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Preschool Themes Newsletter – February 2015

Hello Everyone,

I trust you all back at school by now and well settled. February is the month of love so to help you make this a special month for your learners I have listed some great ideas for you to include in your planning. And of course with Valentine's Day pink and red is the colour of love so it's a good time to do the theme on Colour Red. Once again please visit my pinterest board for more ideas <http://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/valentines-school/>



The Preschool Facebook page has grown hugely over the last year so thank you to everyone who has joined. Please use the forum to ask questions and to share ideas.

I will be back at school so there should be some fun creative activities in the March newsletter. Watch this space! Easter is not too far off and I have been adding lots of fun Easter activities to the Pinterest board.

New theme – Under the ground

It has taken me a while to get this theme written but it is ready at last. It is available from Groep 7 printers. The theme can be ordered on line or by printing off the order form I have attached with this newsletter.

The web site is www.preschoolthemes.co.za

Epos: epos@groep7.co.za

Tel: 082 4490 574 (Mona or Ilette) They are based in Pretoria.

The concepts covered in the theme are: Food that grows under the ground, animals that live under the ground, soil and stones, nature under the ground and under the city.

Here is a preview of some of the activities you will find in the manual



Preschool themes blog

I have a blog where I add creative activities with more detailed lesson plans. I must confess that I don't post as often as I should, but it's a useful place to look for new ideas categorised by themes.

I have added some of the art activities in the under the ground theme to my blog
<http://preschoolthemeideas.wordpress.com>.

It is easier to access the blog from the web site. There is a blog tab which takes you directly to the blog. If you follow the blog you will be notified when I place a new post.

Valentine's Day activities

Just a reminder; with all the blended families some learners may need to make more than one card or gift

<http://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/valentines-school/>

<http://www.ribbonsandglue.com/2014/01/folded-heart-valentines.html>



I think this is very cute and clever. The children can draw a picture and paste it inside

<http://www.youaremyfave.com/2013/01/30/painted-newspaper-hearts-are-my-fave/>



Paint on newspaper heart shapes using water colour paints. Colour wash the background card using diluted food colouring or school dyes. Paste the heart to the front of the card



No link

The children create freely using a variety of cut out hearts

<http://rainydaymum.co.uk/valentine-s-craft-tissue-paper-heart-card>



The children fill in a heart shape using crumpled tissue paper squares

<http://www.doityourselfdivas.com/2014/02/love-bug-hats-for-valentines-day.html>



The children decorate the strip of cardboard which gets stapled into a crown and pipe cleaner feelers added

<http://mylittle3andme.co.uk/valentine-craft-milk-bottle-stained-glass/>



The children paste tissue paper squares to a heart shape cut from the side of a milk bottle. The light will shine through when you hang it.

<http://happilyevermom.com/2014/01/29/heart-shaped-binoculars-valentines-day/>



Squeeze the toilet roll tubes to create heart shapes

http://sweetandsimpleliving.com/valentines-crafts-for-kids-tissue-paper-heart/#_a5y_p=1206755



Same idea as above but using a cardboard cut out heart

These are made with paper packets. You can make your own packets by pasting an A4 paper together leaving the bottom open for the hand



<http://1stgradefantabulous.blogspot.co.nz/2013/02/robots-and-heart-people.html>

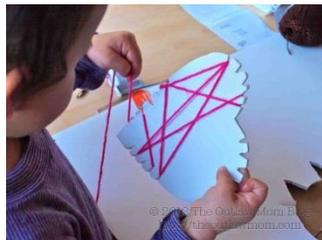
<http://nurturestore.co.uk/symmetry-art-love-hearts/>



Symmetry
art hearts
Valentine crafts



These hearts are made with squash painting. The hearts are folded in half, paint one side, fold and squash the paint with the flat hand



<http://theoutlawmom.com/2012/01/30/play-valentines-day-lacing-hearts-activity/>

Use firm cardboard to create the base heart and wool to cover it



<http://rootsandwingsco.blogspot.co.nz/search/label/Valentine's%20Day>

These are made by doing hand prints overlapping on a heart shape

Maths ideas for Valentine's Day

<http://rootsandwingsco.blogspot.co.nz/search/label/Valentine%27s%20Day>



<http://www.icanteachmychild.com/numbered-heart-game-with-dice/>



<http://crayonboxchronicles.com/2014/01/27/heart-tissue-paper-by-number-craft/>

<http://nurturestore.co.uk/counting-sorting-matching-games-for-preschoolers>



<http://inspirationlaboratories.com/valentine-matching-games/>



<http://mrsleeskinderkids.blogspot.co.nz/search/label/Valentines>



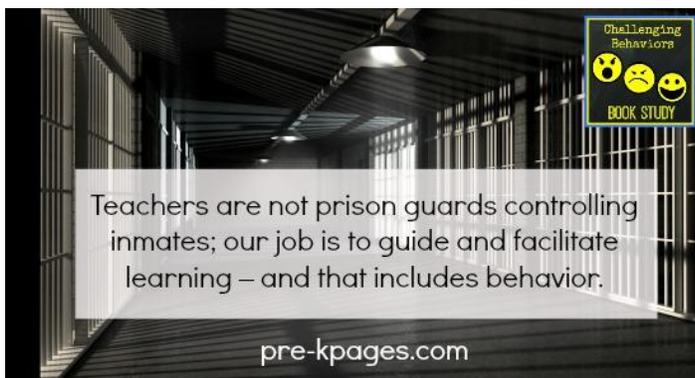
Teaching children to manage their behaviour

Every year you have a few children with challenging behaviours in your group. These children can wreck your day, your lessons and at times make you feel completely desperate. There are a few good articles on this issue which are well worth taking the time to read through.

They can be found on the Classroom and behaviour management board <https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/classroom-and-behavior-management/>

In essence here are a few common threads

- Be consistent – no means no!
- Remain calm
- Keep your voice down
- Less is more when it comes to words. Don't over explain.
- Remember you are the adult and in control
- Give choices within limits
- Validate feelings
- Reward charts are not a good idea
- Dislike the behaviour and not the child
- Give the child time to calm down before you speak to them. Angry children do not listen!
- Breathe deeply when you feel challenged
- Notice and give positive feedback for good behaviour



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

For reference to the complete document, please see [The 101 Positive Principles of Discipline](#). You can find a list of her other wonderful publications [here](#).

The 101 Positive Principles of Discipline by: Dr Katharine Kersey

The Top Ten Principles

(These are the top 10 but there are another useful 91 to read through)

- 1. Demonstrate Respect Principle** – Treat the child the same way you treat other important people in your life – the way you want him to treat you – and others. (How would I want her to say that to me?)
- 2. Make a Big Deal Principle** – Make a big deal over responsible, considerate, appropriate behaviour – with attention (your eyeballs), thanks, praise, thumbs-up, recognition, hugs, special privileges, incentives (NOT food).

3. Incompatible Alternative Principle – Give the child something to do that is incompatible with the inappropriate behaviour. “Help me pick out 6 oranges” (instead of running around the grocery store). If your husband is annoying you by playing his Gameboy, instead of berating him, simply ask him to help you by drying the dishes.

4. Choice Principle – Give the child two choices, both of which are positive and acceptable to you. “Would you rather tiptoe or hop upstairs to bed?” (“You choose or I’ll choose.”) This can be used with spouses. “The garage needs to be cleaned out. Would you rather do it tonight or Saturday?”

5. When/Then – Abuse it/lose it Principle – “When you have finished your homework, then you may watch TV.” (No homework – no TV)

6. Connect Before You Correct Principle – Be sure to “connect” with a child – get to know him and show him that you care about him – before you begin to try to correct his behaviour. This works well when relating to parents, too. Share positive thoughts with them about their child before you attack the problems!

7. Validation Principle – Acknowledge (validate) his wants and feelings. “I know you feel angry with your teacher and want to stay home from school. I don’t blame you. The bus will be here in 45 minutes.”

8. Good Head on Your Shoulders Principle – Tell your child – frequently – especially as s/he reaches the teen years – “You have a good head on your shoulders. You decide. I trust your judgment.” This brings out the best in the child and shows him/her that eventually he will be in charge of his own life and responsible for his/her own decisions.

9. Belonging and Significance Principle – Remember that everyone needs to feel that s/he belongs and is significant. Help your child to feel important by giving him important jobs to do and reminding him that if he doesn’t do them, they don’t get done! Help him/her feel important by being responsible.

10. Timer says it’s Time Principle – Set a timer to help children make transitions. “When the timer goes off, you will need to put away your books.” “In five minutes, we will need to line up for lunch.” It is also a good idea to give the child a chance to choose how long he needs to pull himself together. “It’s okay to be upset, how long do you need?” Then allow him to remove himself from the group and set the timer. You may offer the child a choice (and set the timer) when it’s necessary for him to do something he doesn’t want to do. “Do you want to pick up your toys/let Susan have the wagon/take your bath -in one minute or two?”

<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2014/06/summer-blog-book-study-helping-preschoolers-learn-to-resolve-and-manage-conflict/>

Anger Rules

It is o.k. to be angry but...



*Don't hurt others



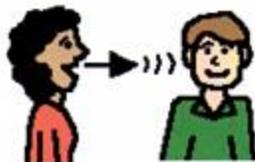
*Don't hurt yourself



*Don't hurt property



Talk about how you feel...



And the same goes for teachers. If you feel yourself getting upset and angry take a few moments away and compose yourself. You are a role model for the children. If you are struggling with certain children or behaviours, discuss it with your peers and your principle or supervisor. It is not a reflection on you as a person or your teaching skills and they may have a few great ideas and tips to help you.

Happy teaching in 2015

If you need help or have queries I am always happy to try and help you.

Regards
Karin

