Community Solutions Team (6-8 years)

Materials: Community problem identification worksheets, research materials about local issues, solution planning templates, presentation boards, and contact information for community leaders.

Instructions: Identify a real community issue through observation and research, then develop actionable solutions while creating presentations with specific steps and timelines for implementation. Present proposals to community leaders or elected officials and create child-appropriate action steps that participants can actually take to address the identified problem.

Discussion: Real leaders don't just talk about problems - they work to solve them! What community issue matters most to you? How can young people make a real difference? What will you continue doing to help your community after this week? The future looks like us - engaged, solution-focused, and committed to justice!

Conclusion

"Afrofuturism: The Future Looks Like Us" is more than a theme—it's a declaration of possibility, potential, and power. Through these activities, children don't just learn about the future; they begin to actively create it. They see themselves not as recipients of tomorrow but as its architects.

Every activity reinforces the central truth: Black children are not just part of the future—they ARE the future. They carry forward the brilliance of their ancestors while pioneering new possibilities for their communities and the world.

The future looks like us. And it's beautiful.

[Click here for the survey!](#)

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