1. Choose a topic that will incorporate multiple content areas (language arts, science, social studies, math, music, art).
2. Include students in choosing the theme.
3. Plan whole group, small group, and individual learning engagements incorporating the content areas.
4. Decide how to assess each of the content areas.
5. Implement the theme unit.
6. Adjust plans according to student generated interests.

Possibilities for theme units:
- Whole school themes
- Whole class theme unit
- Whole class theme divided into smaller interest groups
- Narrow theme topics such as owls, the weather, or cooking
- Broad theme topics such as friendship, courage, or healing
- Themes that arise from students’ inquiry questions