

## Preschool Themes Newsletter – April 2019

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust you had a good break. In this term we have Easter and of course autumn so there are lots of fun activities to do with the children this term. To help you make the most of all the lovely Easter activities I have included some extra ideas to use for the Easter theme. These are not my own ideas but I have taken them from Pinterest so please refer to the links for more information.

One of the highlights of Easter at our centre is a visit from the Easter bunny and looking for the Easter eggs hidden in the playground. I can still remember the bunny ears going past the window when I was a 5 year old child and my pure delight at finding an Easter egg in the playground.



I have an Easter theme manual which can be ordered on the preschool themes website [www.preschoolthemes.co.za](http://www.preschoolthemes.co.za) to make your weekly planning and preparation easier.

The Easter Pinterest board has many ideas for your convenience  
<https://www.pinterest.nz/kstedall/easter-school/>

### Preschool themes website order form [www.preschoolthemes.co.za](http://www.preschoolthemes.co.za)



Computers and technology are amazing when they work well but a great source of frustration when they don't!!!

Due to some issues with spam coming through on the web site order form I made some enquiries on how to rectify these issues and I ended up with all sorts of other issues... as one does.

To cut a long story short the order form on my web site was using old technology and the spam filters were not sufficient.

To rectify the problems I had to have a new order form made using more current technology. I have tested the form several times but a few people are encountering issues with the form not accepting the data they enter.

PLEASE contact me if you encounter any problems with the order form when ordering the preschool themes and if possible be specific about the problem so I can get it sorted. [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz)

### Creative activities

I often get given items or pick them up very cheaply or free at the charity shops. One such item was a whole bag of plastic spikey balls which were being given away free as they were slightly soft. These balls can be pumped up but I made use of them being a bit soft and instead of using the balls to do 'ball painting like marble painting' I decided to do bouncy ball painting. This gave a different effect and the children really enjoyed doing it.



You may not be able to get these balls but you can use any other technique to create a process art background for this activity. (Marble painting, scourer painting)

I also really like to extend the art activities to be more complex and by combining some fairly quick and simple art tables and by combining the parts to be the whole you get some lovely art work.

This activity can be done over two days if preferred.

## Spikey ball painting with drawing

**Themes:** Balls, Senses, Opposites (up and down), Any theme when you ask for a drawing of the theme

**Ages:** 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

### Materials:

- Background paper – I used light coloured card but plain paper can be used
- Spikey balls or whatever you are choosing to use for the background
- Paint – three colours in flat paint trays

### Drawing

- Crayons or marking pens
- A5 paper

### Teacher

- Glue to paste the pictures to the background

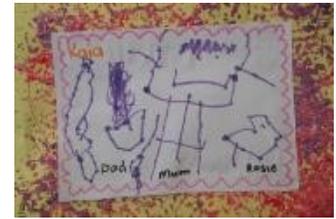
### Method:

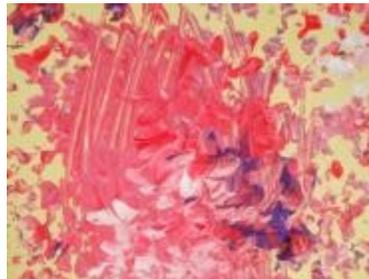
**Teacher:** I like to draw a coloured border on the A5 paper but it's not essential

**Child:** The child holds the spikey ball firmly and bounces/dabs the ball with paint up and down onto the background paper. Once several colours of paint have been applied and the space is well covered the child sets the background aside to dry.

**Drawing the picture:** Using the A5 paper with a border and using koki pens or crayons the child draws a picture of their choice. The teacher asks the child to tell them about their drawing and writes a caption on the picture.

**Teacher:** It's optional as to whether the teacher or the child pastes the picture to the background. Personally I prefer to do it so it's straight....





This child got carried away and was using a ball in each hand and making quite a mess

The paint was smeared with the ball instead of bouncing it up and down

Too much paint applied to the same place on the page

### Notes:

- Supervise this activity as some children decided to be silly with the paint balls
- Discourage too much paint on one place. It takes a long time to dry
- Discourage the children from using the balls to smear the paint
- Instead of using A5 paper the child can draw a picture and cut it out to be pasted to the background paper



### Extension

- The ball can be rolled in a box to paint the paper
- The paper can be cut into shapes and painted E.g. Autumn leaves, fish
- This technique can be done on a group paper E.g brown for a tree trunk for the Autumn tree, Blue sea for fish

### Paper packet puppets

This activity was really enjoyed by the children. I used purchased (supermarket) greaseproof paper packets you would pack a sandwich in. If you don't have access to these packets you can make your own by folding an A4 page in half and pasting the top and side edge closed.

Make sure the children use the packet with the closed side at the top otherwise when they put their hand in the puppet may end up upside down. Several children turned the packets when I handed it to them.

This activity needs you to stress that the glue needs to be placed on the cardboard shapes and not the packet. Many children really struggle with this concept. Luckily the glue does dry clear.

I used thick paper streamers made of crepe paper for the hair but you can use anything you have. You can cut strips of crepe paper from a big roll too.

This activity is better suited to the older age group. I didn't plan for arms on the puppet but some of the older children wanted arms so we cut some cardboard strips and used them.



**Themes:** My and my body, hands, my family, clothes, Books (story telling)

**Ages:** 4 - 5 year olds

**Skills:** Large muscles, small muscles, body image, positioning

**Materials:**

- Paper packets – greaseproof or home made from A4 paper
- Glue and glue brushes
- Paper or cardboard shapes – circles for eyes, half circles for the mouth, quarter circle for the nose
- Koki pens or crayons
- Pieces of fabric for the clothes
- Something for hair – crepe paper streamers or wool
- Optional: googly plastic eyes ( give two to each child otherwise they will take them all)



**Method:**

**Teacher:** Prepare the shapes. Cut the fabric to the size of the width of the paper packets with extra to extend past the end of the packet.

**Child:** The child selects the pieces for the face and pastes them to the packet. Encourage the children to add extra face features using the koki pens or crayons. The children create hair by cutting the streamers to the length they want (long or short hair) and attaching a piece of fabric for the clothes. If preferred the child can add cardboard strips for arms. The child names the puppet and tells you some things about their puppet e.g. age, favourite food, colour they like and what they like to do.



**Notes:**

- A few children struggled with positioning the face parts
- The crepe paper streamers are hard to cut with school scissors so I helped the children with the cutting or suggested they tear the paper

- Other collage items like milk lids or buttons can be used for the face features but bear in mind they take a while to adhere so dry the puppet flat.
- Some children used a lot of glue!

			
<p>This child got carried away with the marking pens and spoiled her puppet</p>	<p>This puppet was made by a 3 year old who is developmentally delayed</p>	<p>Lots of children put the glue on the right side of the fabric and then pasted it the wrong way. It wasn't a big issue just something to be aware of</p>	<p>One of the 5 year old boys chose to make a Ninja puppet</p>

## Drawing pictures and adding coloured flour to collage the picture

This was one of those art activities that didn't go quite according to my expectations but was a good sensory activity in the end. The intention was that the children would draw line pictures with enough open spaces to be filled with glue and coloured flour. But they drew small pictures and kept colouring in the spaces so I kind of gave up in the end and let the activity take its own direction. It is probably best to do this activity at two different tables – one for drawing and one for the flour collage. I was inspired to do this activity as I had some self raising flour that was past it's sell by date and I hate to throw anything away. Of course plain flour is perfect too.



**Note: Sometimes towards the end of an activity, once most of the children have completed the art work, I let the children use the materials for a process art activity – they are allowed to use the materials as they please without being disrespectful to the materials and being too messy.**

**Theme:** Senses, flowers and gardens

**Ages:** 3 ½ - 5 year olds

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

**Materials:**

- Lightweight paper or card
- Koki pens or crayons
- Flour with dry powder paint added. Limit to two or three colours
- Flat container for the coloured flour and plastic spoons
- Glue and glue brushes
- Optional: A flat container to collect the loose flour

**Method:**

**Teacher:** Add powder paint to the flour

**Child:** The child draws a picture with the koki pens. The child applies glue to the inside areas of the drawings one area at a time. The child sprinkles coloured flour onto the glue and shakes off the excess flour into another container so as to not contaminate the clean coloured flour. The mixed coloured flour is great for a free process art

collage as another activity or with the younger children. The child continues to apply glue and sprinkle flour until the drawn areas are covered with flour. Tip off the excess flour before setting out to dry.



### Notes:

- The younger children scribbled a picture and covered the scribbles with coloured flour.
- Some children decided to spread the flour with their hands and it became quite messy.

### Paper plate flowers, sky background using net printing and butterflies

I am enjoying doing creative activities that require several tables of different activities to make up the completed art work. This activity is a good example of this. It can also be done over a few days if preferred.

I was given a whole lot of small coloured cardboard butterflies which I wanted to use.

The background was created by printing with net balls. Once the background was dry or fairly dry, the collaged flower was pasted to the background and the butterflies added.



**Themes:** Flowers, spring, gardens, butterflies, caring for our world, insects

**Ages:** 3 ½ - 5 year olds

**Skills:** Small and large muscles, eye hand co-ordination, follow instructions, perseverance to complete the activity

## Materials:

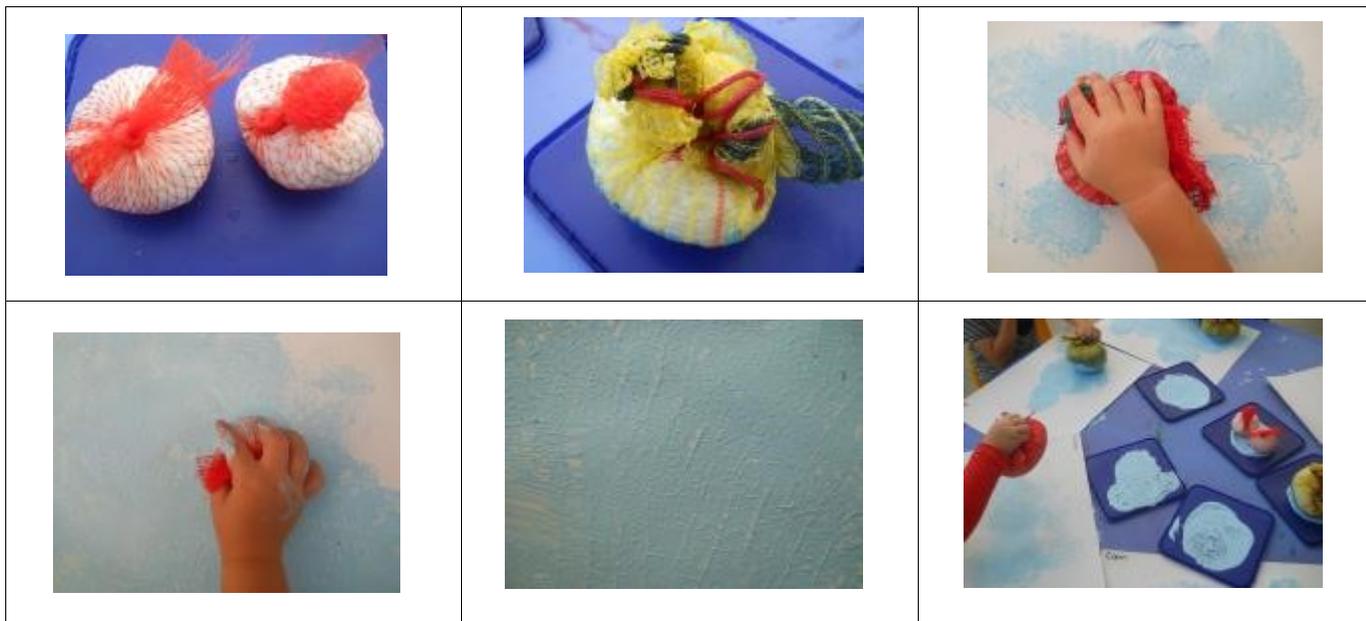
- Background paper – I used a slightly heavier paper to carry the weight of the collage flower
- Coloured cardboard or thicker coloured paper – cut into strips about 1.5 cm wide but not too long
- Butterflies – cardboard (optional)
- Paint – light blue (white paint with a bit of blue) on flat containers ( ice cream container lids)
- Net balls – see note
- Glue and glue brushes
- Paint – three colours in flat tray
- Earbuds

## Teacher

- **Net balls** - Use orange bags or the net bags from vegetables. Crumple a plastic supermarket bag or two into a ball and place into the bag. Twist the top to create a tight secure ball and either tie in a knot or use string. Don't make the balls too big as small hands need to hold them with ease.
- Prepare the paper strips and cut the butterflies

## Net printing background

The child holds the net ball and dips it into the blue paint. Using an up and down printing action the children cover the paper with blue printing. Encourage the children to print and not smear the paint with the net balls. If they do it's not an issue. Printing creates a nice textured background. **If you don't have access to vegetable net bags use any other technique to create the blue background or use coloured cardboard.**



## Flowers

The child selects a coloured paper strip and puts some glue on the end of the paper strip. The paper strip is placed near the edge of the paper plate. The child continues with the process until the paper strips are attached around the edge of the paper plate. Once the flower petals are complete, the child paints the flower using earbuds and paint. I encouraged them to paint dots on the paper strips and to paint in the centre of the flower. The child pastes the paper plate flower to the blue background and pastes the butterflies on their collage as they please.

## Notes:

- Some children struggled to place the paper strips all around the paper plate
- Encourage the children to put the glue on the end of the paper strip rather than on the paper plate
- Use earbuds to paint with as they don't allow the children to put too much paint which will weight it



### Squash painted butterflies

The child paints some blobs of paint on the one side of the butterfly (or both – it still works) and then closes the butterfly and rubs gently. The butterfly is opened and the wings are painted. The children make a few butterflies. Some children chose to paint their butterflies instead of squash painting. Ration the butterflies for each child otherwise one child may use them all.



A few of our beautiful flowers



Autumn hand printed group collage



**Happy teaching  
Regards  
Karin**

Sometimes I wonder if  
I made the right decision  
becoming a teacher, but  
then I remember no other  
job allows you to watch  
tiny humans grow into  
amazing people because  
you never gave up on them.

#lovemyjob

**Easter ideas:** These are not my ideas so please follow the link to get more information



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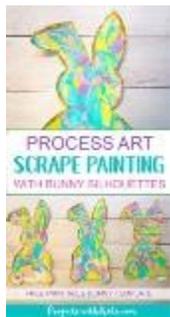
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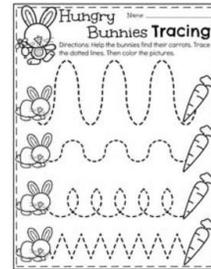
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<http://www.toddlerapproved.com/2015/03/easter-egg-collage-craft-for-toddlers.html?m=1>

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