

Preschool Themes Newsletter – September 2014

Hello Everyone,

Happy Spring time to you all.☺ I love the warmer weather and the longer sunshine hours. It's an ideal time to reassess your outdoor area and see where you can make some changes. Strive to set up and place a different outdoor activity each day to keep the area stimulating and inviting. This may be something as simple as a different outdoor toy, an art or sensory activity or a mattress with books to read in the shade. (I know, books should not be allowed outside but explain this is a special occasion so they need to stay on the mat and be read with care)

Pinterest ideas for outdoor ideas and sand and water play

<http://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/outdoor-sand-and-water-play/> for the links to these activities and ideas

Sometimes it's the simple things that keep the children the happiest in the outdoor area and the sand and water play areas. A plank, a few wooden logs, big rocks, shells, empty household containers and a small table can keep the children involved and playing happily together for some time while learning many skills and developing language and learning how to work together.

Here are a few ideas from the pinterest board to inspire you



Newsletters



I am having some hassles with sending out my newsletter as bulk e mails at the moment. I am not sure if it's sorted as I am testing it with this newsletter. So my apologies if you end up receiving the newsletter twice.

I would like to ask you to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter rather than mark it as spam etc. This seems to be part of my issue. Unfortunately I do not have an unsubscribe link so just to pop me a mail asking me to remove you from the list please. I understand that circumstances change and you may no longer wish to receive the mail. You are also receiving the newsletter as you have requested it either on the web site or on your theme book order. I can assure you that this is the only purpose I use your e mail. I will never give it out or sell it so your privacy is secure.

Art ideas

Collage and cutting – first letter of their name with puzzle pieces

You will need: Adult puzzle pieces, cereal boxes for cardboard, glue, paint and scissors

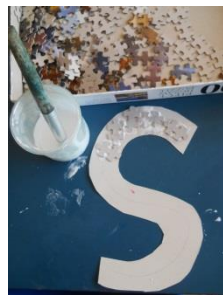


I try to use waste and items I have been given in my creative activities. Since we don't work with a theme at our school in New Zealand (which I may add I really dislike as I struggle to find direction!) I often use the waste as my starting point to set up a creative activity. It has taken me some years to get comfortable with the open art area and the lack of theme teaching and although I am able to work around it, it is not my preferred way of teaching.



I was given a second hand adult puzzle with a few pieces missing. I came up with this activity to use the puzzle pieces as part of an art activity. I helped the children by drawing a nice thick first letter of their name onto a cereal box (great weight of cardboard). Most of the children cut out their own letter, but because we have an age range of 31/2 – 5 years in one group some of the younger children do not have the cutting skills to cope with cutting on a line and light weight cardboard. In this case I cut the letter for the child. As you will see from the photos the cutting is not completely accurate but I did not interfere.

The children pasted glue onto the cardboard and pasted the puzzle pieces to cover the cardboard. I was impressed with the care they took to place each piece carefully without overlapping them. Once the letter was filled the children carefully painted each puzzle piece. I expected them to randomly paint over all the pieces but to my surprise they carefully painted each piece. This proved to be a great fine motor activity. They were very pleased with the end product and so was I.

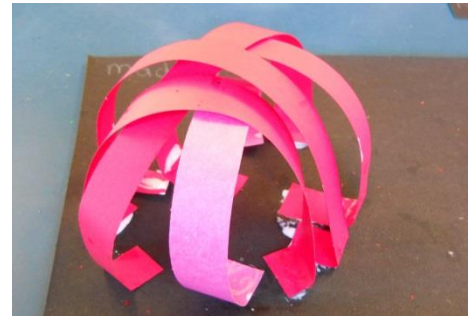


Under and over constructions

You will need: Strips of coloured paper or lightweight card, paper for the base and glue.



I demonstrated how to do the activity and then left the children to be creative. The children were shown how to fold over each end of the paper strips, apply some glue and then carefully attach one end of the strip to the paper base, arch the paper and attach the other end to create a bridge. The next piece can be placed over or under the first bridge. The children continued until they were happy with their creations. Some children chose to use the same colour and make a tent while others were more random. The 3 1/2 to 5 year olds all managed really well despite a few whinging that they can't do it! The strips were left in the open art area for further exploration. We have a great sticky tape dispenser that is freely available to the children in this open art area and several children created more constructions using the tape instead of the glue. Some excellent fine and gross motor skills happening here! If you don't have coloured paper let the children draw patterns on white paper or cut up some of their paintings.



Some of their own ideas. A few children chose to cut the strips.



Shape people

The children used coloured shapes to create freely. Tadiwa chose to make a person. When she was finished she decided the person needed hands so she traced around her own hands, cut them out and added them to her person. What a lovely idea for the theme of hands, myself or shapes

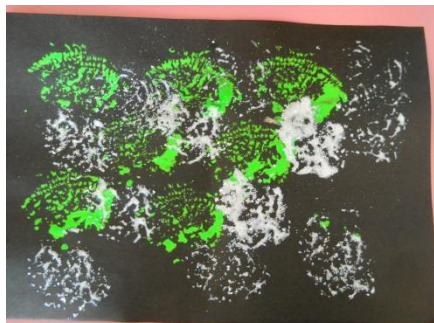
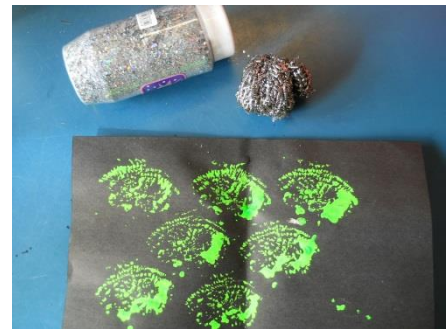
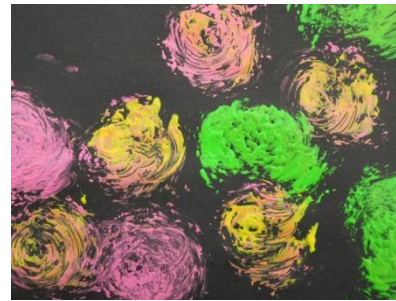
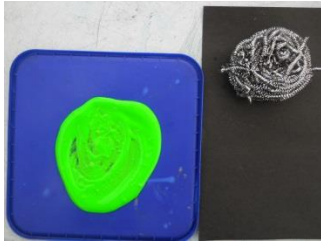




Painting and printing with pot scourers

I bought some very inexpensive pot scourers to make something crafty and it did not work out so I had 6 scourers lying around and then I saw this fun idea on pinterest to use them for printing and painting.

I loved the end result and many children participated, especially the boys. The children dipped the scourer into some paint (on an ice cream lid) and printed and painted on black paper. I encouraged them to swirl the scourer to make nice circles. Some printed, some smeared the paint with the scourer and some refused to join in. Once the paintings were dry, we used the scourers and printed glue patches onto the painting and sprinkled glitter onto the painting. What an amazing end product. Plastic scourers will be as effective and will not rust.



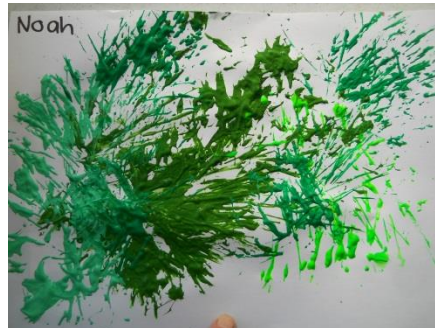
Extension: Use the printing idea to create hair on a person drawing. Great for my family and myself themes.

Painting with artificial Christmas trees

You will need: Old Christmas tree pieces, paper and green paint in flat containers. I was given an old Christmas tree so I decided to use the branches as paint brushes. It's important to set the paint out in flat containers and to bend away any sharp points. I chose to only use greens. I added some white paint to lighten some of the greens and a pinch of black paint to darken some. The children printed, painted or "slapped" the brush against the paper (boys!!) They thought this was great fun.



This would be an excellent way to create a background on a Christmas tree shaped paper. This is also an excellent painting activity for the younger children and a group painting effort.

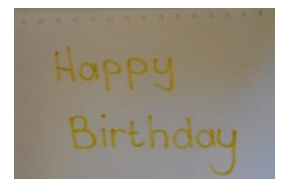


Just for fun



Here are a few ideas I took photographs of during the month. The toddlers enjoyed playing with shaving cream, powder paint and glitter on the outside table. It's a great sensory activity for touch and smell and washes off easily.

The children wanted to make cards and asked me to write happy birthday for them. I took this teachable moment and wrote the words for them to copy



I drew lines for them to paint on, over and next to and shapes to fill in. A good prewriting activity for Grade R learners



Free collage



AECYC and VVOS



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Die kleuter van die hede is die nasie van die toekoms
Today's child is our nation's future

This is an organisation that has been supporting preschool teachers and preschool education for many, many years. I am very pleased and honoured that they will be including lesson plans from preschool themes in the next edition of the magazine they produce called Kleuterklanke. It is a glossy professional magazine with English and Afrikaans articles on children, education and preschool. The next edition is due out mid-September. Here are the links to join this organisation and enjoy the many seminars and presentations they have throughout the year. They also have a very good cd with assessment reports. They also have a Facebook page and you can subscribe to newsletters from them on their web site <http://aecyc.co.za>

- **Membership of the Association allows and includes:**

- All preschools and primary schools;
- Full day day-care centers for young children;
- Members of management committees or governing bodies of schools and center's;
- Professional teachers and other trained staff members;
- Playgroups, day-care centres and interested parents;
- Personnel of Education Departments, tertiary training institutions;
- Regional associations that represent any or all of the above mentioned groups
- Honorary membership may be given to any person, institution or organization when a recommendation is made by management of the Association and approval is given in a general meeting/seminar presented by the Association.

AECYC Affiliation

<http://www.vvos.co.za/downloads/VVOS%20AECYC%20Affiliation%20Form%202013.pdf>

Affiliation fee: R495.00 per school.

Student Fee: R165.00

Personnel and parents of an affiliated school R135.00 for 2 Kleuterklanke-2014

School presentations

I would like to compile a list of places and organisations that do presentations to preschools for a cost and for free or are worthwhile to visit.

Please e mail me any places that you have used or visited that were suitable for pre-schoolers. If possible include the cost, contact number and a short description of what they do and the province they are in. Once I have a reasonable list I will circulate it. Rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes>

The more info you can supply me with the more comprehensive and useful the list will be.

On the negative side if you have used a place or visited a place and it was a complete waste of time and money let me know too.

Happy teaching and enjoy the sunshine.

Regards
Karin

