

## Preschool Themes Newsletter – November 2018

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe we are at the end of another year and heading into the all the busyness of the end of the year. Although this time of the year can be stressful and exhausting it's also an exciting time to reflect on how much development has taken place with the children in your care and give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. I have included an article with some tips on how to survive this stressful time.

As we head into the end of the year the anticipation of Christmas builds up with the children. It's a great time to do some Christmas creative activities as well as including the theme of Christmas across all the learning areas. I have a Pinterest board with many Christmas activities and I have attached a page of ideas with the newsletter. These are not my own ideas so you do need to click on the link to get more details.

Although Christmas is still a few weeks off I wish you all a peaceful and blessed festive season and I hope you get some rest. Newsletters will resume in January when school has reopened.

<https://www.pinterest.nz/kstedall/christmas-school/>



### Thank you

This will be last newsletter for the year so I would like to thank you all for the many lovely comments I have received for the ideas in the newsletters. I hope you have enjoyed the activities as much as I have. Once again if you have friends or colleagues who would like to receive the newsletter send me an e mail or click on the link on the web site [www.preschoolthemes.co.za](http://www.preschoolthemes.co.za). If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let me know and I will remove you off the list. And if your e mail changes just a friendly reminder to let me know otherwise I delete the returned newsletters to keep the database clean. I have had some issues with bulk mailing the newsletters which I am unable to resolve so if you don't get the newsletter please let me know or it can be accessed on the web site with past editions.

### Preschool theme manuals

Preschool themes manuals contain all the lesson you will need for a week based on a theme. They can be used as is or you can use them with your own ideas and planning.

There are 44 titles to choose from with each book costing R50 excluding postage. If you order 40 or more books the delivery is free and you receive a plastic container to store the books. (Valid for South Africa only)

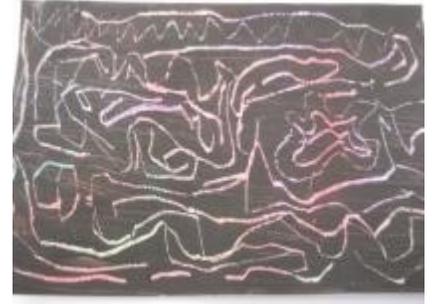
Orders for the preschool theme manuals will remain open until mid-December. The best and easiest way to order the preschool theme manuals is the on-line order form which can be found at [www.preschoolthemes.co.za](http://www.preschoolthemes.co.za)

The order is received in Pretoria at Groep 7 who prints and distributes the books. Once they receive the order, a proforma invoice is sent to you with the exact cost and payment details. Please check your spam mail if you have ordered books and you have not received the proforma invoice. Alternatively you can contact Groep 7 or me at [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz). With the postal service so unreliable we prefer to courier the books to you.



## Creative activities

I have tried this activity several times with varying levels of success. This is really only suitable for the older children and it's really important you use a small piece of cardboard and not paper. Pastels definitely colour more solid and are easier to cover the card with but it can be messy and they do cost a lot more than wax crayons. Also be aware that some wax crayons have a lot of plastic in them so they colour very light. A bit of dishwasher liquid added to the black paint helps it adhere to the waxy surface.



### Theme: Day and night

**Other themes:** Stars and moon, night skies, colours

**Ages:** 4- 5 year olds

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

#### Materials:

- Wax crayons or pastels
- Small piece of cardboard
- Black paint – thick or use ready mixed
- Dishwashing liquid
- Paint brushes
- Scrap paper for under the cardboard
- Pens or something sharp to scratch the paint off



#### Method:

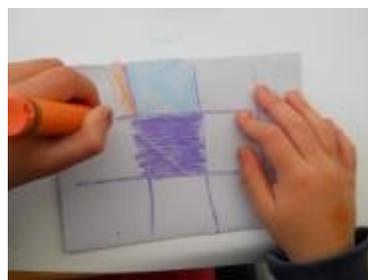
**Teacher:** Prepare the cardboard and mix a big squeeze of dishwashing liquid into the black paint. Be sure to use thick black paint that spreads rather than runs. The dishwashing liquid helps the paint adhere to the wax crayons.

**Optional:** Draw squares on the cardboard. This helps the child to cover the whole piece of cardboard with colour.

**Child:** The child colours the piece of cardboard as darkly as they can ensuring the whole piece of cardboard is covered with wax crayons. The teacher may need to help get a few areas coloured especially in the centre of paper.

The child paints the whole piece of cardboard with the black paint and leaves to dry.

Once dry the child 'scratches' or draws a picture scratching off the paint to show the wax crayon colours underneath. Remind the child that they should draw and not just scratch off all the paint. A ball point pen without the nib extended worked very well. A sosatie stick will be good too.





**Notes:**

- Make sure the whole piece of card is well covered with wax crayon
- Use a small piece of lightweight card. This will not work on paper
- This is not a good activity for the under 3 1/2 year olds
- The paint must be completely dry before you scratch the picture
- Remove any 'excess' paint so it doesn't take too long to dry
- Encourage the children to paint in one direction when applying the black paint
- A pen without the point extended works well for scratching and drawing but any sharp point will work too
- Some children were determined to remove all the black paint instead of drawing or scribbling a picture
- A few children wanted to draw a picture instead of colouring the whole area in wax crayon
- Drawing blocks helps the children to complete the task of colouring in all the paper and discourages picture drawing.



**Paper plate boats on a glad wrap painted background**

**Glad wrap painting**

**Theme: Water and water transport**

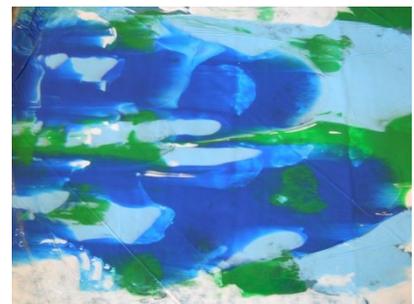
**Other themes:** Sea. Beach, kitchen (glad wrap and rollers)

**Ages:** 3 1/2y - 5 year olds

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

**Materials:**

- Paper or lightweight card
- Glad wrap and teacher scissors to cut the plastic off
- Paint – blue, white, green
- Firm cardboard rollers
- Flat container for the paint and teaspoons



**Method:**

**Teacher:** Prepare the paint. Cover the table as the paint does ooze out from the paper and it can be messy.

**Child:** The child drops blobs of paint onto the paper. Discourage the child from spreading the paint and include white as it blends to make nice tones. The teacher places a layer of glad wrap over the paint extending past the edges of the paper and cuts off the plastic from the roll. The child rolls the cardboard tube over the glad wrap blending the paint together. Encourage the child to roll in different direction to ensure the paint is well blended. Preferably the teacher should check it's well blended before removing and discarding the plastic. Leave to dry before completing the boat



**Notes:**

- There is a fine line between too much and too little paint but they soon get the hang of it.
- Too little and you don't get a nice blend
- Too much and it squeezes off the edges and is very wet and takes ages to dry
- Some children need help lifting the glad wrap at the end.

**Paper plate boat**

**Theme: Water and water transport**

**Other themes:** Sea

**Ages:** 4 - 5 year olds

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

**Materials:**

- Paper plate – small ½ per child
- Wooden sucker stick or a cup piece of toilet roll
- Colour paper triangles for the sails
- Wax crayons, Koki pens or pastels to decorate the boat
- Glue and glue brushes
- Glad wrap painted background

**Method:**

**Teacher:** Prepare the paper plates by cutting them in half. Cut some triangles for the sails.

**Child:** The child decorates the paper plate semi-circle, the sails and the mast using the crayons. These can be painted or colour washed if you have time for it to dry before assembling the boat on the background. The child pastes the boat parts to the background using a good amount of glue.

**Optional:** The child can add fish to the water





### Notes:

- Some children struggled to place the sails.
- Paper plates don't stick all that well so perhaps a semi circle of paper would be easier
- Discuss the position of the boat and sails ahead of the activity
- No background – use blue paper

### Theme: Farm animals

The balloon printing I used for this activity is a great way to create a background for collages and for painting other items e.g. an autumn shaped leaf with these colours or a summer tree with greens and white paint

**Other themes:** Birds, Eggs

**Ages:** 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

### Materials:

- Small paper plate per child
- Balloons
- Paint – yellow and red in a flat container
- Glue and glue brushes
- Yellow, red and orange paper cut into strips and curled over scissors



## Method:

**Teacher:** Prepare the balloons by filling them with water BEFORE you blow them up. Only blow them up a little so it's easy for little hands to hold them. Secure with a knot. The water weights the balloons so they don't float away. Cut some coloured red, yellow and orange paper into strips and curl them by pulling the paper over the blade of a pair of scissors. Children can't do this. Cut a few triangles for the beaks.

**Child:** The child dips the balloon in the paint and prints the paint on the underneath side of the paper plate. Encourage the child to bob the balloon up and down instead of smearing the paint. Once the paper plate is well covered leave to dry. Once dry the paper plate is folded in half. Feathers (curled paper) are pasted to the body and for the tail feathers; the chicken is given a beak and an eye. The chicken rocks and pecks food.



## Notes:

- Some children smeared the paint instead of printing
- Use colours that blend to make new colours
- Cut up squares of crepe or tissue paper instead of curled paper for the feathers
- If you have real chicken feathers they can be used but be aware that some children are allergic to feathers

## Christmas idea for a parent gift (not my idea and I don't know the source)

I saw this very cute idea as a gift to the parents. Place a photo of the child on one side and print the message on the other side. Using some twine or string, cut the string the same height as the child and use it to tie a bow. This becomes a keepsake to see how little their children were in 2018.

## Happy teaching and all the best for the end of the year

Regards  
Karin

MEASURE A RIBBON AS TALL AS YOUR CHILD, THEN TIE IT AROUND THIS PRINTABLE ORNAMENT. SAVE ONE EACH YEAR TO REMEMBER HOW LITTLE THEY WERE!

