

Preschool Themes Newsletter – March 2015

Hello Everyone,

Here we are already thinking about Easter! This year seems to be flying past. Christmas was hardly over and the shops were full of Easter treats. Once again I have a fabulous collection of activities on my Easter Pinterest board for you and I will post ideas on the preschool Facebook page as we get nearer to Easter.



I have not been back at school as much as I had expected due to issues of a low enrolment and being overstaffed but I do have a few ideas from the days I have been there.

Assessment and the Preschool themes manuals

From time to time I get requests for assessment plans for the preschool themes. I have looked into this carefully and to be honest it's very complicated for me to come up with one assessment plan for everyone. The biggest issue is that everyone completes the themes in a different order so I cannot make an assessment plan that is progressive.

Because of the wide range of age groups that the themes cater for, I would have to create three different plans.

I do believe that not everyone completes all the activities in each theme book as there are many and also each teacher puts their own input into their teaching and would hopefully add in and take away as they see necessary for their group of learners and their personal circumstances. I also believe you should be tailoring your assessment to match what you report on in your school reports.

There are clear assessment criteria with each learning area. The CAPS documents can be accessed on the web site under the CAPS tab if you don't have them readily available. www.preschoolthemes.co.za

Easter activities

<https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/easter-school/>

There are some more photos of activities I did on the preschool Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes/photos_stream

Just a reminder; not all families will celebrate Easter and not all in the same way. Be sensitive to this.



Found on
puttiprapanacha.com

Place low tack masking tape onto the paper. Paint over and remove the tape carefully. It must be **low tack** tape otherwise you will not get it off.

Found on blogs.babble.com

Cold drink base. Washi tape is effective to decorate with



Found on babble.com



Fabric scraps



Found on funholidaycrafts.com
Wax paper under the cross

Found on [onsassydealz.com](http://www.craftymorning.com/3d-paper-plate-easter-basket-craft-kids/)
<http://www.craftymorning.com/3d-paper-plate-easter-basket-craft-kids/>



Found on happyhomefairy.com



Found on freakidscrafts.com

Poem for the hand print card

Handprint Easter Prayer: I fold these hands into a prayer To thank the Lord for love and care. Fold your hands right next to me. And he will love us both, you'll see.

Found on cereschildcare.com



Found on prekinders.com



Found on howweelearn.com



Found on happyhooligans.ca



Found on housingaforest.com



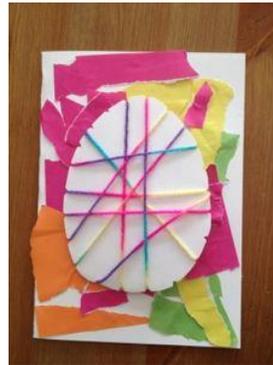
Found on andnextcomes1.com



Found on sassydealz.com



Found on whattodowiththechildren.com



Found on engagingtoddleractivities.wordpress.com



Art activities



Tin can painting

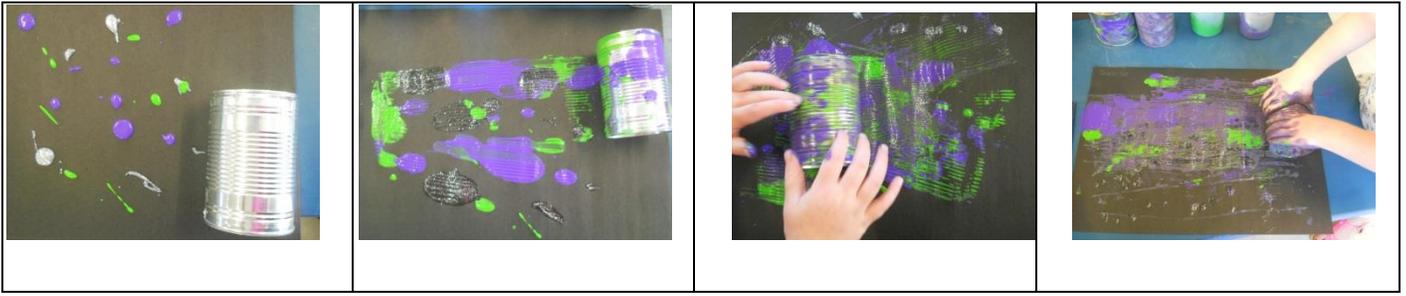
As you know I love doing painting in different ways with the children and I saw this idea to paint with tin cans on Pinterest so I had to give it a go. I think it was quite successful but as always there are a few 'issues'.



I collected several food tins, removed the labels and washed and dried them. Make sure there are no sharp points inside the tins as the children did put their hands into the tins. I had two sizes but both were smaller tins.

I put out two colours of paint and some glitter paint and used black paper which is not essential. I placed teaspoons into the paint – do not use paint brushes as the children will end up painting.

The children dropped generous blobs of paint onto the paper, rolled the tins through the paint until the paint was spread over the paper. Some children added more paint and repeated the activity. I think the end product was very effective. It is important that the blobs of paint are quite large and that the paint is fairly thick.



One child decided she wanted to add some pieces of coloured paper from the open art area.



Notes:

- Some tin cans have a thick edge at the rim which prevents the stripes on the tin from making contact with the paper and paint, so check this first.
- The paint needs to be fairly thick
- Have water and soap nearby
- You need a white crayon to write the child's name on the black paper if using black.
- This could make an interesting background for the space theme.
- Some children did not like getting their hands dirty with paint while others loved it.

Links in the curriculum

This activity links into the mathematics learning area with items that roll and cylinders.

My apologies for all the reflections in the photos! I don't really have time while supervising and trying to capture the moment to be worried about the lighting etc as you can well understand.

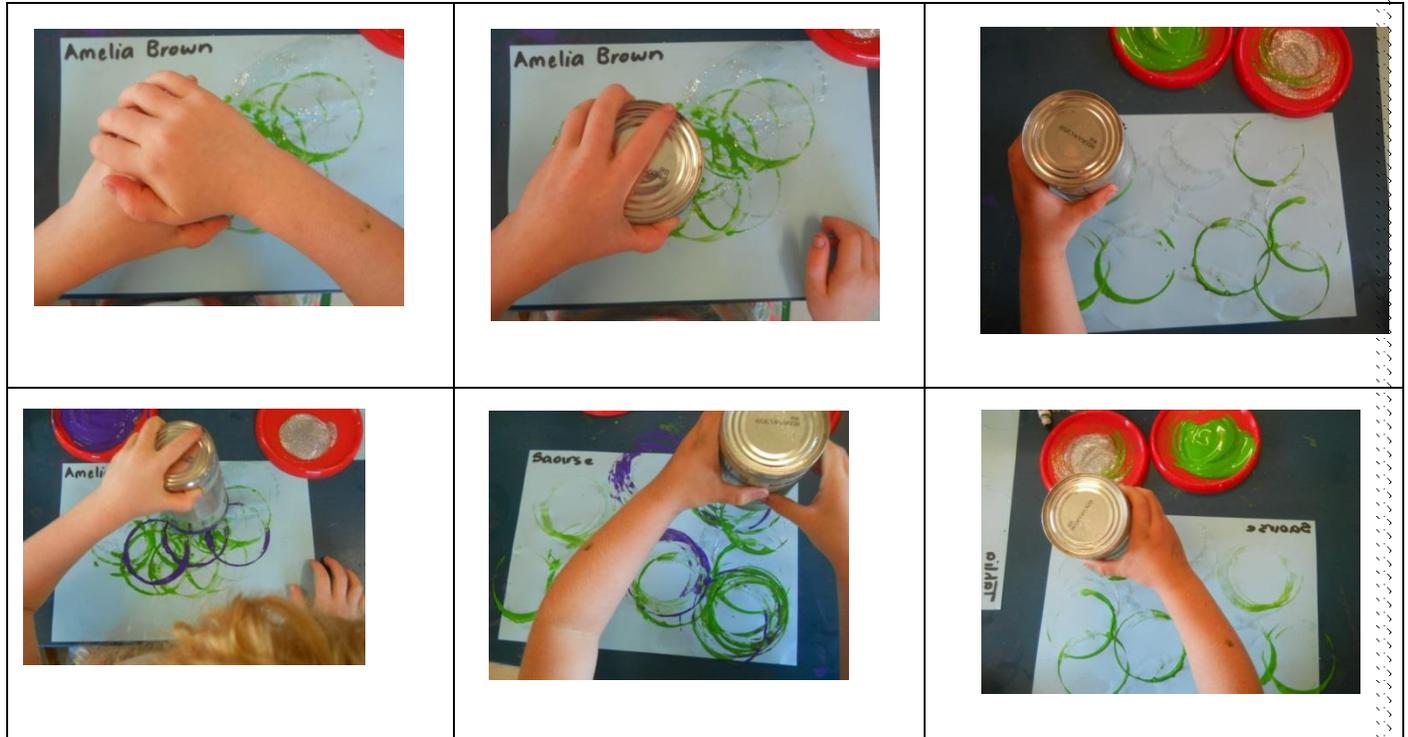
Tin Can Printing

The next day I decided to extend the use of the tin cans and we did tin can printing. It's great to use with the theme of shapes and opposites (up and down). I liked the end product. We used lids for the paint and the children dipped the tin cans into the paint and created prints. I encouraged the children to overlap the prints. You could use this to make a background for a theme. Red and orange used on autumn shaped leaves will be effective.

Note: If you wish to keep the tin cans make sure you dry them well after you have washed them or they may rust.



It was interesting to note the different ways in which the children held the cans to print. Note the great large and small muscle development happening here.



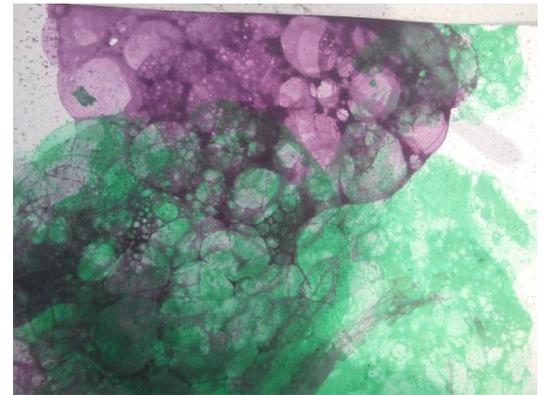
Bubble blowing prints

I saw this idea on Pinterest and decided to give it a go. It worked in some ways and in other ways not really. It's one of those activities that didn't quite go according to plan!!

The idea is to make up a soapy bubble blowing solution (mostly dishwashing liquid and a bit of water) and add some food colouring to the solution. The children dip the bubble wands into the bubble mixture and blow bubbles onto the paper. Once the bubbles land on the paper they leave an imprint as they pop.

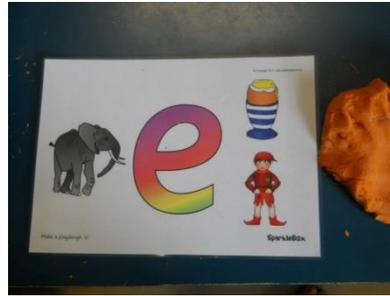
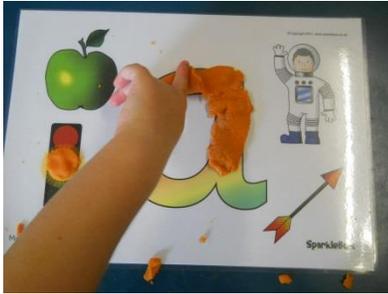
BUT not all bubble wands are created equal. So check that your bubble wands fit into the container and actually work to blow bubbles. We did this activity outside and lots of bubbles blew away. Excess bubble solution dripped onto the paper and spoiled the prints. My size of paper was also too small so definitely use at least an A4 size. We ended up with lots of bubble speckles on our faces and clothes.

In the end I just switched the activity back to straw blowing into the bubble mixture as it was more effective and the children were getting frustrated. Despite the hiccups with this activity the children had lots of fun and we did get a few reasonable end products. We did have very stained hands...



A few other ideas

Play dough alphabet mats



Nature collage



Glue gun constructions – a very versatile tool which the children just love to use



<http://infographicaday.com/100-ways-to-say-great-to-support-others/>

100 WAYS TO SAY GREAT!

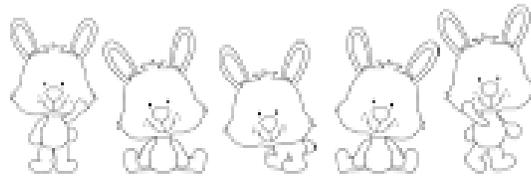
Everyone likes to hear that they or something they've done is great. But great can get old, cliched, musty. If you want to praise someone enthusiastically, try one of these alternatives.

Admirable!	Grand!	Solid!
Amazing!	Impressive!	Special!
Arresting!	Incomparable!	Spectacular!
Astonishing!	Incredible!	Splendid!
Astounding!	Inestimable!	Splendiferous!
Awesome!	Invaluable!	Splendorous!
Awe-inspiring!	Laudable!	Staggering!
Beautiful!	Lovely!	Sterling!
Breathtaking!	Magnificent!	Striking!
Brilliant!	Marvelous!	Stunning!
Capital!	Masterful!	Stupendous!
Captivating!	Mind-blowing!	Super!
Clever!	Mind-boggling!	Superb!
Commendable!	Miraculous!	Super-duper!
Delightful!	Monumental!	Superior!
Distinguished!	Notable!	Superlative!
Distinctive!	Noteworthy!	Supreme!
Engaging!	Out of sight!	Surprising!
Enjoyable!	Out of this world!	Terrific!
Estimable!	Outstanding!	Thumbs up!
Excellent!	Overwhelming!	Thrilling!
Exceptional!	Peerless!	Tiptop!
Exemplary!	Perfect!	Top-notch!
Exquisite!	Phenomenal!	Transcendent!
Extraordinary!	Praiseworthy!	Tremendous!
Fabulous!	Priceless!	Unbelievable!
Fantastic!	Rapturous!	Uncommon!
Fascinating!	Rare!	Unique!
Finest!	Refreshing!	Unparalleled!
First-rate!	Remarkable!	Unprecedented!
Flawless!	Sensational!	Wonderful!
Four-star	Singular!	Wondrous!
Glorious!	Skillful!	World-class!
	Smashing!	

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Five Little Bunnies

(Adapted from the rhyme Five Little Rabbits) — Author Unknown



Five little bunnies hopping on the floor,
One hopped away,
And then there were four.

Four little bunnies, sweet as can be,
One hopped away,
And then there were three.

Three little bunnies, I once knew,
One hopped away,
And then there were two.

Two little bunnies, oh what fun!
One hopped away,
And then there was one.

One little bunny, playing in the sun,
One hopped away,
And now there are none.

<http://tiktok.com/@infographicaday>

Graphics: www.SunoverDust.com

Happy teaching
Regards Karin