

Preschool Themes Newsletter – April 2018

Hello Everyone,

It was my intention to only send the April newsletter after the school holidays, but I have a few nice Easter activities we did at school which I wanted to share with you in time for Easter.

So here it is! Please note that I am having a few issues again with the bulk mailings of the newsletters. I have been blacklisted by some servers mainly 'mweb and gmail' as they suspect the newsletter is spam. My server says there is nothing they can do to solve the issue. So I get a fair amount of newsletters returned each time I send it out. If you were receiving the newsletter and suddenly it stops coming, please let me know so I can find a solution to send it individually to you. If you wish to no longer receive the newsletter please drop me a mail and I can unsubscribe you. If you have missed newsletters they can be accessed through the web site www.preschoolthemes.co.za .It can take a week or two for the current newsletter to appear. Happy holidays and a blessed Easter to you and your families



DO YOU **REACT** OR **RESPOND** *to your kids*

 "Stop that crying right now!"	 "You look upset, do you need a hug?"
"If you two don't stop fighting, I'm turning this car around!"	"I am pulling over. When the car is quiet, I will continue driving."
"What?! You spilled your juice again!"	"Oops, let's get a rag and get that mess cleaned up."
"Darn right it's not fair. Life's not fair. Get used to it."	"I can tell you're upset about my decision."
"Another 'C'? What's going on with you?"	"It looks like you are struggling in math. Is there anything I can do to help?"
"That's enough whining, young lady."	"Please use a calm voice when asking me for something."
"I've had it with you!"	"I'm feeling frustrated right now. I'm going to take a walk to calm down."

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Behaviour management

As a preschool teacher you are expected to deal with many things, often at the same time, and it is easy to become overwhelmed and frustrated especially with children who persistently don't listen and are disruptive. In the heated moment we tend to react to the children instead of responding and don't always say positive things in this moment.

This happens at home with our own children and families too. Here are some examples of reactive versus responsive statements. When we respond rather than react, there is less chance of everyone getting upset and the self-esteem being harmed!

This is a skill that needs to be practiced and is hardest to do when stressed, tired and rushed.

Persevere! It's well worth it once you learn the skill of responding. Life is a lot calmer.

Validate Feelings



- 1) Allow children to have their feelings so they can learn they are capable of dealing with them.
- 2) Don't fix, rescue, or try to talk children out of their feelings.
- 3) Validate their feelings: "I can see you are really (angry, upset, sad)."
- 4) Then keep your mouth shut and have faith in your children to work it through.

Quotes from the Positive Discipline books © Jane Nelsen and Lynn Lott

Creative activities

When I planned this activity I expected the children to use the materials according to my expectations but once again it did not go quite according to my plan and that's okay.

If I did this activity where I had better control of the art activity (Since I am not full time staff I have to go with the arrangement at school) I would have used two different art tables with the collage at one table and the printing at another table. I also did not cut out the circles initially so the children pasted and printed around the circle and not only in the circle. I cut the circles out later in the activity which of course sorted out this issue. If your main focus is to reinforce the concept of the circle then definitely pre-cut the paper into a circle shape. Since lids and buttons are being pasted it becomes heavy so if you can use slightly thicker paper it would be good. I don't have access to thin sponge for the printing so some of the prints were a bit messy but the children enjoyed the activity and that's what's important. I used a scrapbooking circle punch to cut lots of paper circles from magazine pages, but if you don't have a circle punch then trace circles and cut out through several layers of paper at one time.

Circle shape – Collage and printing with drawing

Themes: Shapes, Circle

You will need:

- Paper – any colour preferably A3
- Large circle to trace around and a black koki pen to trace with
- Collage items – milk lids, other lids, buttons, pre-cut paper circles, plastic lids
- Plastic lids to trace and wax crayons
- Glue and glue brushes
- Printing circles – plastic cotton reels, plastic containers with lids, empty tins, round cookie cutters, toilet rolls etc
- Paint – 2 colours in flat containers

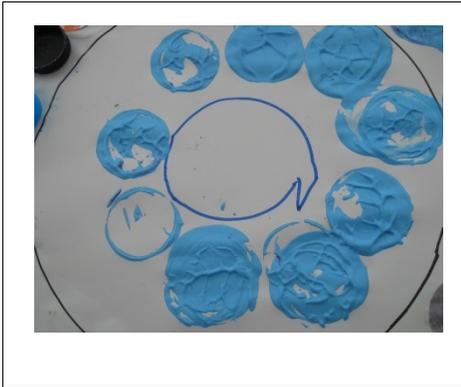


Method:

Teacher: Pre-cut circles for the activity. Use a plate to draw around and cut several layers of paper together.

The children select some of the larger plastic shapes and trace around them. They select circle items and paste them. Encourage the children to paste circles within circles. The children print some circles to complete the activity. Dry flat. **Note:** remove the paint brushes as the children wanted to paint the circles. You can add painting traced circles at another table to extend and build on this activity.





Notes:

- Some children smeared the paint instead of printing clear circles
- A few children decided to colour the shapes with the crayons which was fine
- Some children decided to turn the circles into people.
- You can leave out the printing and only do this as a collage activity as below – better for the younger ones



Tissue paper painting – Easter eggs

This method can be used for several different themes by changing the colours used and the frame.

Autumn - Paint with red, orange and yellow and create a leaf frame. Display on an autumn group tree.

Fruit – Apples – paint with reds or greens and make an apple frame. Display all the apples on a big tree

Colour red – heart frames with pinks and reds.

I was given some large sheets of white tissue paper so I looked around for an activity to do to use it. I tried painting on the single sheet but it was too thin, so I ended up folding the big sheet into 4 so it was easier to work with and the layers could carry the school dyes. We all know children always put too much paint on the paper! I wanted the end result to be translucent in the light so I used diluted food colouring or school dye. Once the painting was dry I cut out a frame for the painting and pasted the frame onto the painting cutting away the excess paper. Display on a window.



Themes: Easter, Autumn, Flowers, Garden visitors (butterflies) – any theme can work

You will need:

- Large sheets of tissue paper (not crepe paper) It will still look lovely if you just use regular paper (see below)
- Food colouring or school dye diluted. Two colours that blend to make nice new colours are best e.g. red and blue to create purple.
- Something to protect the table
- Coloured cardboard to cut out a frame – see further for decorating the frame
- Glue to paste the frame
- Optional: Scissors if the children can do their own cutting
- Easter egg template or shape of choice

Method:

Teacher: Fold the tissue paper to be about 3 or 4 layers. It doesn't need to be bigger than an A 4 size as the frame is A 4 size. Dilute the food colouring or school dye and check it before using.

The children paint the paper as they choose. For grade R children you can encourage them to do writing patterns. The whole page does not need to be covered but a good area is necessary. Once dry the teacher cuts a cardboard frame and pastes it to the dry tissue paper and cuts away the excess paper. If the children are able, they can paste and cut the excess. Display the eggs on the window so the light shines through



Notes:

- Encourage the children to wipe their paint brushes. Placing a piece of foam into the base of the paint pot can help prevent the children from using too much colour
- This activity is suitable for the younger children too. Just watch for excess paint use.

No tissue paper?

If you do not have access to tissue paper, the children can paint a paper with diluted food colouring and the egg frame can be pasted to the paper and cut out.



Wax crayon resist – Easter egg frames

To extend the above activity the children can decorate the frame with wax crayon resist or any other method you choose. **This needs to be done before the frame is pasted.**

Themes: Easter

You will need:

- Egg frame
- Wax crayons
- Food colouring or school dye – diluted (I choose two colours that will blend to make a nice new colour e.g. blue and yellow or blue and red.)
- Thin paint brushes
- Paper to put under the frame for ease of lifting to the drying rack



Note: Try and place your diluted food colouring into a safe paint pot holder so they don't tip over and make an awful mess.

Method:

Teacher: Trace the frame onto lightweight card (if you don't have coloured cardboard use cereal boxes) and **cut it out**.

The children draw patterns on the frame using pastels or wax crayons. If it's not cut out the children will draw all over the shape! The children paint over the wax crayon using diluted food colouring. Check that the colour is not too dark which will cover the wax crayons instead of letting it shine through. When dry, paste the frame over the decorated inner egg outline. (See next activity)



Display the eggs on a window so the light shines through.



Notes:

- Remind the children to draw on the frame and not on the background paper
- Some children coloured in the frame instead of making patterns.
- Encourage the children to hold the frame while colouring.
- Discourage the child from using too much food colouring and making the frame too wet. Have a piece of Carlton roll handy to mop up the excess food dye
- The frame can be pasted while it is still damp.



Easter egg - Cut paper technique – can be used for any theme by changing the frame and the colours used as discussed at the beginning of the activity.



Still using the frame technique as discussed above I created an egg using cut paper strips as the centre.

I cut lightweight card into strips about 1 cm wide - not too wide otherwise the children can't practice the snipping action.

Note: The egg template needs to be the frame and the inner egg for collage. The inside of the egg needs to be used for this activity and the outer frame is used for the colour wash activity.

Themes: Easter, shape – oval

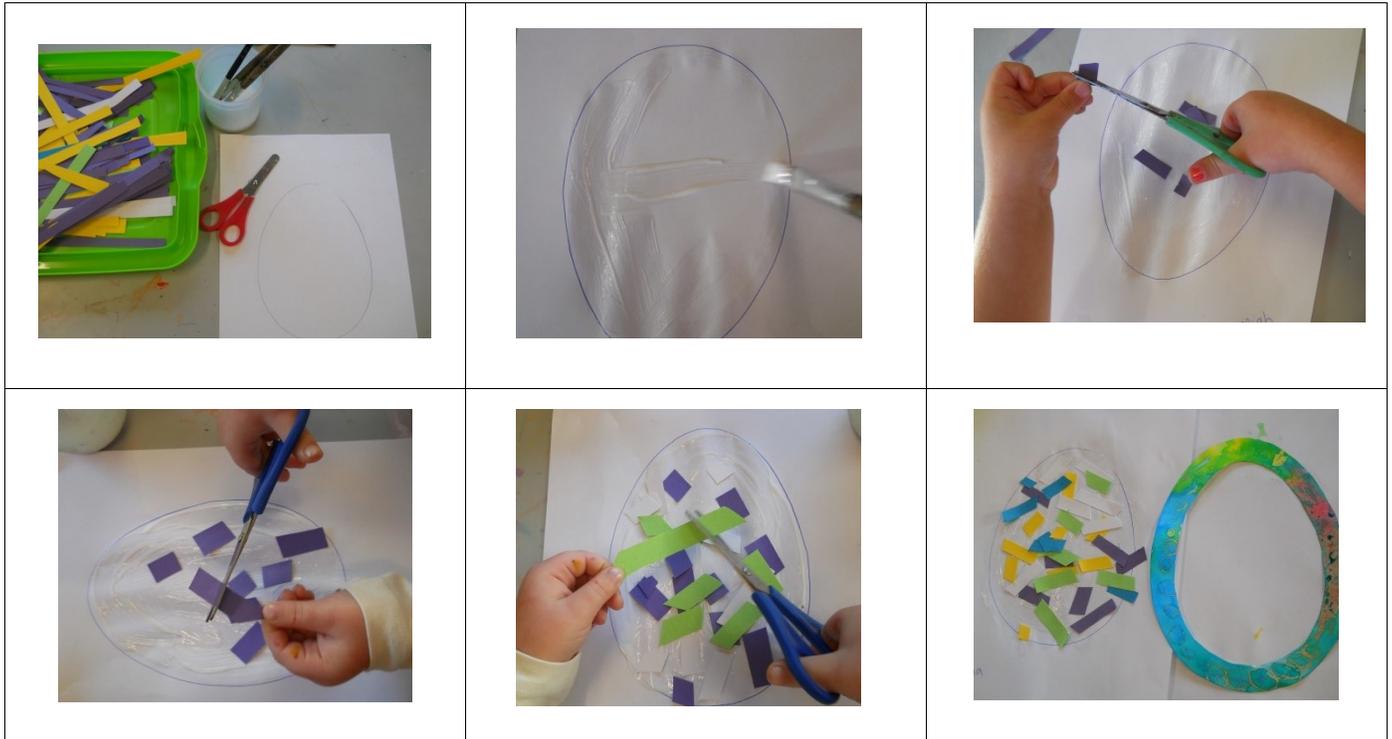
You will need:

- Lightweight card or paper- coloured and cut into strips about 1 cm wide
- Egg outline traced onto paper
- Glue and glue brushes
- Scissors
- Wax crayons



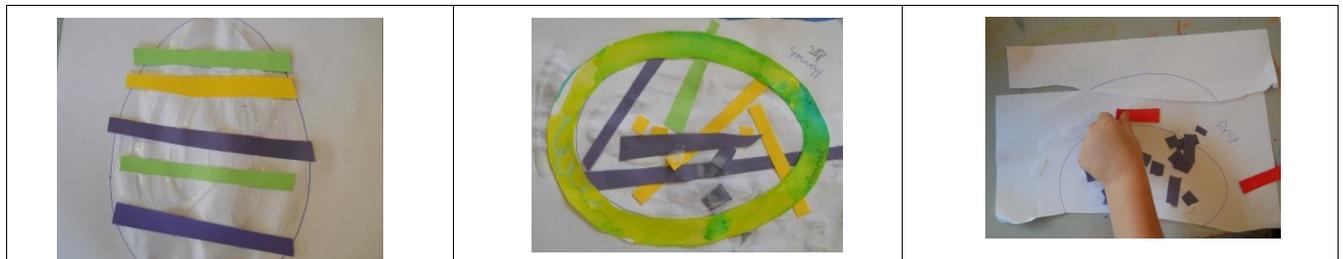
Method:

Teacher: Trace an egg outline onto paper using the inner egg of the frame. The children cover the egg shape with glue. The children snip the paper strips into smaller pieces allowing the snipped pieces to fall on the glue. Encourage the children to snip a few strips of card and select different colours. Once the inside is filled with coloured pieces, teacher pastes the frame over the egg shape and cuts out the egg shape.



Notes:

- This activity works well with the 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 year olds as long as they are able to snip with scissors
- If the children are younger choose a different way to decorate the egg shape – collage etc
- Remind the children to check that the snipped pieces are in some glue. I showed them to press the pieces with their finger.
- Some snips were a bit bigger than I wanted them to be but that's fine.
- An alternative is to let the children paste the cut strips instead of cutting them (see below)
- Make sure the children understand that the scissors are for snipping the paper strips and not for cutting the shape – see pic 3 below.



If you have some fun Easter activities you have done I would love to share them on the Preschool themes Facebook page

Happy Easter

Regards
Karin