



E mail: epos@groep7.co.za Ilette Strydom
Tel cell: 0824490574 Fax: 0865141051
PO Box 14717, Sinoville, Pretoria 0129
Karin Stedall: www.rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz
Web site: www.preschoolthemes.co.za
Facebook: www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes
Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/kstedall/>

Preschool Themes Newsletter – May 2015

Hello Everyone,

Wow April certainly was a month of public holidays and long weekends. I hope you all enjoyed the extra days of leave. Our weather has changed to autumn weather with chilly mornings and evenings and all the trees are ablaze with autumn colours which I enjoy so I have included two art activities in this newsletter to make autumn leaves. I hope you all have a happy Mother's day and you share the love with all your mothers and grandmothers.



Postage cost increases

Sadly we have to increase the cost of posting the books as the post office has increased their rates. I would like to highly recommend that you select to have your books couriered when possible. It is a safer and quicker method of having your books delivered. Postage is taking a long time and we can never be sure the books will definitely arrive. If you do order books and have them posted and they have not arrived within a reasonable time, please contact Mona at Groep 7 so she can follow up for you. If you order just one book the postage is R10 but it's not sent registered. Postage for one book registered with a tracking number is R30. Free delivery is only relevant to orders in South Africa.

| Books | Cost |
|-------|---------|
| 1-4 | 50 |
| 5-12 | 60 |
| 13-19 | 75 |
| 20-26 | 85 |
| 27-34 | 95 |
| 35+ | No cost |

Mother's Day activities

If you missed the April newsletter with lots of ideas and activities for Mother's Day you can find it on www.preschoolthemes.co.za under newsletters.

The link for my Pinterest board for Mother's Day is <https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/mothers-day-ideas/> with even more ideas.



Book of concerts

I am in the process of negotiating a book of concerts. To see if there is sufficient interest for such a book please e mail me if you are interested. ([No obligation](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz)). rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz

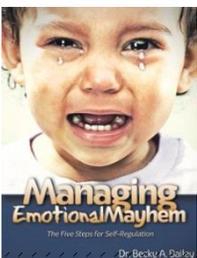
The book should be available towards the end of August if all goes according to plan....

Managing children's behaviour Part 2

As promised in the April newsletter here is part 2 of the discussion about managing children's behaviour. I have attached the article but if you want to open it now here is the link.

Part one can be found at <http://childhood101.com/2015/03/helping-children-manage-big-emotions/>

<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2014/07/self-regulation-the-1-skill-for-success-in-school-and-life/>



Self-Regulation:

The #1 skill for success in school and life!

Art activities

String painting – autumn leaves

I like to use familiar art techniques with the children but use the art work to create other art works. I set out some pulled string painting using red and yellow paint. As the children pulled the string out from the folded paper the colours blended to make a lovely mix of red, yellow and orange. Once the paintings were dry I cut out leaf shapes and created a group autumn tree as a display. (sorry no photo)

I set out thick paint in a flat container in reds and oranges for this activity but yellow will look nice too. I tied pieces of thick wool or string to a plastic spoon for the children to hold. A washing peg works well too. To start off I used a paint brush to saturate the string with paint. I gave the children folded paper and showed them how to lay the string on one side of the paper with the spoon out of the paper. They folded the paper in half and holding the paper gently with one hand they slowly pulled out the string using the spoon. The picture was opened and the process repeated with another colour until a pleasing effect was achieved. Once the paintings were dry I cut them into leaf shapes.



Notes:

- Don't make the string too long – about 30-40 cm
- It's best if the children stand when doing this activity
- It's quite messy so keep a cleaning cloth handy
- Choose colours that mix to make a pleasant new colour
- Fold the paper for the children
- For the younger children help them by holding the paper while they pull out the string
- Instead of using a plastic spoon to attach the string you can use a peg or toilet roll.
- Remind the children to keep the handle (spoon) out of the paint.
- The paint needs to be in a flat container
- Don't leave paint brushes in the paint.

Autumn leaves - Printing with sponges in traced hand outlines

I traced the children's hands using a nice thick black koki pen, but instead of going around their fingers I made it more pointed to look like the hand shaped autumn leaves you find in nature. I then closed the bottom of the hand.

The children printed with the sponge dobbers using red and yellow paint to



create blends of orange. Once the paintings were dry I cut out the leaf shapes. The leaves can be added to a group tree collage, displayed as a mobile or arranged as a border around your autumn theme table. This activity was particularly enjoyed by the boys and the younger children in the group. The sponge dobbers I used can be bought but you can also use pieces of thick sponge in a peg. It's quite cost effective to buy dishwashing sponges from the supermarket and cut them up. The flat paint trays are very useful at school and worth purchasing a few. Remember to write the children's names on each leaf before you cut them out. This can only be done when the paint is dry. (Sorry for all the shadows!)



With the open ended art area at our school I let the children have the koki pens and they traced their own hands. The fingers were more rounded but it was still effective. Some children chose to cut out their own leaves.



Notes:

- You need to use a dark pen for the tracing as the lines get painted over and you won't see pencil lines

- Don't cut the leaves first
- Older children can cut their own leaves out although this is quite difficult even for them
- Some children painted with the sponges instead of printing
- Some children preferred to use only one colour
- With the younger children you could let them print first and when it's dry trace their hands and cut out. This may be a better approach if you struggle with a large group as you have to trace the hands individually. Alternatively use a template and prepare the outlines head of time
- The children need to print over the outlines to be sure the whole leaf is covered with paint.
- Printing with sponges is a great activity for the toddlers and babies even if they paint with them instead of printing



Taking risks at preschool

This is often quite a controversial subject especially here in New Zealand where they have so many health and safety regulations in general. I thought I would share the walking plank we have at our school. The children walk along the plank mostly unassisted and then jump off the end of the plank onto a thick mattress. Some children need to hold your hand initially but they soon learn to do this one their own. We always have a safety mattress under the plank just in case a child does slip and fall. Obviously this area is always very well supervised and the children have to wait their turn with no pushing and no children are allowed to play on the jumping mat. I am not allowed to put the child's face in the photos but I hope you still get the idea and perspective.



Happy teaching
Regards Karin