

## Preschool Themes Newsletter – February 2017

Hello Everyone,

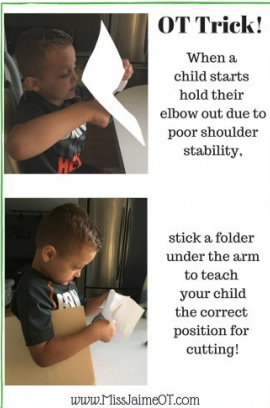
I trust you are all back at school and have settled into the new term. It's been very hot over the past month which adds its own stresses to teaching so remember to keep yourself and your children well hydrated to prevent fatigue.

February is of course the month of love with Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This blends in well with the theme of Colour Red and it's a good time to talk about caring and sharing. I have Pinterest boards for both of these themes with many great ideas. The links are on the next page.

I hope you spoil someone with love this Valentine's Day and you get spoiled too



### Developing fine motor and cutting skills



#### OT Trick!

When a child starts hold their elbow out due to poor shoulder stability.

stick a folder under the arm to teach your child the correct position for cutting!

[www.missjaimeot.com](http://www.missjaimeot.com)

Fine motor skills such as cutting skills and being able to hold a pencil or crayon are important skills required for success in school. Below is a very good link to several ways you can improve a child's fine motor skills.

Can you think of a child in your class who cuts like the child in the photo b (photo thanks to the link below?) I certainly can think of several children that raise their arm and shoulder to cut. I think her tip is very simple and clever. Give it a try and see what results you get.

Cutting requires many skills at the same time so children need many opportunities to practice these skills in a fun way. No need for worksheets! – Just offer several daily art activities that use scissors!

**Forearm position** – the folder trick automatically puts a child's arm in the proper position. One mistake that children often make is to tilt their scissors sideways or hold their scissors upside down. This is because it's more comfortable for kids to use their arms when they are pronated (palms facing down). As fine motor skills develop, they become comfortable using their arm in a more mature neutral or supinated (palms up) position.

<http://www.missjaimeot.com/fine-motor-skills-cutting/>

### Plastic container and postage and delivery price increase from 1 March 2017

Some good news first! We were expecting a price increase for the printing but we have been able to hold the current price of R40 per theme book for the time being.

Unfortunately we have to increase the cost of the plastic containers which are optional when you order your theme books. The plastic containers increase in price from R40 to R50 from March. The postage and courier rates are also increasing from 1 March 2017.

**Free courier and a plastic container will only be applicable on full set orders of books (no longer 35 or more books)**

The new postage and courier rates will be in the March newsletter.

## Valentine's Day and Colour Red theme



When planning your theme for Colour red and Valentine's Day try and include activities for all the learning areas and the play areas inside and outside. Many simple and inexpensive activities can be included in your programme planning.

<https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/colour-red/> Colour red

<https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/valentines-school/> Valentine's Day

[http://www.1stgradefantabulous.com/2014/01/februaryfun.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+1stGradeFantabulous+\(1st+Grade+Fantabulous\)](http://www.1stgradefantabulous.com/2014/01/februaryfun.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+1stGradeFantabulous+(1st+Grade+Fantabulous))

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking.

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| <p><a href="http://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/easy_activity_for_preschoolers_valentines_water_and_sponge_play">http://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/easy_activity_for_preschoolers_valentines_water_and_sponge_play</a></p> | <p><a href="http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.co.nz/2014/01/love-potions-valentine-science.html?m=1">http://preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.co.nz/2014/01/love-potions-valentine-science.html?m=1</a></p> | <p><a href="http://www.schooltimesnippets.com/2016/02/letter-h-alphabet-craft-preschool.html">http://www.schooltimesnippets.com/2016/02/letter-h-alphabet-craft-preschool.html</a></p>                         |
| <p>MATCHING NUMBERS 1-20<br/>free HEART clip cards<br/>modernpreschool.com</p>   | <p>Valentine Sensory Play<br/>Nurturestore</p>   |  |
| <p><a href="http://modernpreschool.com/heart-printable-number-match-clip-cards/">http://modernpreschool.com/heart-printable-number-match-clip-cards/</a></p>   | <p><a href="http://nurturestore.co.uk/valentine-sensory-tub">http://nurturestore.co.uk/valentine-sensory-tub</a></p>   | <p><a href="https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/eb/74/56/eb74560a8d46407ef7ce3376750688e7.jpg">https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/eb/74/56/eb74560a8d46407ef7ce3376750688e7.jpg</a></p> |

## How to colour rice

I am sure there are many ways to colour rice but this is the method I like to use. Place some rice in a zip lock plastic bag, add a few drops of food colouring or school dye, seal the bag and shake until well mixed. The bags can be passed around the children giving them each a turn to give it a rub and shake. You may need to add some more colouring. When well blended, tip out the rice to dry. I find drying the rice on wax paper or baking paper prevents the rice from sticking to the surface and breaking when you try and separate the grains.



## Squash painting, colour blending and collage to create a heart hat from a paper plate (Theme: Colour red)

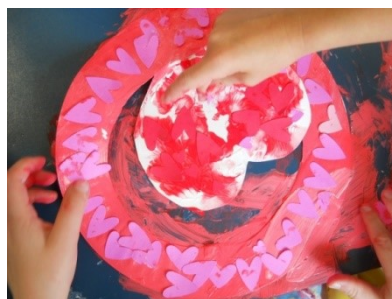
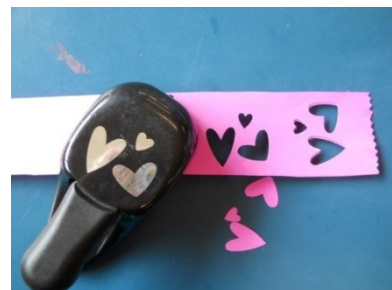
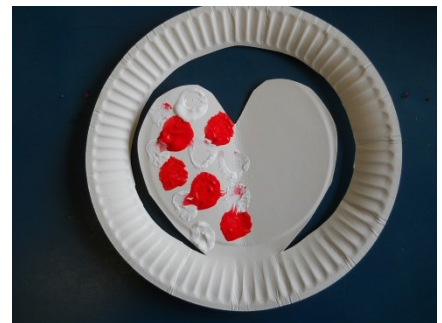
### You will need:

- Large paper plate for each child
- Paint – red and white
- Paint brushes
- Scissors for teacher
- Optional: Punched hearts or foam hearts



### Method:

The teacher cuts the centre of the paper plate into a heart shape leaving the heart attached to the rim of the paper plate. Fold the heart shape in half. When the child wears the hat the heart will stand up. The child paints blobs of paint onto the one side of the folded heart, folds the two halves together and squashes the colours together to create pink. The child paints the edge of the paper plate and decorates the hat with cut out heart shapes. A heart shape paper punch is useful to punch out many hearts quickly but it's easy and quite quick to cut your own hearts by cutting through several layers of paper at one time. Once dry, have a hat parade with the children all wearing red and pink clothing.



## Head bands

We ended up using the strips of paper I had punched hearts from as headbands. Instead of making the above hats you can just make a head band using the squash painting technique.

### You will need:

- Strip of lightweight card enough to go around a child's head or join two pieces
- Paint – red and white
- Optional: Heart shaped punch
- Teacher- stapler or celloptape to secure the head band.



## Pizza (Theme: Colour red)

### You will need:

- Paper plate – one per child – big or small
- Red paint mixed with glue
- Paper – yellow, green, light brown cut into 1 cm strips and circles to represent cheese, meat etc
- Scissors
- Optional: buttons, match sticks



### Method

The child paints the plate all over with the red paint. As the paint has glue in the paper pieces will stick. The child selects strips of yellow paper as the cheese and snips them into small pieces over the red tomato sauce glue. The child continues to add different toppings over the red glue tomato sauce base. This is a very good activity for children learning to cut as the cutting action is a snipping action.





## Shaving cream printing (Theme; Colour red which links back to the theme of My family)

### You will need:

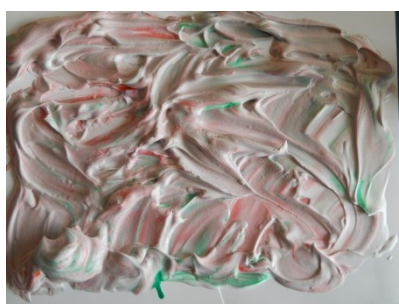
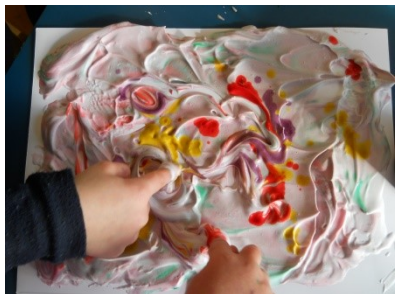
- Shaving cream
- Paper shapes – hearts cut from paper with a shiny surface or lightweight card – paper does not work
- Plastic scrapers cut from milk bottles
- Tray or cookie baking tray or large sheet of paper to spread the shaving cream.
- Food colouring – red and pink



### Method:

The teacher cuts some large heart shapes ahead of time. The teacher squirts some shaving cream onto the large paper or tray. The child drops some food colouring over the shaving cream and spreads it through the shaving cream using a finger or a stick. The child gently places the cut shape onto the shaving cream, rubs gently and then carefully lifts the paper up. Using the plastic comb the child scrapes the excess shaving cream off the paper and leaves the shape to dry. It does take a while to dry so place the finished hearts in a place they will not be disturbed.

**Note:** The children may end up squishing the shaving cream between their hands and enjoying the sensory aspect of the activity. Make sure you have a bucket of water and a towel handy for clean-up.





## Heart shaped books

### You will need:

- A 4 paper – 2 to 3 sheets
- Pencils and crayons
- Teacher - stapler

### Method

Teacher folds two pages in half and cuts a heart shape. Teacher staples the folded edge together. The children draw pictures in their books and the teacher writes what the children tell her to. To keep with the theme Valentine's Day you could ask the children to draw pictures of people they love or things they love and tell you why they love them. Encourage them to give their book a title.



## Useful links

Please visit the Pinterest boards I have created for the different themes. You will find many more ideas on these boards to complement your theme teaching. I have several other personal boards, in particular a lot of Christmas boards, as I organise a big Christmas charity festival every year. Just scroll down past the Xmas boards and you will find the preschool theme boards. Remember to look at sub themes too e.g. Emotions for the theme me and my body and each theme for community workers.

General link <https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/>

### Here are some of the direct links for these themes

- Five Senses <https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/senses/>
- Grade R <https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/grade-r-activities/>
- Easter <https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/easter-school/>

Happy teaching

Regards  
Karin



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