



Newsletter – April 2013

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to school and the start of the 2nd term. I trust that some of you were lucky enough to get a few days break and have returned refreshed. With all the school and public holidays I have not been at school much myself and I certainly enjoyed the break.

May is Mother's Day month so I have included some ideas for you to start thinking about. I know I am early with this one, but by the time the May edition comes out it may be too late for some of you to be able to gather materials to make something special for the moms. If you have any great mother's day ideas please share them on the Facebook page or email me.

Mother's Day activities

Once again I have created a Pinterest board for mother's day ideas and activities

Please use this link to access them. <http://pinterest.com/kstedall/mothers-day-ideas/>

Here are a few samples of what you can find there and the links for the instructions can be found below the pictures on the boards.

The mommy book is an ideal opportunity to incorporate literacy and emergent writing for the Grade R learners and for younger learners to understand that the letters represent the spoken words.



New theme – Air transport

With all the holidays and me spending some time helping my daughter move house I have been rather slack on completing the air transport theme. My apologies but I am back at the computer again and I hope to have it completed soon. The toddler book is also making slow progress☺.

Workbooks to compliment the theme manuals

Thank you to everyone who returned the questionnaire. I have collated all the information. It's going to be rather tricky to please everyone but I will do my best to accommodate some of your requests.

Postal service woes!

Ilette has negotiated a courier service that costs the same as the postal service so for the present moment the rates remain the same unless the post office increases their postage rates which I unfortunately have to pass onto you.

Music area in the preschool classroom

For the past term we have had a music area set out in the classroom in the 2- 3 ½ year olds area. It has been quite successful but I must say I was a bit sceptical at first. It took the children a bit of time and lots of consist reinforcement from all the teachers to keep the musical instruments in the area and to keep the noise level acceptable. The teachers divided the area by hanging some fabric and ribbons, which I thought was very



creative and effective (and yes, we did have to stop the children from pulling on the ribbons and curtains!)

We included a low shelf for the instruments to be stored on and some cushions and a carpet for the children to sit and play and dance together.

I have created a Pinterest board with several easy and good ideas to make your own instruments for this area. Many of the instruments can be made by the children. Of course a theme on Music is a great idea (On my to-do list!)

<http://pinterest.com/kstedall/music-and-musical-instruments/>

Some ideas and activities for you

Tape resist painting and drawing



These art works were made using painters masking tape which does not stick as securely as regular masking tape and can be peeled off without tearing the paper – or should I say mostly. It can be purchased from a hardware store or the supermarket and one roll goes quite far. These were done with the 2- 3 1/2 year olds but I have done it with the older children and they loved it too.

I cut longish pieces of tape and attached the one end to the table and the children cut the tape into smaller pieces. The tape was secured to the paper, coloured over with wax crayons and then painted with diluted food colouring or paint dye. The pictures were left to dry and the next day the children pulled off the pieces of tape exposing the coloured paper underneath. It was my intention to cut these into egg shapes for Easter, but I did not get back to being at school before Easter so they just went home as an art work. Ideally I should have cut the paper into egg shapes before they even began the process, but as you all know we all sometimes run out of time to do all the things we need to for the classroom. Some children struggled to cut the tape so I just gave them smaller pieces to paste.



Threading using a plastic bat

Children need to have opportunities on a daily basis to practice small muscle development and eye hand coordination in a variety of ways so they do not become bored. I used the outdoor area bats for the children to thread laces through.

Outdoor stepping stones



You do not always have to use expensive or purchased material for the outdoor play areas. We took the children for a walk in the veld area next to school and they found some concrete stones there. They loved walking on them, balancing, trying to jump from one to the next, taking risks buy stepping from one step to the next past their comfort zone and they enjoyed it very much. They also had to learn to wait a turn before they could step onto the next stone.

Block play



I helped the children create a ramp for them to slide the cars down. It kept getting wider and wider as more children joined the activity. We made a catchment area at the end so the cars did not go everywhere. They enjoyed seeing which car went the fastest and who the winner was each time.

Making head bands



The children were given a strip of light weight card and a variety of collage materials to paste. The band was stapled to fit around the head. This is a good way to get the boys to participate in creative activities – tell them it's a Ninja headband.



Request for toys and resources

I have had some more requests for toys and resources for new preschools who are struggling. If you can offer them anything please e mail me so I can put you in contact with each other. The school is based near Pretoria so the items can be left at a training centre in Pretoria. Even excess paper will be appreciated.

Story resource



Here are a variety of ways of presenting the story of the very hungry caterpillar. I personally love the zip lock bag one. The instructions for each of them are in the links. The zip lock packet allows you to feed the caterpillar and there are free printable downloads for the caterpillar and the food.



<http://elenamarieslp.wordpress.com/2012/04/09/very-hungry-caterpillar/>

<http://teachingheart.net/blog/2012/04/caterpillar-apron-tip-a-free-cliploc-version/>



<http://plantspress.blogspot.com/2012/04/very-hungry-caterpillar-retelling.html>



Numeracy extension activity

The children match the number of things eaten by the caterpillar by placing a matching numbered stone to the page.

I leave you with this thought...

Please read the article on the next page. Food for thought! Thank you Jolene for sharing this interesting article

Happy teaching
Regards Karin

Hats off to teachers

From a school principal's speech at a graduation

He said "Doctor wants his child to become a doctor. Engineer wants his child to become engineer. Businessman wants his ward to become CEO. BUT a teacher also wants his child to become one of them. Nobody wants to become a teacher BY CHOICE."

Very sad but that's the truth!

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?" Teacher Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make?" (She paused for a second, and then began.) "Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honour winner. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 minutes without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental."

"You want to know what I make. (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.) I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions. I teach them how to write and then I make them write. Keyboarding isn't everything. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math. They use their God given brain, not the man-made calculator. I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know about English while preserving their unique cultural identity. I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe. Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life."

(Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.) "Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, with me knowing money isn't everything, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make."

"I MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ALL YOUR LIVES, EDUCATING KIDS AND PREPARING THEM TO BECOME CEO's, AND DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS."

"What do you make Mr CEO?" His jaw dropped; he went silent.