

May 2012 Newsletter



Welcome to the May edition of the preschool theme newsletter. I have had many new people join the newsletter mailing list over the past few months and I welcome you all. Mother's day falls in the month of May so plan to make something special for the children to give to their moms to show their love and appreciation for everything our moms do for us.

Facebook competition – last week



Thank you to everyone who has joined the Facebook page. I encourage and invite you all to join and start contributing ideas and thoughts. www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes and click on the like button. Alternatively you can use the direct link at the top of the Home page on the web site www.preschoolthemes.co.za

Join Facebook and be there to win 5 Theme books!

Everyone who clicks the like button on the preschool Facebook page between now and the end of April will all go into a draw for 2 people to each win 5 theme books of their choice. This includes everyone who has joined to date. Tell your friends too.

Blog - Supplementary theme ideas and activities

I often see new ideas and activities for the existing themes you have or I do or see an activity at school which I want to share with you all. These ideas can be found on my blog which is also a page on my web site. Since the blog is

new I am still adding ideas so please visit the blog before you start a new theme.

The blog is linked to the web site www.preschoolthemes.co.za or you can follow the blog independently. <http://preschoolthemeideas.wordpress.com/> (Click on the link and it should take you directly to the blog)

CAPS outcomes

New outcomes for Caring for our world are posted on the web site.

The updated CAPS outcomes for the existing themes can be downloaded free of charge from the web site under the tab CAPS outcomes. The file should open as a PDF file which you can print out. I set them out in the same format as the existing ones and you should be able to cut them out and paste them over the old ones. Alternatively staple the few pages to the inside cover of the theme book.

I am working through the list alphabetically.

New theme – Safety with stranger danger

The Safety theme is out and can be obtained from Ilette through the web site.

The concepts I have covered are: home safety, school safety, city and road safety, fire, water, sun and electrical safety and stranger danger.

I will be writing a new theme manual in the next week or two. (Reptiles?) If there is any theme you would like me to write next please send me a mail and I will do my best to accommodate you. rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz

Mother's Day ideas – 13 th May

I have made a separate attachment for some Mother's day ideas and activities. Most are from the internet and hopefully the pictures are self-explanatory.



Free download of resources

These are very useful for the classroom. If you scroll to the end of her web page you will find some more free printable downloads for

- Five green frogs
- Three jelly fish which has a YouTube of her son demonstrating how to use the jelly fish puppets and the tune of the song with the words.

These resources are useful for your theme tables too.



<http://picklebums.com/2011/06/14/five-little-ducks-puppet-printable/>

Cloud dough

This activity is on the blog but I thought I would just pop it here in case you did not see it.

Mix 4 cups of flour and ½ a cup of baby oil (not kitchen oil) together and set it out with teaspoons and lids. It moulds when you squeeze it together but disintegrates easily again. I was surprised to see how long this activity kept the children occupied, simple as it is.

This is a great activity to use with the theme Space as it can be moon dust.



Teachable moments



We all have teachable moments during the year. Here is one of ours. They are doing some road construction work about 2 blocks away from school, so we took the children for a walk to observe the activities. They just loved watching

the big trucks empty sand, the digger load the trucks, and the steam rollers flatten the road and the grader at work.

Back at school the teachers printed some of the photo's they had taken of road signs and the building operations and laminated them. They were placed in the sand play area. The children spent many hours that week role modelling the road works. They put sand over the bicycle track with rocks to demarcate the area and placed signs up and manned the road works. What a great learning opportunity for them all!



In the sand pit area



Memory game activities

I recently purchased a memory card game at the 2nd hand charity shop for very little money. We are lucky to have many of these shops in New Zealand and there are several in South Africa too. Even if the game is missing some pieces you can still do these activities with the children. The charity shops are a wonderful source of good toys and resources.

To make the activity suitable for ring time or lesson time, I attached cheap pieces of magnetic tape to each picture so we could attach them to the magnetic dry wipe board. This meant the children could see the pictures and there is just something about anything magnetic that children just love.

Firstly we just **matched** the same pictures



Then we played "which one does not belong and why?"

I set out four pictures and we named each one. Then I asked which one did not belong and why? At times they could tell me which one did not belong but they could not always tell me why they had made that specific choice.

In this example I set out the princess, her castle, her dress and a butterfly.



They identified the butterfly as the odd one out because all the others belong to the princess or are for the princess.

Another logical answer could have been the butterfly is out because it's the only one with wings.



Then they wanted to use the pictures **to tell me a story**. So they played freely using the pictures while they told me a story. You could of course, tell them a story using the pictures. Another fun activity is to set out one picture and

start the story with each child adding a new picture with the next part of the story.

Example: Set out the sun and say once upon a time on a sunny day a frog came hopping along and you put the frog onto the board below the sun.

Other games:

- **Visual memory:** Remember the pictures, cover them up, remove one and ask which one is missing. Add one in and repeat.
- **Sequencing:** Set out a sequence of pictures and ask the children to remember the order. Cover up and say the order
- **Verbal clues:** I am thinking of something pink and you wear it (dress) using the pictures
- **Phonics:** I am thinking of something that begins with the sound 's' – sun.
- **Sorting:** by colour, wings, people, animals, things, same initial sound,

Name cards

Make a set of name cards for the classroom. When the children arrive in the morning they move their name from the one side of the board to the other to indicate they are present at school. When they leave this process is repeated in the opposite direction.

This method can be used for checking who has done the main art activity too.

I use these name cards for taking the register and for dismissing the children to go to the toilet etc. I show the name card and wait for the child to see it's their name and respond.

These name tags are useful for the children to use to copy from when writing their names on their art work or just practicing writing at the writing table.



You will be amazed at how many children cannot recognise their own names and on the flip side how many names some learners know apart from their own name.

Happy Mother's day to all our moms and remember to spoil your mom if you have one.

God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers. ~Jewish Proverb

Regards Karin