

Preschool Themes Newsletter – June 2019

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe it's already June and here we are half way through the year. Time seems to be flying by so fast this year. Our autumn in NZ was later than usual and lasted shorter than usual but there was enough time to do a few autumn art activities with the children. Unfortunately winter has arrived with a vengeance and with it comes the wind and rain and blows off all the autumn leaves and we have bare winter trees almost overnight.

June has Father's day so I have included a few extra ideas for you to use. Once again these are not my own ideas so please follow the links to get more information. I have a pinterest board of Father's Day activities for your convenience.



<https://www.pinterest.nz/kstedall/fathers-day/>

Some unexpected work hazards

We have a donkey at school named Lolly and a miniature cow called Rosie. They have been reared around people so they are used to the children. They are often in the area next to our playground grazing. When I do my art in the covered outdoor area I secure the paintings to the fence. On this particular day I had told a new teacher to place the paintings high up on the fence as Lolly and Rosie steal them through the fence.

When I next looked up the donkey had reached up high and snatched a painting from the fence and eaten it before I could even see the name on the painting. I quickly moved the paintings to another area of the fence out of their reach but before I could get them all moved the cow came over and snatched a painting too!! I was amused and annoyed at the same time. So from then on the paintings are secured on a part of the fence they can't reach. The joys of working at a rural preschool



Preschool themes manuals

There are 44 titles to choose from written specifically for the South African context. Each manual costs R50 excluding postage. Each manual contains 20 lessons for the week covering the learning areas and weekly planning for the lessons and the play areas. The books are suitable for the 3-5 year olds and up to 6 y with some adaptations for Grade R. The web site has an online order form for your convenience. More information on the titles and concepts can be found on the web site.

To date I have sold more than 75,000 books and I get very good positive feedback from teachers who use them.

The preschool themes are available through my web site www.preschoolthemes.co.za

Creative activities

My house with drawing

For this activity I prepared the house shaped paper and the children drew their families and completed decorating the house using koki pens.

Themes: My home, my family, Homes

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

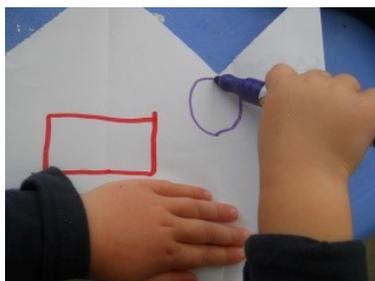
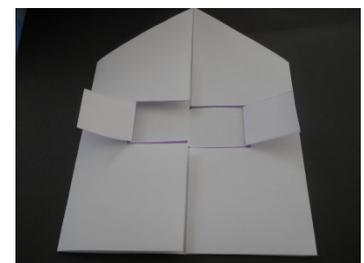
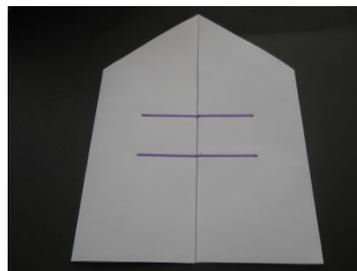
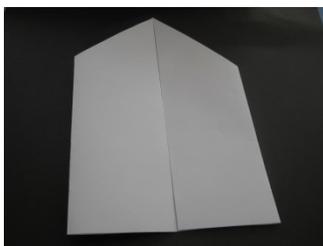
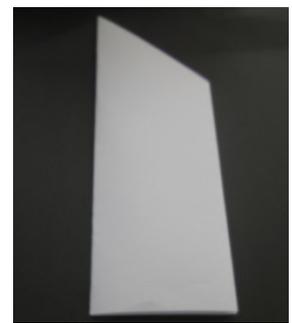
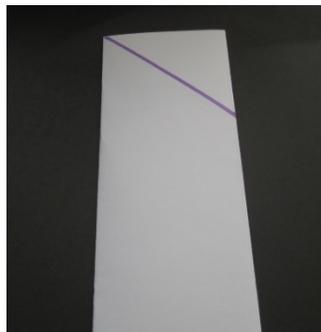
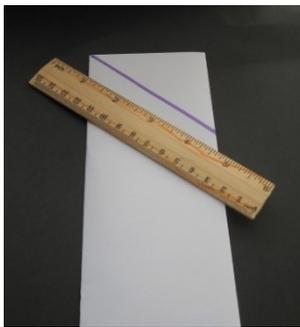
Materials:

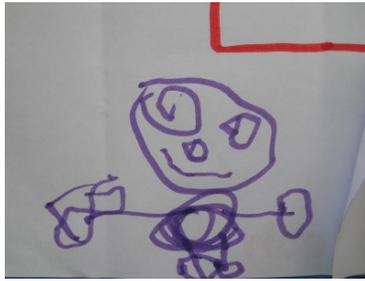
- A4 white paper
- Scissors and ruler for the teacher
- Koki pens

Method:

Teacher: Prepare the house shaped paper as per photos below

Child: The child draws their family and decorates the outside of the house using koki pens or wax crayons.





Notes:

- The children didn't really understand the idea of decorating the outside of the house with tiles and bricks but the end result was still effective and they enjoyed the activity.

Autumn leaves and group autumn tree display

We have the most amazing autumn leaves in town so I always take the opportunity to do some autumn leaf art and create a group display of an autumn tree.

This activity can be done in two ways and both work fine. I created the leaf shape by tracing around the child's hands creating a point on the fingers rather than rounding the fingers. This creates a hand shaped leaf. The child then completed the leaves by painting with sponges over the hand prints. The other option and this may well be a better option if you have younger children is to cover the paper in the autumn coloured paints and once dry either cut leaves or trace the children's hands onto the painted paper. If you do choose option1 make sure you have traced the hands ahead of the activity as the children get impatient waiting for you to do their hands. Some children kept moving their fingers as I was trying to trace them which made for some wonky leaves!!



Sponges in pegs

I use the zimmy sponges that you scour pots and pans with purchased from the supermarket. I cut one into 3 or 4 pieces and insert the folded sponge into a washing peg. Plastic pegs are more durable than wooden pegs. When washing the sponges I remove them from the pegs and dry in the sun otherwise they mould and get smelly.

Themes: Autumn, leaves, trees, growth, seasons, colours

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

Skills: Large muscles, small muscles

Materials:

- A 4 white paper
- Black pen to trace the hands
- Paint – red and yellow in a flat paint tray
- Sponges in pegs



Method:

Teacher: Prepare hands to paint by tracing the children's hands and place sponges in pegs.

Child: The child lays their hands one at a time onto the paper with their fingers spread wide. Using a black koki pen or black wax crayon, the teacher traces around the hand and fingers creating points on the end of the fingers to

represent hand shaped leaves. The child dabs yellow paint onto the hand outlines extending past the black lines as the leaves get cut out later. The child dabs red paint onto the yellow paint so areas of orange are created. The children did this in different ways creating a variety of different autumn leaves. Once dry the child or the teacher cuts out the leaves and displays them as a group tree (see next activity). It's quite difficult for children to cut around the fingers so it may need a teacher to cut them out.



Notes:

- The paint needs to be in a flat container otherwise the sponges pick up too much paint.
- It's important that the hands are covered with paint
- Using paint brushes instead of sponges will end up with all the leaves being orange as the children will spread the paint until it's all mixed
- Wash and DRY your sponges well before you put them away or they may mould and smell.
- Remember to write the child's name on the back of the leaves when they are cut out.
- This same technique will work well using greens for a summer tree.
- Some children kept closing their fingers or moving them as I traced them.



Tree trunk and branches

I planned to create a group tree display with the leaves and a tree trunk and branches. I wanted to set out a group activity to create the tree trunk and some painted paper to cut the branches for the tree. I was after some texture on the tree and initially I was going to paint the brown paper with paint and glue and then sprinkle on sawdust. I have done this in the past and it was very effective but I didn't have any sawdust on hand when I wanted to do this activity. However I had sheets of tissue paper which I thought would be nice and effective if we scrunched it up a bit as we pasted it with glue coloured brown with paint.



I really liked the end result

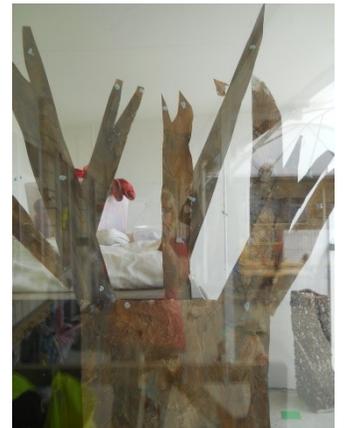
Theme: Trees and wood, Seasons, Textures, Brown in nature

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

Materials:

- Large continuous sheet of lightweight brown paper or white is fine too
- Paint – varying colours of brown (add a dab of black to brown paint to make dark brown and add brown to white paint for light brown)
- A variety of paint brushes. Larger brushes work better
- Large sheets of tissue paper – white is best
- Glue coloured brown with brown paint



Method:

Teacher: Secure the long piece of paper to the table.

Child: The child paints areas of brown glue to the paper and paste the white tissue paper onto the glue scrunching it up a bit. The children continue doing this until the base paper is fairly well covered with areas of tissue paper. Once this is complete the children paint the paper and the tissue paper using a variety of browns. I made a grey brown which was a bad idea as it dominated the tree. The whole area needs to be well covered in paint and the tissue paper is saturated with paint. Once dry I cut out a tree trunk and some branches. The tree was assembled and displayed on a large window using presstick. (The photo of the tree trunk above has some light reflection so it's not very clear)





Notes:

- This needs quite a few children to complete the activity. I went over the end product with paint just to be sure it was well covered.

Paper plate masks

Themes: Senses, storytelling and books, Birds if using feathers

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

Materials:

- Paper plate cut in half
- Pastels, wax crayons or koki pens
- Collage materials- shiny shapes, feathers,



- Glue
- Cord or elastic to tie the masks to the face (Cellotape)

Teacher: Prepare the masks by cutting the paper plates in half, rounding off the corners and cutting out the eyes. It is better to have the string or elastic attached before the child decorates the mask but it can be done once the mask is dry. I prefer to tape the string to the mask as the string pulls out if it's tied through a hole.



Child: The child colours the paper plate as they please. They add collage materials and glitter is optional. Feathers above the eyes are effective. Make sure the child colours the white side of the paper plate and the curve outwards to fit onto their face. I cut an indent for their mouth.



Notes:

- Some children used a lot of glue and it was a bit messy.
- The masks can be painted instead of coloured but they need to dry before they can be worn and the children get frustrated that they have to wait and want to wear them wet which is a bad idea.

**Happy teaching and Happy Father's day
Regards
Karin**

Father's Day ideas: These are not my ideas so please follow the link to get more information



<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/fathers-day-thumbs-up-card/>



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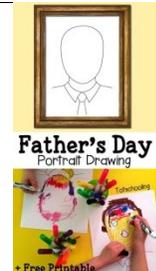
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