

## Preschool Themes Newsletter – April 2016

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a Happy Easter and enjoyed a few yummy chocolate eggs. My apologies that this newsletter is a bit late but I prefer to send out the newsletter when its term time. I hope you enjoy the ideas and activities in this bumper newsletter.

Please note that if you are experiencing any difficulties with ordering books, delivery of your books, the web site or the newsletters please communicate with me directly so the problems can be addressed promptly. From time to time gremlins do creep into the system and unless I am made aware of them I cannot attend to them. [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz)



### Follow up on our experiment to grow acorns

In the previous newsletter (archived newsletters can be found on [www.preschoolthemes.co.za](http://www.preschoolthemes.co.za)) I showed you how we planted acorns in a variety of products to see which one would grow and to the excitement of the children the acorn in the soil grew an oak tree.



### Art activities

#### Paper chain people



I cut paper chain people for the children. I made boy and girl people by making a skirt for the girls. I have included the template at the end of the newsletter for the unisex template. Fold the paper in half lengthwise and then in half again. Sorry the photo is not very clear.

The children drew the faces on the people and then some continued to draw while others painted their people. I prefer wax crayons as the paint makes the paper soggy.



#### Notes:

- Pre-cut the shapes ahead of time. Older children can try and cut out their own paper chain people but it's a bit tricky trying to be sure they don't cut on the wrong areas and end up with individual people instead of a chain.
- The paper gets fragile when the children paint the people so I put the people onto another piece of paper for them to dry. The people will also be effective if they are collaged.



#### Girls with skirts



## Hairdryer painting



For this activity I glued old pieces of wax crayon to some firm cardboard. Once dry, the children used a hair dryer to 'melt' the wax crayon and cause the melted wax to splash across the page. The children loved the end result.

Please note this activity needs close teacher supervision and is best done with a few hairdryers.



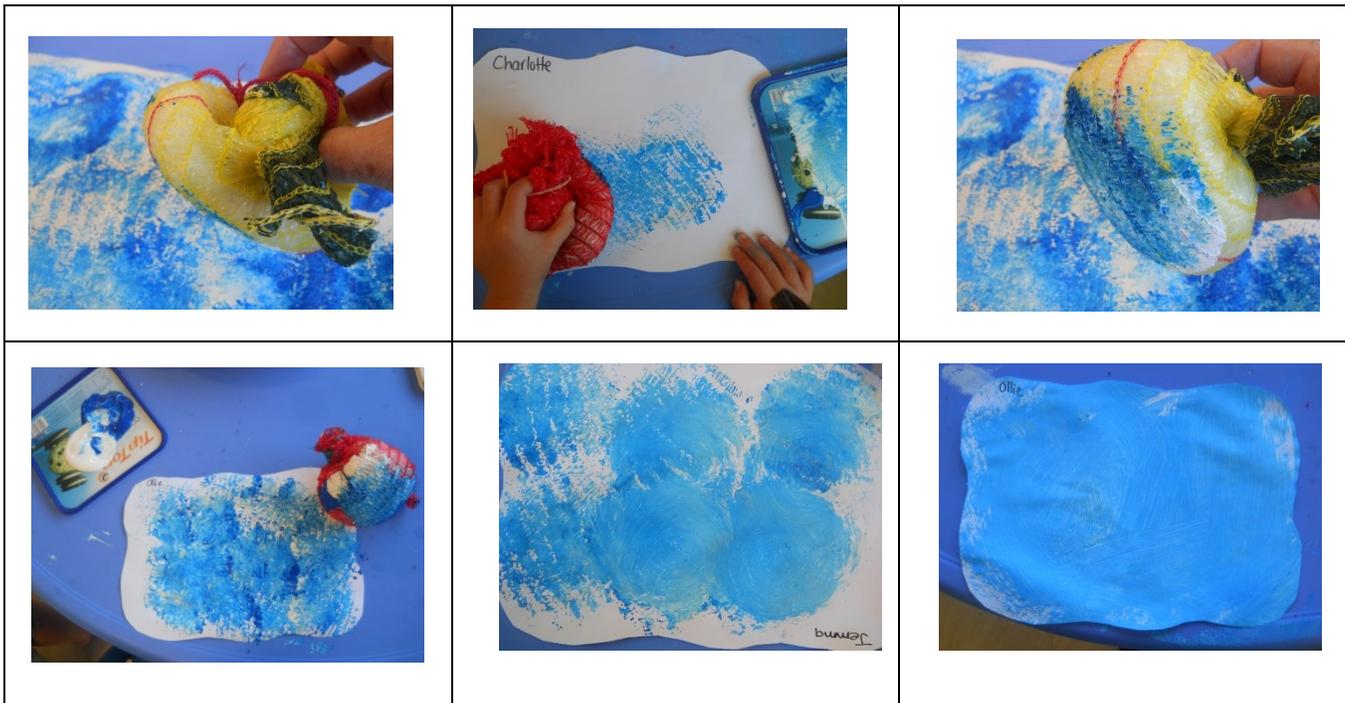
## Collaged fish and a printed background.

This activity is best done over two days, but it can be done on the same day. We printed the sea/water background using orange and vegetable mesh bag stuffed with plastic packets and tied with string. Once we had a blue background, the children created fish from coloured paper using the pre-cut shapes provided.



### Printing the background

To make the printing balls I filled small orange and or vegetable mesh bags with plastic packets squashed into a ball. I tied the mesh tightly into a ball. I put out white and blue paint on an ice cream lid. The children dipped the orange bag balls into the paint and pressed down on the paper, repeating the printing until the paper was covered and the paint used up. Encourage the children to cover the whole page and to print instead of painting. Lots of children smeared the paint with the printing ball which was okay but did not give the same effect you get when they printed. Younger children often paint instead of printing. To add interest I cut the paper into a pond shape.



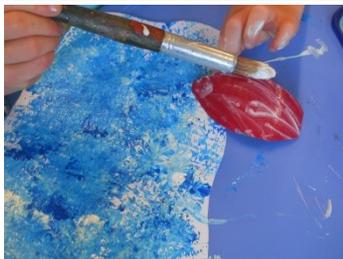
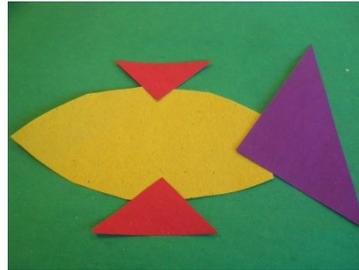
## Collage fish using pre-cut shapes

I cut oval and triangle shapes from coloured paper. The children selected the pieces they wanted and created a fish by pasting the shapes onto the blue background. I encouraged the children to plan their fish before they pasted them. One child decided she wanted to sort the pieces according to colours before she pasted her fish. Some children added details using wax crayons.



This is a good activity to assess to see which children have an understanding of part and whole and also directionality. As you can see from the examples below several of the children struggled to create their fish.

Once again here is a good example of the importance of the language discussion before the creative activity. In New Zealand this does not happen so I had not showed the children how to create a fish using the body, tail and side fins and it clearly shows.



Encourage the children to put glue on the shape and not on the background as many do



## Painting with firm cardboard tubes

I was given a whole lot of really thick durable cardboard tubes from gladwrap. I used them to paint with.

The children painted blobs of paint onto their page and then used the roller to roll through the paint mixing the colours. The tube also got painted in the process and these can be used to make shakers in another lesson or used in the next activity to create squash painted butterflies and used for the bodies once the wings are dry.

This activity links nicely to maths to experience shapes that roll and cylinders.



I think the end result was very effective. These paintings can be cut into flower shapes or used for collage.

## Squash painting using cardboard rollers

Use the painted cardboard tubes from the previous activity. I used them to create squash paintings just for a different technique. It is important to use ready mixed paint or make sure your powder paint is fairly thick for this activity.

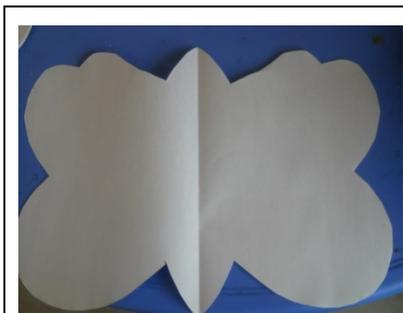
I cut the paper into butterfly shapes but you can use any shape or just keep the paper as is. The paper needs to be folded in half as many children find this skill challenging.

The children dabbed blobs of paint onto the one side of the folded butterfly, closed the paper and then rolled over the paint on the clean outside of the paper. This caused the colours to blend and create beautiful butterfly wings. The children were quite intrigued to see the colours blending but their hands stayed clean.

Once the wings are dry, the children can paste the butterfly bodies to the cardboard rolls. You will then need to have sufficient so each child has a body and it's quite difficult to collect so many rolls.

### Notes:

- Some children decided to paint the rolls instead of just using them to blend the colours. Of course this created a mess when the rolls were needed to blend the paint. I just cleaned them with some carlton roll but it was annoying. So highlight this to the children and also supervise.
- Too much paint on the butterfly wings causes the paint to ooze out of the sides and makes a mess of the rollers. Remind the children not to be excessive BUT if not enough paint is used it's not very effective either.
- Don't put out too many paint colours. For the younger children use primary colours that will blend to make nice new colours such as red and yellow to make orange.
- Have plenty of paper as the children love this activity and will want to make several!
- Some children put paint on both sides of the butterfly wings. It didn't seem to make much difference to the end product and the younger children will more than likely do this.
- It's always tricky when you place paint brushes in the paint pots to dab the paint. Some children end up painting instead of dropping blobs of paint on the paper. Sometimes using plastic spoons is more effective and eliminates the painting issue BUT it can also result in too much paint being applied.
- Cutting several butterflies at the same time with the paper already folded speeds up the process.
- Remind the children to put some paint in the centre to create a body.
- It's best if the children stand when doing this activity to get the best large muscle movement skills being developed.





**Printing with cut cardboard rolls**

We continued to use the cardboard rolls to make printing gadgets.



Ice cube tray to set out paint Use pegs and pom poms for paint brushes



These plastic trays with sections are very useful for setting out collage materials



## App for sharing and recording information in ECE

I was asked to include this link for an app that you may find useful to use in your centres. In NZ information about what the children are doing at school can be shared directly with the parents on a daily basis. The app has many applications. **I have not used this app so I cannot comment on it other than to make you aware of it. I am in no way affiliated to the company either.**

HiMama is aimed at preschools and day cares across the country. Here's a great video of what it's all about: <https://youtu.be/jKcRw4TIx58>

This is the contact e mail address. [shan@himama.com](mailto:shan@himama.com)

**More information about the application from their web site** <https://www.himama.com>

### About Us

HiMama provides a quick and easy way for childcare programs and parents to record and share children's activities, everything from silly and fun moments to learning and developmental milestones. Our solution for childcare and early learning programs is based on extensive research and interviews with early childhood educators and enables quick and intuitive recording of observations in the early childhood setting, as well as instant sharing with parents through real-time emails and updates through our mobile apps. In addition to staying informed on their children's activities while in childcare programs, parents can also log their children's activities so they'll never forget their favourite stories and can always relive through photos and videos in their child's online journal.

What does "HiMama" mean?

### Happiness is Memories and Magic

We've built our products with the goal of delivering smiles and protecting memories, while providing educators and parents alike with a magical experience. We hope you too find happiness through the memories shared and magic created while using HiMama!

#### Our Story

HiMama was inspired by something simple: the joy of receiving a photo that captures a moment in your child's day, and we wanted to make sharing these moments easier.

With this in mind we came together in 2012 to create innovative ways for parents, caregivers and others to record, share and relive a child's moments. We were fascinated by the possibilities of combining modern technology with long-standing simple pleasures, like hearing about someone's day or seeing a fun photo.

We're happy with the progress we've made, but know there is a lot more to do. We will continuously bring the best technology to HiMama so long as we can ensure it's done with happiness and magic.

Happy teaching!

**Regards  
Karin**

We had a visit from S John's ambulance which the children just loved. They were allowed to climb into the ambulance and heard the siren



