

Preschool Themes Newsletter – May 2019

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all had a happy Easter and enjoyed the time off together. As usual we all ate way too many chocolates ... May has Mother's Day so I have included a few ideas at the end of the newsletter for you to use. I hope you all get treated well for Mother's Day and treat your mothers too. As usual I have a Pinterest board for Mother's Day which has many more ideas so please do visit the board. <https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/mothers-day-ideas/>

The second term is a good time to do a theme on autumn. There are so many wonderful activities to do around this theme and the children enjoy the colours.

I have given you the links to some past newsletter with several good ideas for autumn creative activities.

<https://www.preschoolthemes.co.za/Preschool-Theme-newsletter-May-2018.pdf>

<https://www.preschoolthemes.co.za/Preschool-Theme-newsletter-June-2016.pdf>

<https://www.preschoolthemes.co.za/Preschool-Theme-newsletter-June-2015.pdf>



Newsletters

I continue to have frustrations with some of the newsletters not being delivered when I send them on the bulk emails. It seems as if its different email addresses each month? I have tried my best to get this issue sorted several times (quite complicated to explain some of the reasons it's happening) but with no success unfortunately. So I can only offer two solutions if you are not receiving the newsletters each month. One is to send me an email asking me to send it to you at the address rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz The other is that the newsletters are on the web site and can be accessed through www.preschoolthemes.co.za but often take a week longer to be added to the web site.

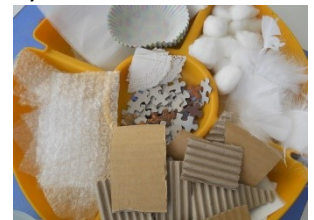


I usually put a post on the preschool themes Facebook page to let you know that the newsletter has been mailed. <https://www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes/>

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletters please pop me a mail so I can remove you from the mailing list. Blocking my email is creating some of the above issues. Thank you in advance.

Creative activities

The age of the children in my group has lowered due to some changes at school so it's been a challenge for me to find activities that suit the younger child but at the same time still offer a challenge to the older children. Younger children seldom create an item or distinct picture but rather they enjoy the process and the materials with no end product in mind. This is an essential part of the creative process and development just as crawling is necessary before walking. Younger children need exposure several times to a material or technique before they will focus on the end product so offer many opportunities for the younger children to use and enjoy a variety of art materials with no pressure to produce something. Some children feel the need to master the materials and process quicker than others and this is seen in the children who ask to make several pictures at the art table. Whenever I can I encourage this and accommodate these children (you may need a few spare materials such as extra cardboard etc) So we have been doing lots of pasting and creating collages as process art projects with the above in mind. Although this activity seems simple the children really enjoyed it.



Sensory collages

I constantly collect and am given textured or sensory materials to use at school. Your storeroom should always contain these items; bubble wrap, corrugated cardboard, feathers, scraps of fabric, thin foam, tissue paper, doyleys, cottonwool, cupcake liners, old jigsaw pieces etc

Note: Cupcake liners are a great art material and can often be bought cheaply from the supermarket. Children really love using them so if you have a limited amount hand them out to each child and don't put them out on the table. One child will end up using a LOT! And then there will be none for the others and trust me they will ask you for one and be very upset if you don't have anymore

Themes: Senses, hard and soft (opposites)

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

Materials:

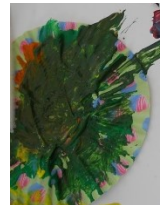
- Background paper – I used light cardboard and A3 size
- Collage materials cut into manageable sizes – bubble wrap, cottonwool balls, tissue paper, jigsaw puzzle pieces, corrugated cardboard, cupcake liners, thin sponge, feathers
- Glue and glue brushes
- Paint – three colours for the younger children and can be more for the older children. Discourage colour mixing! It makes a muddy mess of the paint pots and paint.

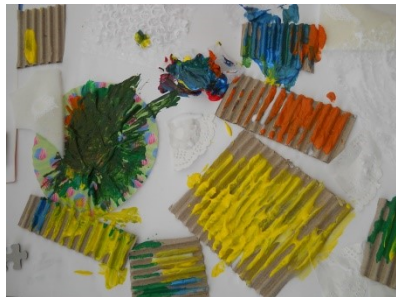
Method:

Teacher: Prepare the collage material into smaller pieces

Child: The child selects the collage materials they want to paste to the paper. Encourage the child to put the glue on the collage material and not on the paper. This prevents the whole page being filled with glue and often nothing pasted to the glue. Encourage the child to use all the materials and to cover the page well.

Once the collage is created the child paints the collage materials and /or the spaces around the collage materials. This can be done once the collage materials have dried a bit or dried overnight which is preferable so it would be best done over two days.





This child got carried away and insisted on painting in the same spot over and over (she has several red flags I am concerned about)

This child is very meticulous about everything so she did a very ordered and tidy art work

Some children decided to paint the collage items and the area around them – both are great opportunities to work with control.

Notes:

- Encourage the children to use a variety of textures and collage items
- Discourage too much paint on one place. It becomes messy
- Discourage the children from using the balls to smear the paint
- Allow free choice of how the collage is painted

Extension

When the children were painting their collages a child came along and was upset that they had not made a collage to paint and I was not in a position to set out the materials for them to create one. So they painted a page and placed the collage material onto the wet paint and it 'stuck' like it was glued. This was an interesting alternative way to do this activity and good for the younger children. (Adding a bit of glue to the paint will ensure that the items stick once dry)

Another child found an egg box and wanted to paste it to the paper and paint it so this could be another activity for another day. The collage materials could be pasted to the egg box. While I know you may be thinking looks like a bit of a pointless activity the children really love painting egg boxes! Children can also use their egg boxes to collect natural treasures from the playground and collage them instead of teacher selected ones.



3 D construction collage

Continuing on with the collage technique I put out this activity and it was really enjoyed by the children. This activity is better suited to the older age group although some of the younger children who did the activity really had fun making their creations and I loved the results.

Themes: No specific theme – maybe hats?

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

Skills: Large muscles, small muscles



Materials:

- Paper plate – small (or a piece of cereal box)
- Paper cup – the ones I used were black which I thought were quite effective but white is fine too.
- Sharp scissors for the teacher
- Fabric glue or glue gun to attach the cup to the base – white glue will work if this is done the day before
- Collage materials – pieces of fabric, feathers, pipe cleaners, foam shapes, shiny shapes, textured wool, cut straws, pompoms, strips of crepe paper and anything else you have available
- Collage tray to put the materials out
- Glue and glue brushes

Method:

Teacher: Prepare the collage materials. Attach a cup upside down to a small paper plate using quick drying fabric glue or a glue gun. Alternatively use white glue which needs to dry overnight to avoid frustration. Punch 4 or 5 holes in the top of the cup using a small pair of sharp scissors. These are for the straws, pipe cleaners and feathers.



Child: The child selects the collage items of their choice and glues them to the cup and paper base. I cut the pipe cleaners in half so they were easier to manage. The children placed feathers in the straws and some wanted to hang the foam monkey shapes hanging off the pipe cleaners. I encouraged the children to paste fabric squares around the cup. Pom poms are best pasted to the base as they fall off the sides.





Notes:

- I would not recommend letting the children paste the cups or make the holes
- I had to make some of the holes a bit bigger for the straws
- Initially I put scissors out but the children were just cutting everything into small pieces so I removed them

Oil and pastel drawings

I saw this activity on Pinterest and I liked the effect but I ran into a few problems as one does

The activity called for baby oil which I did not have so I decided kitchen oil would be fine which it was in some ways... but in the activity I was looking at the pastels 'bled' into the oil and created a fuzzy look which didn't happen as much as I would have liked with the kitchen oil.

Ideally these pictures should be in a frame so light can shine through to accentuate the translucent aspect BUT paper covered in oil means everything you touch after touching the oiled paper gets oily and messy so I discarded the plan to frame the pictures. Despite the short comings which were only there in my adult concept of the activity the end results were effective and the children enjoyed using a different technique.

I did this activity with the 3 ½ y – 5 year olds and they just took the drawing to their own level so some drew pictures while the younger children 'scribbled' but once again it's the process that was important. I did find the younger children struggled to paint oil all over the drawing. This is important as the paper needs to be saturated with oil to be translucent. These pictures are best displayed on a window with the light shining behind them. These two examples are my own drawing as I forgot to take a photo of the final oiled picture used below.



Theme: Senses, flowers and gardens, food

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

Materials:

- A 4 white paper
- Pastels – it may work with wax crayons
- Paper for under the paper as it is messy
- Something to cover the table top

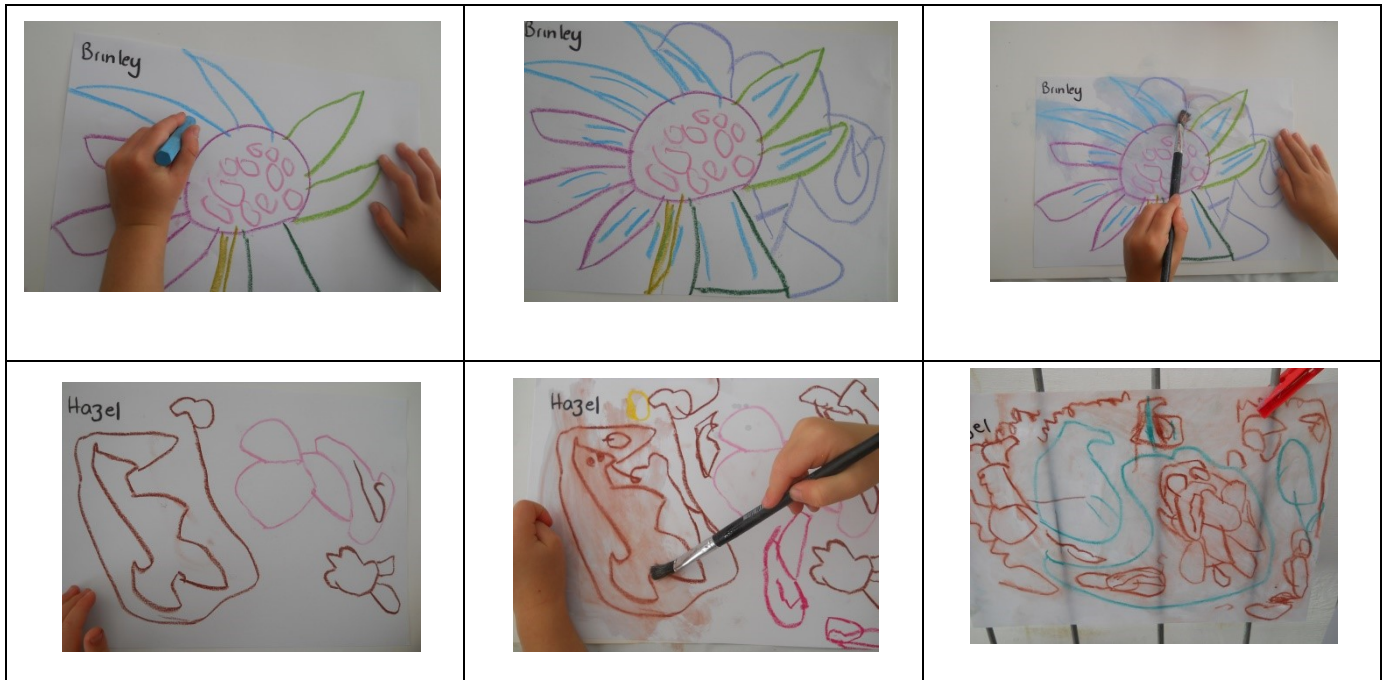


Method:

Child: The child draws a picture with the pastels. The drawing needs to be complete before the child paints over the drawing using oil. Encourage the child to cover the whole page with oil.

Note: Place a larger page under the drawing paper to absorb some of the oil and to assist with lifting the painting as it's hard to move covered in oil.

Only place a small amount of oil in the paint pots in case they tip over.



Notes:

- I have not tried the baby oil as the activity suggested but it will work well too.
- Don't use cardboard – it needs to be paper to be translucent

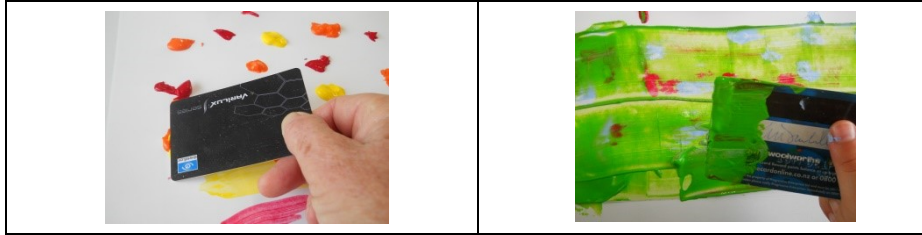
Glue and glitter fish with a credit card painted background

I was given the coloured paper fishes from a parent who had hosted a sea themed party. I used glitter to decorate the fish but you can use any technique that suits you. Instead of glitter you could use coloured crushed eggshells which will give it a nice texture or sandpit sand coloured with dry powder paint. Cork printing will also be effective.

The background was created using the credit card painting technique but you can use any technique to create a blue background

Credit card painting: I am sorry but I did not get any photos of the children using the credit cards to create the blue background but here are two photos from a previous time I did this technique. The children drop blobs of paint onto the paper and pull a credit card through the paint. It's important that the card is held at an angle.





Themes: Sea, Water, fish, the beach, colour blue, Amphibians,

Ages: 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

Materials:

- Background paper A3– I used a slightly heavier paper to carry the weight of the paint
- Fish – cut from coloured paper
- Glue in small bottles that can be squeezed out to make a trail of glue
- Glitter
- Paint – blue and white which will mix to create a light blue
- Credit cards or ice cream containers cut to be like credit cards
- Teaspoons
- Optional: Epsom salts

Teacher: Prepare the fish and fill the glue bottles

Child: Water: The child drops blobs of blue and white paint onto the paper. The child drags a credit card piece of plastic through the paint to blend the paint and create the water. To add some sparkle to the water the children sprinkled on Epsom salts which dries with a shine. This step is not essential.

Fish: While the background is drying the child creates the fish. Using the bottle of glue the child dribbles glue onto the fish, sprinkles glitter or your choice of collage materials, tips off the excess and leaves to dry. Once dry the teacher pastes the fish to the background. (See notes)





Notes:

- Some children squeezed soooo much glue onto the fish! Be aware of this and discourage it. Alternatively the child can spread glue using a glue brush or glue spreader
- The credit cards get quite messy with the excess paint they collect. I had some Carlton roll which I used to wipe them clean
- I placed the paint into shallow plastic trays to prevent too much paint being placed onto the paper. Deep cups encourage big spoonful's of paint
- Discourage too much paint near the edges of the paper as it squishes off with the credit card
- Cover the table as this is a messy activity but the children love it and are fascinated with the effect.



A fish pasted to a white background with a wavy top. Blue cardboard can also be used if you don't want to do the background

The blue fish on the blue background was not the best idea as it was too similar in colour

I give the children anything they need to sprinkle in a milk lid. This limits how much they can use and prevents a big mess

Join the dots drawing

Just for fun we did join the dots drawings. The children made coloured dots over the page and then joined the dots by colour i.e. all the red dots were joined with red pen lines continuing to join all the colours.

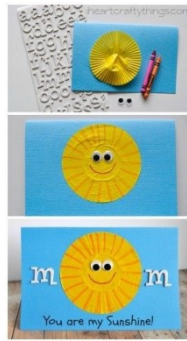


**Happy teaching and Happy Mother's Day
Regards
Karin**

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



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