

## July 2012 Newsletter



Welcome to the July edition of the preschool theme newsletter. The mid-point of winter has come and gone so we can look forward to warmer weather. We have had several mornings of heavy frost and layers of ice on

the playground equipment which has led to lots of discussion and sensory experiences.

### Need some new ideas - Pinterest

My Pinterest boards keep growing and I have had great fun trying out new activities I have seen on the Pinterest web sites. I am gaining a reputation at school for setting out interesting and different creative and sensory activities for the children. Each day the other teachers walk past me and ask what I am up to and the children have enjoyed the new experiences. Some have worked better than others and I have noted what changes need to be made. There are activities there apart from creative activities with lots of ideas for classroom displays, storage ideas and ideas and activities for all your play areas.

**If you have not visited the Pinterest boards please do. There are some fantastic ideas there.**

<http://pinterest.com/kstedall/>

This is the direct link to my boards without having to join Pinterest

To join Pinterest go to [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) or Google it. You can ask to join and they send you an 'invitation' as an e mail and you are on your way to creating your own boards. You can repin from my boards to your boards and it doesn't remove it from mine.

### Pinterest idea – Moon sand

One example from Pinterest which I found was for moon sand. I had never heard of moon sand although it seems like it can be purchased.



Mix together 4 cups sand pit sand, 2 cups cornflour (maizena) and 1 cup of water.

[playbasedlearning.com.au](http://playbasedlearning.com.au)



I made the moon sand and placed it in the sand tray. I added small containers to mould sand castles, play dough equipment and milk lids. I had

one hard cardboard tube which was very popular. The sand can be moulded but it breaks down easily. It almost has a concrete like feel to it. I was surprised at how long the children played with the sand with some children staying as long as 45 mins (2-3/12year olds) and at times there were 10 children at the table. Next time I set it out I will add some coloured powder paint to the mixture for variety. Instead of throwing away the sand at the end of the week I will use it to create sand collage pictures.



## CAPS outcomes

I have been working full time for June so I am rather behind on updating the CAPS outcomes for the themes. I hope to resume with this process ASAP

## CAPS school report

There have been several requests for a CAPS school report. I have been unsuccessful in securing a comprehensive school report to share with the teachers. If you have one and are willing to share the format please let me know by e mail to [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz) so I can share it with everyone.

## Preschool art activity

I had a day in the preschool group (3/12 to 5 years). It was a great opportunity for me to try out another Pinterest idea I had pinned to the Space theme board and is great for the summer theme too. This activity will work with the younger children if your group is small.

I gave each child a circle of light cardboard. Paper was too thin. They 'painted' blobs of red and yellow paint onto the circles. I covered the circle with a piece of plastic glad wrap. Using their fingers and hands they gently squashed the paint together to create an



orange colour and to cover the whole circle. The children lifted the plastic off the circle. We tried

making another print with the plastic and it was quite effective. Once the circles were dry we pasted them to a black paper and filled in the rays of the sun. I think the choice of black paper was not a good one and yellow or white paper would have showed the rays better. The red and orange blurred to nothing on the black paper.



I think the end product was lovely and the children were intrigued with the feeling of rubbing the paint under the plastic without getting their hands dirty.

**NOTE:** One thing the children did struggle with was to drop

blobs of paint onto the circle. They wanted to paint the circle. I 'helped' some of them with a few extra blobs before I put the plastic on. I was worried it would crinkle but it was fine.



## Drawing activity

Here is another good idea I found on Pinterest. (Great ideas as you can see)

Our children love drawing with 'adult koki pens' on our dry wipe board and of course cleaning it off too. I set out plastic 'disposable' plates and water based koki pens for the children to draw on and clean off. The first thing they did was



follow the circle shape and told me they were drawing circles.



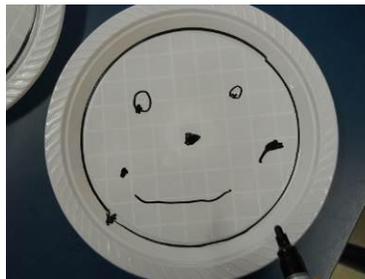
Then I

suggested they draw some faces and many of our 2 ½ year olds could draw a face. They cleaned off the drawing and did another one.



Many children were happy for up to half an hour at this activity. Interestingly enough if they drew on the back of the plate it would not clean off.

Make sure the pens are water soluble!



Note the advanced pen grip! (3 year old)



## More drawing opportunities



To continue with the drawing and cleaning off the picture idea I made some small blackboards using MDF board (hardboard) and blackboard paint. It's inexpensive from places like

builders warehouse and they will cut them for you. I made 12. I set out chalk and small sponges to clean the drawing off. They drew happily.

**NOTE:** I found it worked best to use a water bottle and to squirt some water on the board for the children to clean the board. DON'T put water on the table as you will have a big mess. Also be strict with the rules and tell the children if they fetch water from the tap they will be asked to move away from the table (as opposed to go away!)



## A new take on marble painting

Many toddlers are still putting things in their mouths. This makes marble painting an unsafe activity or one that has to be very closely supervised which is not always possible. Golf balls solve this problem and give an interesting pattern to the painting. Used golf balls are quite inexpensive and readily available from parents if you ask for them.



We needed some stars for a display board so I cut out stars from black paper. The children rolled the golf balls through blobs of GLUE that I

dropped onto the stars. Once the stars were well covered with glue, we sprinkled glitter onto them.

**NOTE:** Use small boxes so the golf balls roll over the paper and not the box. Add a yellow background when you display them. Alternatively use yellow or white paper.



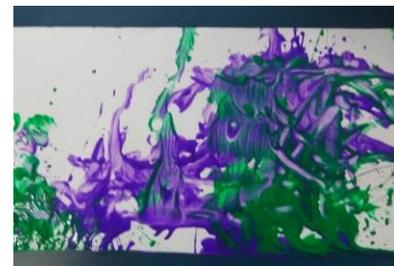
## Golf ball shaking

Instead of rolling the golf balls over the paper, put some paper into a 1 litre yogurt container, add a golf ball dipped in paint, secure the lid and have the children shake the ball



around. The paint marks the paper. Repeat with another colour.

**NOTE:** Make sure the lid is secure otherwise you will have golf balls flying everywhere. I actually used plastic training golf balls for this activity. The toddlers struggle to open the lids of the yogurt containers so keep the group small for this activity so you can easily assist. If you don't have golf balls you can do this activity with milk lids or small pieces of wax crayon, but you will need to put several in at one time. Select colours that mix together to make new colours



## Rhymes

I have decided to include a new rhyme or two in each newsletter.

**Have the children crouch down and as they count down slowly rise up and jump up at the end and throw their arms in the air. The same action can be applied to the next rhyme too**

Zoom, zoom, zoom  
we're going to the moon.  
Zoom, zoom, zoom,  
We're going to the moon.  
10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1  
BLAST OFF!

We're growing  
We're growing  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

**Happy teaching and stay warm and well**  
**Regards**  
**Karin**