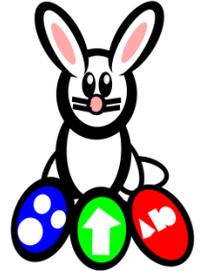


Preschool Themes Newsletter – March 2016

Hello Everyone,

Wow it has been rather hot of late even here in New Zealand and I must say it certainly drains ones energy and makes the children rather grumpy too. To reduce this try to make sure you and the children stay hydrated. In NZ in this heat we line up the children several times a day and pour them all a drink of water and make sure they actually drink it! We also have a water fountain for the children but many forget to have a drink during the day.

We have an early Easter this year so I have included some Easter ideas and links in this newsletter.

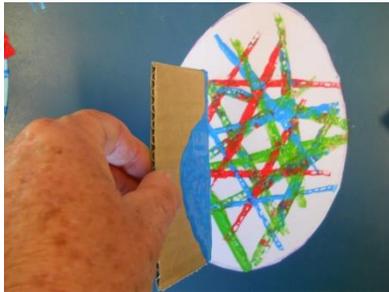


For more ideas visit the preschool themes blog which can be found on the preschool themes web site under the tab "blog". www.preschoolthemes.co.za

Some Easter photos are on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes/>

Please visit the Pintrest board for lots of fun Easter idea <https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/easter-school/>

Easter activities



Printing – using cardboard on an oval egg shape using a piece of thick cardboard cut from a cardboard box and using the edge to create the lines



Painting and printing on bubble wrap. Draw an oval on the bubble wrap. The children paint the bubble side of the bubble wrap and place a piece of paper over the paint, rub gently and lift off the paper to see a print.



Cork printing in an oval shape
 Draw an oval shape and have the children print patterns with corks



Easter basket made from a paper plate and an egg with paper strips for the basket

Art activities – Shape

Tracing circles – drawing and colour wash painting

This is a simple but very effective creative activity. I gave the children plastic circles to trace around using wax crayons. I invited the children to draw pictures in the circles encouraging them to think of things that are made from circles e.g. sun, faces, wheels, flowers

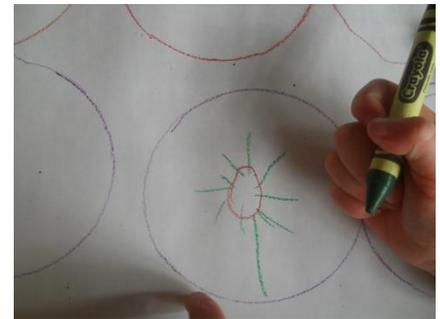
Once the drawing was complete, the children moved to another table and painted over the drawings covering all the white space with diluted food colouring or school dye. The children allowed the colours to blend creating lovely new colours.

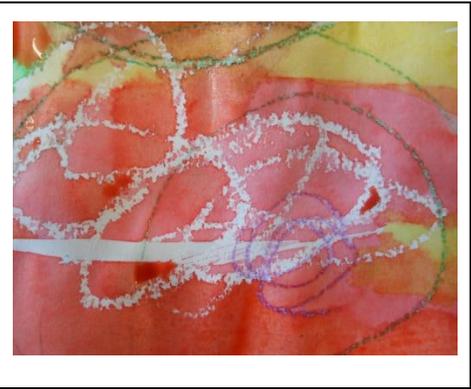


For the younger children; help them trace circles or give them pre- drawn circles or give them paper cut in a circle to draw in leaving out the tracing aspect of the activity. They will enjoy 'scribbling' instead of drawing.

Tips:

- Some children struggled to trace around the circles. Help them by holding the circle for them or encourage the children to help each other (buddy system)
- Encourage the children to complete the drawings before moving to the paint area. Some of the children started painting and then wanted to go back and draw more.
- White wax crayons are very effective and show up nicely when painted.
- Test the food colouring before you put it out. If it's too dark it will cover the drawing and if it's too light it will be washy.
- Discourage the children from using too much food colouring as it drips off the painting when they carry it to the drying area.
- Food colouring and school dyes stain clothes



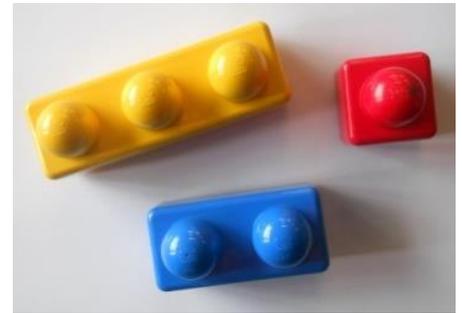


Printing – the Duplo blocks

The Duplo blocks are a good size for small hands to hold while they print.

For this activity I used Duplo blocks of different sizes but if I did it again I would not use the three section one. When you print with the blocks they create circles. I extended this activity to include colour matching. I would not put all the colours on one ice cream lid as the colours became mixed and muddy (see pictures below)

The children dipped the Duplo block into the paint and made a print on the page repeating the printing action until the paint runs out. I think you will find the younger age group will try and paint with the blocks instead of printing. I would only use one paint colour for the younger children



I would only use one paint colour for the younger children



Paint colours on a flat lid – only do one colour per lid otherwise it all gets mixed together



Muddy colours



Muddy mixed colours

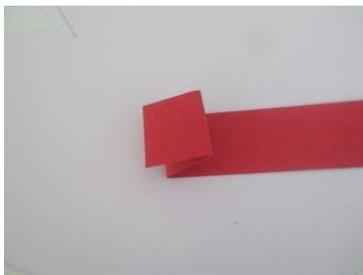




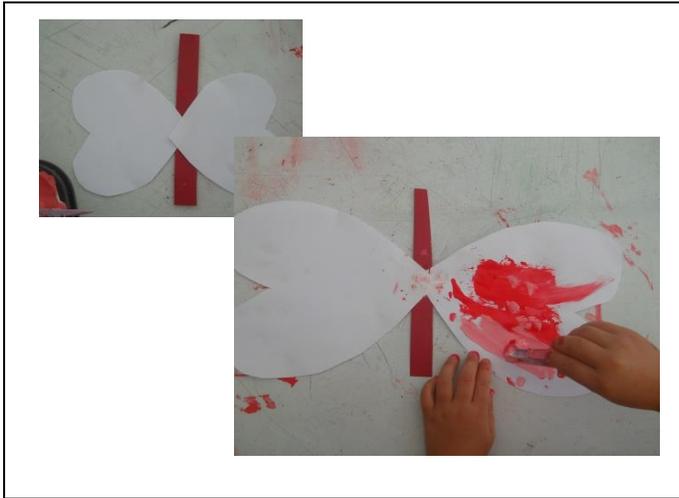
A child decided to draw circles within the circles which I thought was a great extension activity.

Heart shaped people – colour red, valentines and shape

I cut out heart shaped cardboard bodies for the children and some paper strips for the arms and legs. The children found it really challenging to fold the arm and leg strips into zig zags but once they worked out that you need to go back and forwards and not just folded up they were very excited and taught the others. The printing was done with cotton balls in pegs or small pom poms. Some children decided to use the cottonwool balls for the eyes.

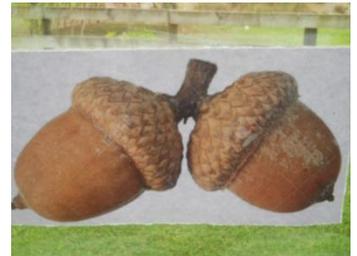


The children used the left over strips of paper and the heart shapes to make their own creations



Teachable moment – Growing acorns

I am sure you have read about teachable moments. These are moments or events in the preschool day that present themselves unexpectedly and the teacher uses the opportunity to teach the children. We had such a moment at school. A child brought in some acorns that he collected on a walk. He shared the acorns as his news in mat time. The teachers extended the activity and asked the children what an acorn needs to grow. The children suggested a few different items. They decided to plant acorns in a variety of different mediums and to water them and see if any acorns grow.



Happy teaching and Happy Easter to you.

**Regards
Karin**