

## Preschool Themes Newsletter – July 2014

Hello Everyone,

I am sure you are all looking forward to a well-deserved break and a bit of time to lie in on these cold frosty mornings. I hope you all have a great break. I will be keeping the newsletter short as it's so close to the end of term and make it up with a bonanza one in August. I trust that you were all able to make something special for all the wonderful fathers for Father's day and I am sure it was much appreciated.



### New theme manual

The new theme 'under the ground' is well under construction and is proving to be a fun and interesting theme.

### Pinterest boards <http://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/>

I have created Pinterest boards for all the themes and several other themes I have not written yet. Please have a look at some of the ideas there and use them to supplement your themes. If you are having difficulty with a specific child or behaviour have a look at the child development board <http://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/child-development/> and the board on classroom and behaviour management <http://www.pinterest.com/kstedall/classroom-and-behavior-management/>. You may just find your solution there!

### A few art ideas

#### Credit card painting

I saw this idea on pinterest and I couldn't wait to try it out with the children and I was not disappointed. Here is the link to the activity <http://www.housingaforest.com/credit-card-art/>

I tried the activity myself and honestly I could have made several paintings just to see the different effects.

So you have been pre warned that the children will want to make several too... I had several children tell me they needed one for their mom, dad, brother, sister, grandma, Poppa etc just to be able to make several paintings. Each one is completely different.

For this activity you need thick paper. We used a glossy thick paper that had been donated to the school which came from a printer and were book covers. If you don't have a heavy weight paper you may have issues with the paper getting too wet and making holes. Ready mixed or nice thick powder paint is best. I used the three primary colours of red, blue and yellow. I tried



it with two colours only, but it was more effective with three. At times the pictures did become a grey purple mess, but that was when the child was being excessive and did not stop when

I



suggested they should. But despite that it was still an interesting effect and the child was happy with his efforts.

The children used the teaspoons to drop blobs of paint onto the paper spacing them over the page. They then took a credit card and dragged it through the paint mixing the colours as they did so. I had several expired "plastic cards" and they did wash clean but I would not use current cards! It was interesting to hear the discussion about the cards



and a few children checked with me that it was in fact okay to be using them. I did stress that these are old cards and that they should not use their parent's cards. As you can see from the examples below a different effect is achieved depending on how much of a colour is used. These were mostly done by the 3 1/2 – 5 year olds but I did have a 2 year old give it a try and hers is the green one below. You may just have to give them a bit of help with the angle of the card. If you do not have cards, use ice cream containers cut into credit card sizes.



### Here are a few points to note

- The paint must be thick and the paper glossy if possible.
- Some children wanted to paint with the spoons instead of just blobbing the paint.
- Do not put paint brushes out!
- Some children only did a few blobs of paint and then wanted to drag the paint, while some dragged the paint and added more later. It doesn't give as nice an effect but it's not a crisis.
- Guard against too much paint and likewise too little paint being put on the paper.
- You need a cloth or a bowl of water nearby to wipe the cards clean for the next child.
- I suggest you put less paint in the containers and top up as needed otherwise the colours can get too muddy.
- They need a bit longer to dry and you will need a LOT of drying space for the many pictures.
- Some children preferred to use the 'point' of the card which didn't give a great effect.



### Sucker stick puppets

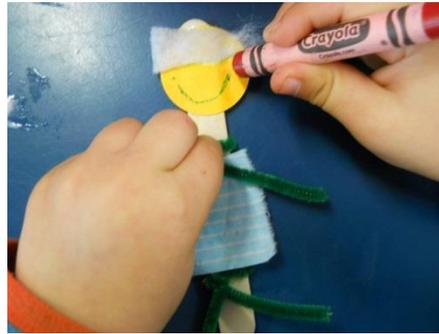
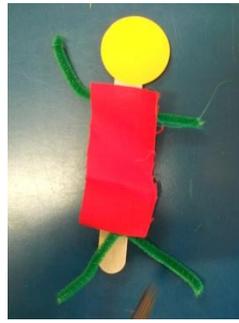
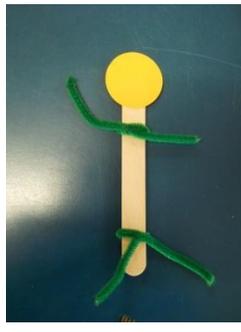
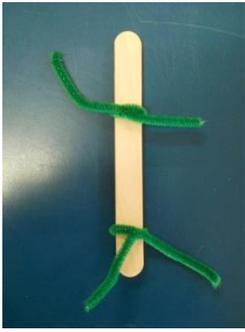


I was given a bag of fabric so I decided to use it to make some sucker stick puppets. The children enjoyed the activity and then we had several spontaneous puppet shows.

We used sucker sticks, pipe cleaners, circles of cardboard, fabric, lots of glue and wax crayons to draw the faces.

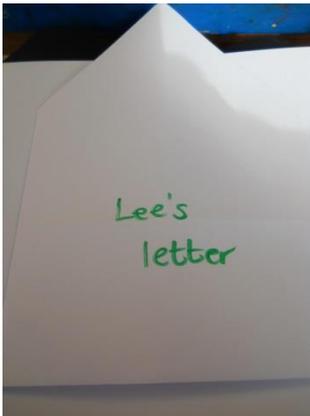
The children struggled a bit with wrapping the pipe cleaners around the sucker sticks for the arms and legs. I tried to staple some of them but it was not overly effective and they still fell off causing some frustration and tears. I think I would consider using paper arms and legs and glue in future.

I had a card making punch which I used to punch out cardboard circles for faces and left the children to be creative. (not for the little ones)



### Letters and envelopes

I made some envelopes for the children and they drew letters and pictures to put into the envelopes for their moms. I love the family in the house in this picture.



### Preschool concerts

I have two concerts if anyone is interested in them. Send me a mail and I will forward them to you. [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz)

Thank you to Gail Lotz for sharing her concerts with others. One of her concerts is called Snoepie's farmyard fun and the other is a circus theme. Both have lots of fun songs with actions.

If anyone else has concerts to share they will be most welcome.

Just for your interest I found this chart which outlines the different learning styles. Can you find yourself there? It reinforces the need for children to learn through as many senses as possible.

Happy holidays and happy teaching if you don't have a break☺

Regards  
Karin

# THE 7 STYLES OF LEARNING

## VISUAL (SPATIAL):

You prefer using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.

- Use images, pictures, color and other visual media to help you learn
- Use color, layout, and spatial organization in your associations, and use many 'visual words' in your assertions.
- Use mind maps
- Replace words with pictures, and use color to highlight major and minor links

## SOLITARY (INTRAPERSONAL):

You prefer to work alone and use self-study.

- You prefer to learn alone using self-study
- Align your goals and objectives with personal beliefs and values
- Create a personal interest in your topics
- When you associate and visualize, highlight what you would be thinking and feeling at the time
- You drive yourself by the way you see yourself internally
- Modeling is a powerful technique for you
- Be creative with role-playing
- Your thoughts have a large influence on your performance and often safety

## AURAL (AUDITORY-MUSICAL):

You prefer using sound and music.

- Use sound, rhyme, and music in your learning
- Use sound recordings to provide a background and help you get into visualizations
- When creating mnemonics or acrostics, make the most of rhythm and rhyme, or set them to a jingle or part of a song
- If you have some particular music or song that makes you want to 'take on the world,' play it back and anchor your emotions and state.

## SOCIAL (INTERPERSONAL):

You prefer to learn in groups or with other people.

- Aim to work with others as much as possible
- Role-playing is a technique that works well with others, whether its one on one or with a group of people
- Work on some of your associations and visualizations with other people
- Try sharing your key assertions with others
- Working in groups to practice behaviors or procedures help you understand how to deal with variations

## VERBAL (LINGUISTIC):

You prefer using words, both in speech and writing.

- Try the techniques that involve speaking and writing
- Make the most of the word-based techniques such as assertions and scripting
- Record your scripts using a tape or digital audio recorder (such as an MP3 player), and use it later for reviews
- When you read content aloud, make it dramatic and varied
- Try working with others and using role-playing to learn verbal exchanges such as negotiations, sales or radio calls

## PHYSICAL (KINESTHETIC)

You prefer using your body, hands and sense of touch.

- Focus on the sensations you would expect in each scenario
- For assertions and scripting, describe the physical feelings of your actions.
- Use physical objects as much as possible
- Keep in mind as well that writing and drawing diagrams are physical activities
- Use role-playing, either singularly or with someone else, to practice skills and behaviors

## LOGICAL (MATHEMATICAL)

You prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.

- Aim to understand the reasons behind your content and skills
- Create and use lists by extracting key points from your material
- Remember association often works well when it is illogical and irrational
- Highlight your ability to pick up systems and procedures easily
- Systems thinking helps you understand the bigger picture
- You may find it challenging to change existing behaviors or habits
- If you often focus from analysis paralysis, write 'Do It Now' in big letters on some signs or post-it notes

