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## Preschool Themes Newsletter – July 2021

Hello everyone

Welcome to the July edition of the newsletter. I am deeply sorry to hear that SA is back in lockdown again. This must be so very frustrating for you all and all I can say is hang in there and make the best of this bad situation. When you can't change things its best to put your energy into things you do have control over. One thing you can control is the way you respond to this unfortunate situation. You are all in my thoughts and keep safe and well. I hope these measures flatten the curve and the new normal can resume.

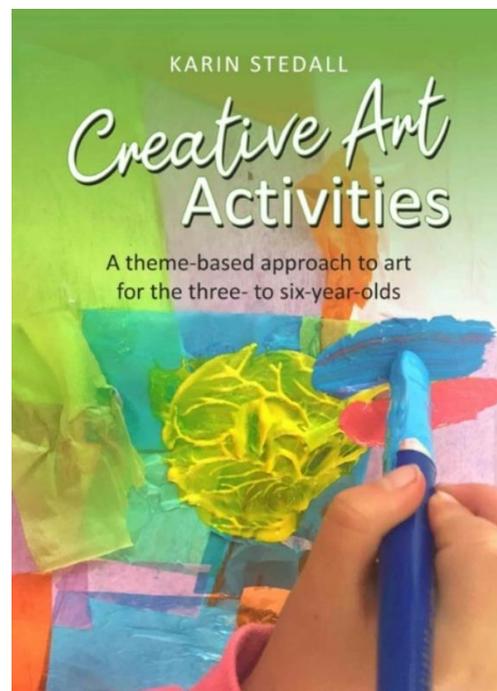
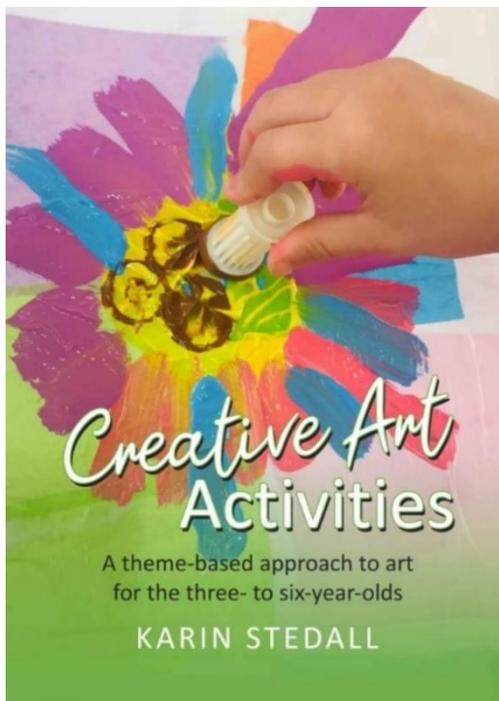


### Creative Art book – Which is your favourite cover?

I am super excited that the creative activities book I have written has finally been sent off to the printer and should be available to order soon. It's been on my computer for some years so I am pleased it is finally ready and I am so happy with the result. The activities are arranged by themes which makes it a great supplement to the activities in the preschool themes manual. I especially love the colour photographs in the book that show the steps to create the activity.

Decisions, decisions.... Which cover to use? I would love your input on which cover you prefer. Please pop over to the preschool themes Facebook page and comment there and tag a friend who would love to know about the book. One person will win a free book. Commenting closes on Sunday evening at 5 pm South Africa time. The winner will be notified on the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes>



Or pop me an email with your choice of cover [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz)

## Creative activities

In New Zealand, the supermarkets no longer use plastic bags to pack your groceries and you either bring your own reusable bags or the groceries are placed in a paper bag. Many people get their groceries delivered and the supermarkets use the brown bags for this. We get given many of these brown paper bags at school and they are useful for turning into art works or using them for paper. We used them in this mask making activity with great success. This activity was also building on from the crazy bug activity in the last newsletter where the children use waste materials to decorate their masks. The masks need to be dry before the children can wear them otherwise the collage material tends to fall off. Be prepared to be asked many times in the day if the masks are dry enough to be worn. When they were finally dry enough, we had a mask parade which the children loved.

### Theme: Caring for our world Masks using recycled brown paper shopping bags and collage materials

Other themes: Myself, Space monsters, Stories

Ages: 3 – 6-year-olds

Skills: Small and large muscles, eye hand co-ordination

#### Materials:

- Brown paper bags – shopping
- Glue and glue brushes
- Collage materials – milk bottle lids, egg box indents, paper scraps, cardboard off cuts, googly eyes, buttons, paper cupcake cases, feathers and anything else you have available
- Paint – 3 colours
- Scissors

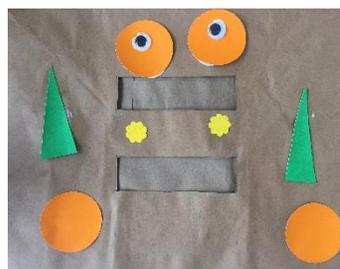
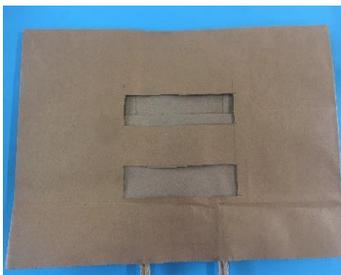
**Optional:** Glitter



**Teachers note:** Prepare a variety of collage materials. Cut a variety of cardboard shapes and strips. Cut eggboxes into indents. Place a bag over a child's head and mark the position of the eyes and mouth. Cut a rectangle for the eyes and a mouth instead of individual eyes.

#### Method:

The children select the collage materials of their choice and paste them to the packet. Remind the children to have the packet the correct way when they paste the collage materials. Encourage the children to plan their mask before they paste. The children can cut the collage material if necessary. The children paint the masks. Optional: the children add glitter to their masks.





**Notes:**

- Some children pasted the collage material on an upside-down mask
- The masks should be dried flat and only worn once dry
- Any collage materials can be set out
- The mask can be made on cardboard instead of a packet



**Theme: Water**

**Under water scene in a box**

**Other themes:** Fish, The sea, Oceans, The beach, Under the sea

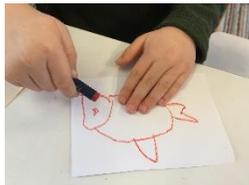
**Ages:** 4 - 6-year-olds



**Skills:** Small and large muscles, eye hand co-ordination, perseverance, part and whole

For this activity I had seen several ideas on Pinterest and in the end, I combined a few to create these under water scenes. I did contemplate covering the box with gladwrap to look like a fish tank but I decided against it. I felt it would take up a lot of my time and I was sure the children would fiddle with the gladwrap and try and look under it and I would have a stream of children requesting I repair the damaged gladwrap. I would need to be taping them several times over all day.

I collected the small flat boxes from the supermarket. Most of them are the base trays that tinned food comes packaged in that gets unpacked onto the shelves. If they are not readily available then use the lid of an eggbox. These can also be done on a piece of paper. I did not paste them to the green background, I just used it for my photos. The older children can draw their own fish and a few children chose to do this instead of using the pre-cut shapes. It is my preferred choice as it encourages drawing and cutting and the more skills that can be developed the better.

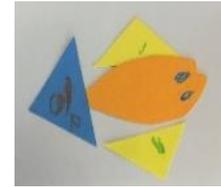


This activity is not suitable for the 3-year-olds although you could do this as a group project with them each colouring a whole fish shape, helping to paint a blue background and print white bubbles and then teacher pastes the fish to the background.

### Materials:

- Small box or lid of an egg box per child
- Blue paint
- Paint brushes
- White paint and a small piece of bubble wrap 5x6 cm
- Cardboard fish shapes – bodies, tails and fins
- Cardboard triangles – in a variety of sizes and different greens for the plants
- Drawing materials – crayons, wax crayons or Koki pens
- Glue and glue brushes
- Sand – sandpit sand, dried tea leaves or fine sawdust

**Optional:** Scissors



**Teachers note:** Collect small flat boxes from the supermarket or use the lids of egg boxes. Cut the cardboard into fish and triangle fin shapes and triangles for the under-water plants. Cut squares of bubble wrap about 5x6 cm.

### Method:

The children create their fish by selecting a body, tail and fins from the coloured cardboard pieces. The children colour the fish and set them aside. The older children can draw their own fish and cut them out. The children paint the inside and the inside edges of a small flat box with blue paint. To create the bubbles the children paint a small piece of bubble wrap with white paint and print on the blue paint. The children glue their fish and paste some green triangles for the water plants. The children apply a good amount of glue to the base of the box and sprinkle some sandpit sand in the glue. It isn't necessary to paint the outside of the box but it can be done.



### Notes:

- Some children struggled to create the fish
- The sand needs a good amount of glue
- If you don't have boxes this can be done on cardboard



This next activity was really enjoyed by the children. The kite base needs to be firm card or cereal box cardboard. I have included a kite template at the end of the newsletter. Make sure you have tested your food colouring or school dye. I think mine was a bit too dark in this activity. It covered the drawing a bit too much for my liking. All the drawing must be completed before the food colouring colour wash is applied and this process only works with wax crayons or pastels. A4 paper can be used but it doesn't leave a lot of space for the drawing. I didn't specifically point out the correct orientation of a kite so quite a few were pasted at strange angles but hey we can just say the wind was to blame! This activity works well with the theme of opposites with the kite going up and then coming down again. If you present this activity now in the wintertime then encourage the children to draw themselves wearing winter clothes. The kite can be decorated in any other way that you prefer. I find that when I cut through the folded tissue paper it causes the pieces to stick together and this is very frustrating for the children as several pieces come up on the brush. It can be tedious to separate them so I pop them into a plastic bag and give them a good mix up and shake and this seems to separate most of them. I always keep a container of cut tissue paper squares in my classroom as I find them particularly useful.



## Theme: Weather

### Kite with tissue paper, drawing and colour wash

**Other themes:** Wind, Opposites, Shape, Day and night

**Ages:** 4 - 6-year-olds

**Skills:** Small and large muscles, eye hand co-ordination

#### Materials:

- Paper – A3 white
- Kite shape – cut from a cereal box
- Tissue paper – cut into smaller pieces and separated
- Glue and glue brushes
- Wax crayons or pastels (not pencil crayons)
- Food colouring or school dye – blue and diluted
- Paint brushes
- Tissues or toilet paper squares



**Teachers note:** Prepare a kite shape for each child. Cut the tissue paper into smaller pieces. Dilute and test the food colouring or school dye.

#### Method:

The children paste the kite to the side of the A3 white paper leaving space for drawing themselves. The children apply some glue to a small area of the kite and paste the tissue paper squares overlapping some pieces until the kite is covered. The children draw the kite string and bows on the kite tail and draw themselves holding the kite string. Other details such as grass and flowers can be added. The children paint over their drawings covering the whole page and being careful not to paint the kite. The children lightly crumple pieces of tissues and paste the clouds to the picture applying the glue to the paper and not the tissue paper.



**Notes:**

- Don't apply glue to the whole kite as the glue will dry before tissue paper is applied
- Remind the children to wipe their brushes so their paper is not too wet
- Some children had difficulty orientating the kites the right way up
- Remind the children to paste the kite first and to leave space for the drawing



**Theme: Winter**  
**Snowy winter scene with drawing myself in winter clothes**

**Other themes:** Clothes, Seasons, Weather

**Ages:** 4 - 6-year-olds



**Skills:** Small and large muscles, eye hand co-ordination

I loved the result of this art activity and the children loved the process of creating it. I have recently started to use old roles of wallpaper for the base paper of many of my art activities. Its heavy weight and can carry a lot of moisture whereas paper would tear or get holes. I buy my rolls of wallpaper from the charity or second-hand shops for not much money. My only gripe about the paper is that it stays rolled when you cut it from being on a role so I bend it in the opposite direction to attempt to solve this. Just make sure that you don't select a roll of paper that has been pre glued as the wet paint will activate the glue and it will be a disaster!! This activity can potentially be quite messy so cover the workspace. To reduce the paint from overflowing off the paper encourage the children to place the blobs of paint a good 2 cm in from the edge. I found the cut plastic rulers highly effective. Once again, I bought them at the charity shop for cheap and my husband kindly cut them into 10 cm lengths on his saw. If this is not possible cut some pieces of plastic from an ice cream lid and use these. They are just as effective. I always try and put out shiny metallic snowflakes which are often used for table decorations when you have a party.

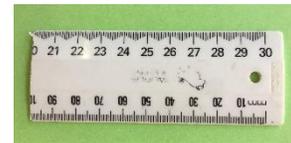


Shiny small pompoms are fun to add but they do need a good amount of glue to stick to the paper. Sometimes when I have limited resources, I limit the amount the children can each use. If you don't do this then one excessive child will use them all and some children will be disappointed they didn't get any.



### Materials:

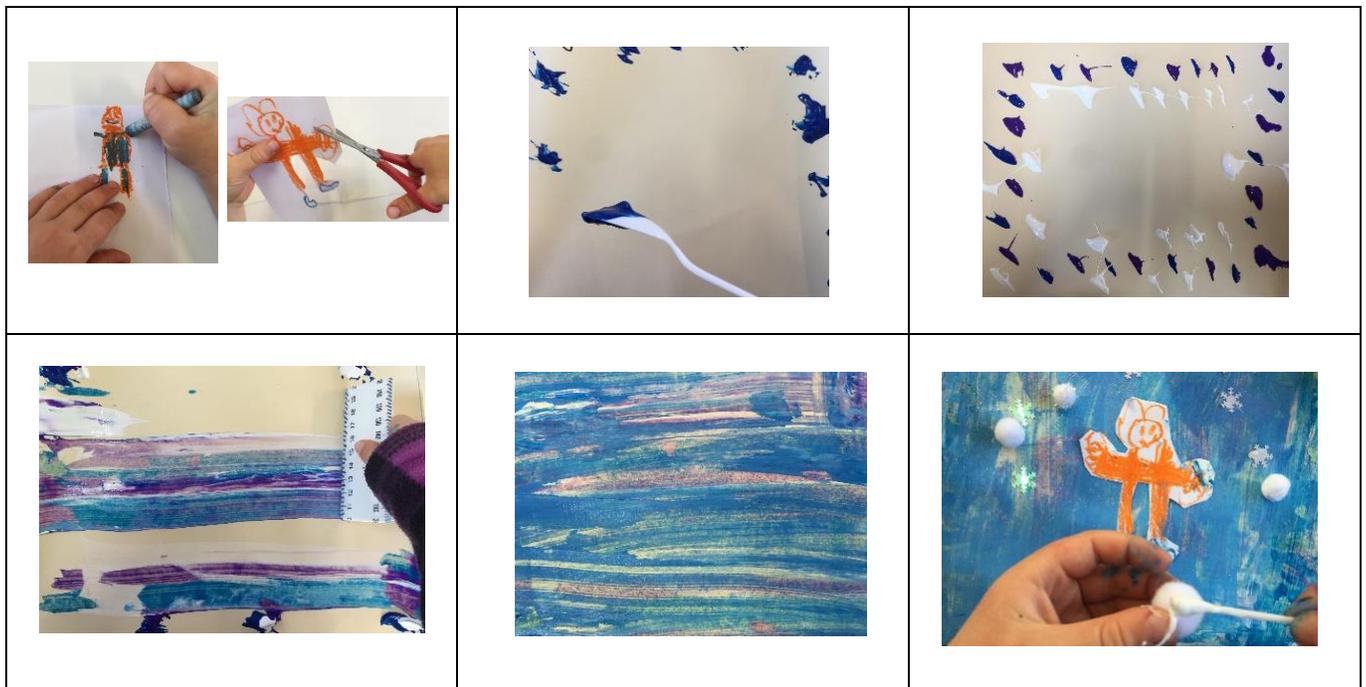
- Paper – A4 white lightweight card or wallpaper
- Paper – small white piece to draw themselves in winter clothes
- Paint – white, blue and mauve in a flat container with teaspoons
- Rulers or credit card plastic scrapers
- Glitter white or salt
- Glue and earbuds
- Snowflakes and white pompoms
- Drawing materials
- Scissors



**Teachers note:** Cut A4 white paper into quarters. Prepare the paint in a flat container. To make ruler pieces I had some plastic rulers cut on a saw into 10 cm lengths.

### Method:

The children draw a picture of themselves wearing winter clothes and cut it out. The children drop blobs of all three colours of paint around the edge of the paper about 2 cm in from the edge. The children use the ruler to drag the paint across the page merging the colours. Encourage the children to work from left to right. Some areas may need a bit more paint added and the action repeated. The children sprinkle white glitter or salt on the background to add an icy shimmer. The children paste their picture to the paper and paste snowflakes and pompoms around the picture. Dry flat.



### Notes:

- The younger children drew age-appropriate people
- The snowflakes and pompoms need plenty of glue to adhere



Happy teaching

Regards  
Karin

Ignore the small shape at the base. I could not delete it

