

Preschool Themes Newsletter – June 2015

Hello Everyone,

Br it's been rather chilly lately and we have a wet winter so there have been many challenging and long wet days at school this past month. While I don't really approve of watching too much TV at preschool, it certainly has been useful and a good calming activity for the middle or end of the day during these very wet days. But as soon as the sun is out, we make use of the sunshine and even though it's cold the children never seem to notice. On this note we have special thick wind breaker jackets for the teachers to use when they are outside at school over their own jackets and I think it's an idea worth considering. These jackets remain at school. Just a thought!

June has Father's day so I have included a few ideas to use in your classrooms and of course the link to the father's day Pinterest boards for even more ideas.



My exciting news this month is that I will be going overseas to Spain and Italy for five weeks. So this will be a bumper newsletter and **there will be no newsletter for July. Newsletters will resume in August.**

Ilette will continue to manage any queries and orders so none of that will be interrupted.

Concert book

Thank you to everyone who responded to my enquiry re a concert book. There was a very positive and large response. I am having some difficulty sorting out copyright issues around the use of the many songs in the concerts and so far I have some options but it's looking to be expensive and very time consuming to get sorted out. Half the time one doesn't even know who wrote the songs. If any of you have any knowledge or suggestions on copyright of the songs in the concerts, I would love to hear from you. With me being away for five weeks I will only be looking at the concert book in August. If I can't get the copyright issues resolved I can't legally sell the book to you so I may have to look at some other "different" ways of distributing the concerts. I have kept all the e mails of people who have responded so please be patient while I try and come up with a workable solution.

Father's Day activities

Father's day is in June and it's a good time to honour all the dads, grandpas, Oupas and granddads in our lives and the lives of our children. Remember there may be step dads so allow those children to make two items if necessary. Also be sensitive to children who don't have a dad. Encourage these children to make something for a father figure in their lives.

Pinterest board <https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/fathers-day/>



<http://southshoremamas.com/?p=12818>



<http://www.pentel.com/blog/five-memorable-hand-made-gifts-to-create-for-fathers-day/>

<http://www.holiday-crafts-and-creations.com/kids-printable-activities.html>



<http://www.ourfamilyworld.com/2012/05/18/fathers-day-crafts-for-kids/>



<http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Worlds-Best-Dad-Award.html>

<http://www.iheartartscrafts.com/fathers-day-sharpie-mug-craft/>



<http://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2013/06/im-hooked-on-daddy.html?m=1>

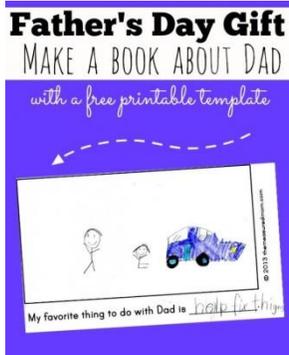


<http://planetforward.ca/blog/eco-friendly-craft-fathers-day-king-for-a-day-crown/>



<http://www.craftymorning.com/gold-metal-fathers-day-gift-kids-make/>

<http://www.themeasuredmom.com/home-made-fathers-day-gift/>



<http://lashedhomecare.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2011-06-24T05%3A10%3A00-05%3A00&max-results=7>



<http://www.thechocolatemuffintree.com/2011/06/fathers-day-portrait.html>



Autumn leaves - Printing with sponges in traced hand outlines – refer back to the May newsletter for more information on this activity. Or you can find it on www.preschoolthemes.co.nz

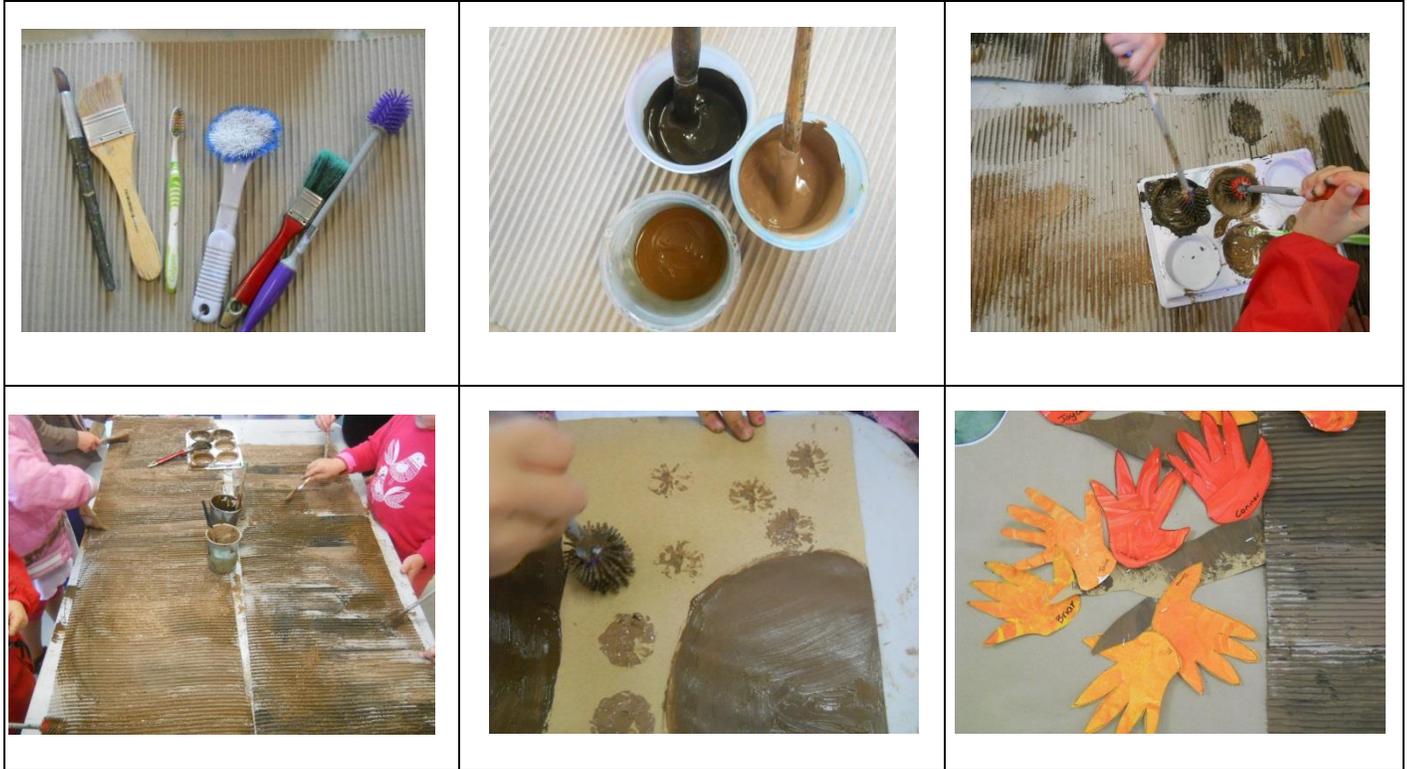


Painting with a variety of brushes to create a tree trunk

Following on from this activity we wanted to create a wall display with a tree. To create the tree trunk I had saved some corrugated cardboard from a parcel I had received and with the texture I felt it would make an ideal tree trunk. I set the cardboard out on a long table as a group painting effort. Instead of just using paint brushes I set out a variety of painting brushes for the children to enjoy. We had some special purchased spikey brushes which were fun and effective to use, (see pic below) but all the other brushes were from the art cupboard. To add more depth to the tree trunk I used three different colours of brown paint. To make dark brown add a bit of black paint and to make light brown paint add some brown paint to white paint. The children painted freely until the cardboard was well covered. I set out some brown paper for the children to continue painting so we had some paper for creating the side branches. Once dry, the trunk was stapled to the pin board and the sponge printed leaves were attached.



See the way this brush can be used for making prints in the pics below.



Glittered real leaves



In New Zealand we celebrate the Matariki in June which is the Maori New Year. Part of this celebration is to honour and appreciate their heritage and the role that nature plays in our lives.

The teachers were in the process of creating learning activities around this theme and creating a big wall display which was developing over time. One of the teachers asked me to use real leaves for an art activity to add to the display. I collected some real leaves for the children to paint and glitter. I added paint to glue and brought out the glitter. The children really enjoyed painting the leaves with coloured glue and sprinkling glitter... and more glitter... and more glitter! *A parent told me his child says glitter is her third favourite colour despite him telling her several times glitter is not a colour.* They LOVE using glitter. Usually the children are quite good with using the glitter but I was called away from this activity and a 'darling' decided to open and empty two big glitter shakers onto the table and in the process of trying to clean it up made an awful mess. Murphy's I had moved the activity out of the art area and onto a carpeted area so I was really not impressed!! Lesson learned. I added some glitter paint to the glue too, but this is not essential.





Add the glitter leaves to the group display

Note:

- Use plastic trays or polystyrene trays to catch the excess glitter. It helps, but expect the glitter to be all over the classroom.
- Place the glitter in plastic glitter shaker containers or spice bottles with holes or ration the glitter in plastic lids. Alternatively use flat containers so the children have to use their fingers to pinch the glitter. Just watch out that the children don't pick up the container and tip it over the leaves
- Supervise closely!!
- Coarse glitter is better for preschool if you have a choice
- No glitter – cut up gold and silver tea packets into little pieces



You can paint many items from nature including rocks, stones, pebbles, branches, seeds and pods, pine cones and acorns.

Instead of using marbles for marble painting use acorns to roll around or shake in containers

Princess crowns –collage and construction using paper plates



We made these paper plate princesses and princes just for fun. I cut out the crowns but some children asked if they could cut their own pattern across the top of their crowns which of course was great for fine motor and creativity. We got lots of beautiful princesses and princes.

I stapled the crowns to the top of the paper plates. This helps to keep the faces the right way up. I used small plates but large plates are fine too. Cardboard circles are fine if you don't have paper plates.

I cut out eyes and mouths from paper and we had some sticker eyes in the storeroom which they pasted onto the eyes. (Or use googly eyes) The crowns were collaged with a variety of items such as feathers, glitter, paper shapes, buttons and shiny shapes. We used crepe paper strips for the hair.



I let the children have free reign on this activity so there were some "interesting end results".





Some of the princesses made by different age groups



3 year old

5 year old

An interesting orientation

Glitter girl – 4 year old

He cut his paper plate!

Extension activity

I encouraged the children to name their prince or princesses and we created a story around each face: her name, age, where she lived, what she liked to do and what food she liked to eat. To extend this activity this discussion could take place in story time or language mat time. The faces could be used to make a puppet show or to tell a story.

Threading seed beads on wire

I had a whole lot of coloured seed beads and we threaded them onto thin wire which eliminated the need for needles and thread. I added some gold stars with holes in them. Once the children had threaded enough beads I twisted the wire into a circle and secured the wire, bending it into a loop to be able to thread the heart. I then shaped a heart with the wire and we threaded the heart onto a pipe cleaner for a bangle for mom for Mother's Day Surprisingly there were quite a few boys at this activity.



Note: Don't forget to secure a bead on the end of the wire to prevent the beads falling off. Place the beads on a flat plate for easy threading and to prevent the beads rolling onto the floor. Beading wire can be bought at the craft section

One child was so excited about her heart for her mother. She said it's just like a charm bracelet and her mom was going to love it.



A few other ideas

We have a big flat metal activity tray at school. Here it is filled with sand and plastic animals added. The children do mess the sand out of the container so either place it where the mess is okay or else place a plastic mat under the area to catch the sand. Sometimes we put water in and add water animals.



Rainbow paintings – with glitter! Use coloured paper instead of white paper to paint on. It creates a nice effect.



Anzac Day – Poppy day

In NZ Anzac day is celebrated to remember the men that fought in the war. The children each hand printed a poppy and we arranged the hand printed poppies in a wreath for the memorial ceremony we held at school.



Leaf people

I saw these ideas on pinterest and loved the ideas. I like the patterning activity around the picture. These are writing patterns so it's a great idea for Grade R children.



<http://www.lamaternelledechocolatine.fr/bonhomme-feuille-f34622>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/290904457157586802/>

Drawing – on clear lids with marking pens

This idea comes from Pinterest with the link below. I have not done this activity myself but I think it's a great idea to use up the many transparent plastic lids that are easily collected. The yogurt I buy has a lid like this as does the many take away plastic containers you get. Just make sure the marking pens are permanent otherwise the colour will rub off. Younger children will "scribble".



<http://www.willowday.com/2014/09/recycled-kaleidoscope-frisbees.html?m=1>

Song board idea – pinterest

I think this is a lovely idea to remind you of some songs you can sing at transition time and for music and movement lessons

Happy teaching

Regards

Karin

