



E mail: epos@groep7.co.za Ilette Strydom
Tel cell: 0824490574 Fax: 0865141051
PO Box 14717, Sinoville, Pretoria 0129
Karin Stedall: www.rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz
Web site: www.preschoolthemes.co.za
Facebook: www.facebook.com/preschoolthemes
Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/kstedall/>

Preschool Themes Newsletter – January 2016

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to 2016 and may this be a happy, healthy and rewarding year for you all. I extend a warm welcome to all the new subscribers to the preschool themes newsletter. Thank you to everyone who liked the preschool themes Facebook page. The likes have increased in leaps and bounds as has the newsletter mailing list. It is great that you are interested in sharing ideas and growing professionally. Since not everyone is quite back into the swing of things for term 1, I am sending out this January newsletter with some ideas to use for the first few themes of the year. These are activities which have featured in past newsletters but are worth seeing again. I hope you find them useful.

Inspiration for 2016

Teaching is a very intense profession with many highs and lows throughout the year. There are times you will need to stop and reflect on your teaching style, your classroom and behavior management and how you could do things either better or differently. Self-reflection should become a part of each lesson each day. But this piece of writing really says it all.

Learn Balance

The main "job security" a teacher has is that there will *never* be a time when there's not "something else" you can do. That is, you could work 14 hours a day, six days a week and still never get it all done. There's always a stack of papers to grade; there's always a lesson you can improve or enhance; there's always a student whose parent needs a note; there's always another book about behavior management or lesson planning or time management or whatever that you can read. In this, the "something else" you could do—yes, in this you have "job security." There will always be something else to do. Learn balance. Know that you will improve as you gain experience. Know that it won't always be stressful. When you do something well, give yourself a pat on the back and when you mess up don't stress and dwell on it, but learn from it. Hang in there! (<https://theeducationcafe.wordpress.com/2010/02/11/teaching-struggles-learning-how-to-survive-the-first-year/>)

A thought for you on worksheets!
Personally I am not in favour of using worksheets in the preschool environment

You never want
to get on a plane
where the pilot
learned to fly
from worksheets.

via @todwhitaker



@justintarte

"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives"

--Robert John Meehan

Teaching

You laugh, you cry, and you work harder than you ever thought you could. Some days you're trying to change the world and some days you're just trying to make it through the day. Your wallet is empty, your heart is full, and your mind is packed with memories of kids who have changed your life. Just another day in the classroom.

venspired.com

We Learn...

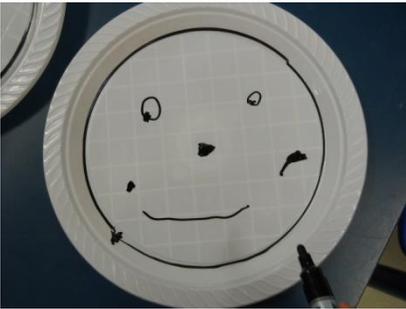
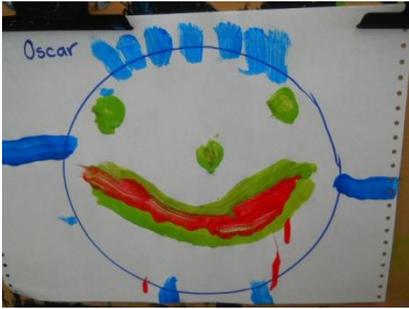
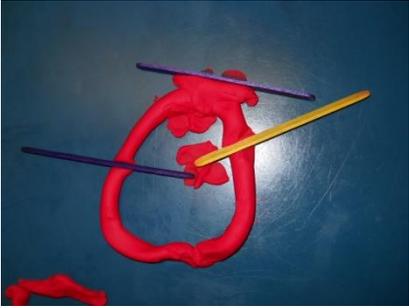
10% of what we read
20% of what we hear
30% of what we see
50% of what we see and hear
70% of what we discuss
80% of what we experience
95% of what we teach to others

- William Glasser

A few art ideas

I am not going to give a lot of details for these activities as most of them are self-explanatory for the photos.

Me and my body

		
<p>Drawing - on plastic paper plates with a koki pen, or use a dry marker that can be wiped off for another child to use the plastic plate</p>	<p>Painting - my body or face using a pre drawn circle (teacher to do)</p>	<p>Collage – my face using a pre drawn circle, wood shavings for the hair and drawing the rest of the face features</p>
		
<p>Collage and painting – create a body using pre-cut shapes from paper, or cardboard or thin foam and paint</p>	<p>Collage – using a pre-cut shape and dressing the person with collage materials</p>	<p>Play dough and wooden sucker sticks – my body (3 year old)</p>
		
<p>Drawing and cutting – myself</p>	<p>Painting or colouring – drawing of myself</p>	<p>Puppets – drawing cut and paste and collage. Attach a wooden sucker stick to hold the puppet</p>



Collage and painting – myself using a paper plate and collage materials



Collage and painting using paper plate (3-4 y)



Construction and painting – using pre-cut shapes



Cut and paste and construction – child cuts own shapes



Cut and paste – she traced her hands and cut them out and added them to her person (4 y)



Construction – myself with the child cutting their own shapes and body parts (5-6 Y)



Printing – hands (3-5y)



Drawing and cutting – my hand



Collage, construction and painting – my body using a small box, wooden sucker sticks and paint



Drawing – with wet chalk on black paper or a chalk board



Drawing with earbuds in paint on a plastic plate

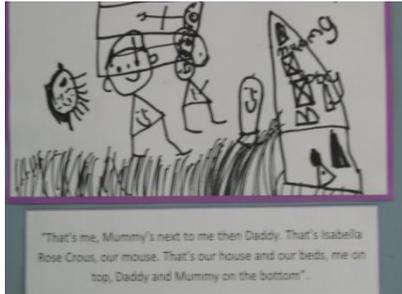


Printing – with feet on a large sheet or piece of paper

My family



Drawing – my family using koki pens or crayons



My family with emergent literacy



Drawing – my family in the windows of a house



Play dough – my dad or granddad using a circle to start with



Painting – my mum



Drawing and cut and paste – my home and family



Drawing and cutting – my family



Drawing on wooden sucker sticks. The children broke the sticks to be the right size for the different family members.



Drawing – my mum (note the baby in the tummy!)

My home



Collage and drawing – create a house using shapes and draw family members in the windows



Collage and printing – my home using shapes and printing around the house (3y)



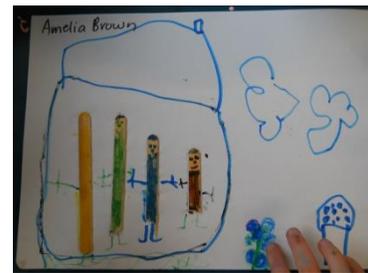
Collage – my home using shapes cut from coloured paper



Collage – a house with small pieces of coloured paper shapes



Collage and drawing – my home and family



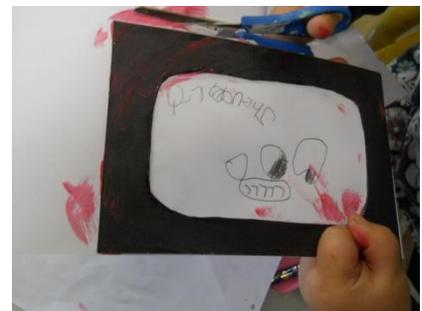
Drawing – my family in a drawn house



Collage – a house using sucker sticks with drawing my family. Cut toilet roll strips work well too.



Tape resist – use masking tape and paint over the tape



Drawing – in a TV

Pinterest boards

I have created a pinterest board for each of the themes and some themes I have not written. You will find many ideas to use with the preschool themes manuals on the boards.

The link for the general board is <https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/>

There are several personal boards there especially Christmas boards. I belong to a group of ladies that puts on a Christmas festival for two weeks a year and the money we raise goes to charity. Please scroll to the theme boards.

I add to the boards on a regular basis so please revisit the boards

Me and my body

<https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/me-and-my-body/>

My family

<https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/my-family/>

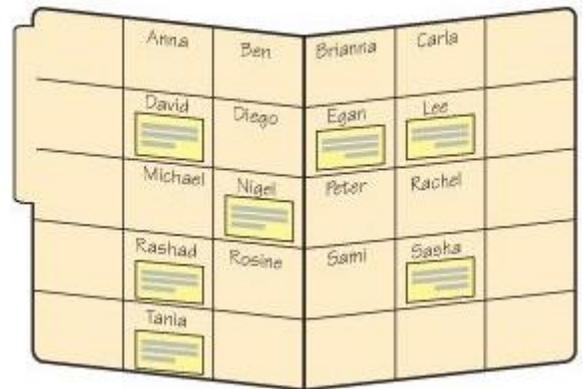
My home

<https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/homes/>

A useful assessment idea

<https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/assessment/>

Divide the inside of a file folder into boxes that are slightly larger than small sticky notes. Write students' names in the boxes in alphabetical order, one name per box. Whenever you want to make a note about a student's progress, jot the information on a sticky note and then place it in the appropriate box. Periodically move the sticky notes to students' assessment folders. You'll have valuable information at your fingertips when it's time to prepare report cards.



I suggest you make one for boys and one for girls

Birthday charts

<https://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/birthday-charts/>

Found on teachinglittlemiracles.blogspot.com

This is a fun idea for a birthday chart.



I wish you all the best for 2016 and may you be an inspiration to yourself and others. Relax; enjoy your children and follow your heart.

Happy Teaching

Regards
Karin Stedall

The day you're willing to
veer off the lesson plan,
follow a kid's lead, and learn
with your students
is the day you really become
A TEACHER