

Preschool Themes Newsletter – November 2017

Hello Everyone,

Here we are at the final count down to the end of the year. I know you all feel pretty stressed and overloaded at this time of the year so try and make some time for yourselves and remember breathe!

This will be the last newsletter for this year. I would like to thank you all for the support and kind words I have received for the newsletter and the preschool themes.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas, lots of love and kindness over the festive season and if you are on the roads please take care.

The first newsletter of 2018 will be sent out in February. The office for orders will be open most of December.



Christmas activities

I have attached a separate attachment with some Christmas activities for you to use. These are not my own ideas but have been taken from Pinterest so you need to click through to see how to do the activities. Here is the link to the board for more ideas.

<https://www.pinterest.nz/kstedall/christmas-school/>

Christmas is an exciting time for the children so use it to the full benefit by using Christmas themed activities across all the learning areas. Just a reminder; be sensitive to the many different cultural approaches to Christmas in your groups.

Christmas stockings – cut and paste

Themes: Christmas

You will need:

- Paper – any colour
- Stocking template (one in the Christmas theme book)
- Magazine and advertising pamphlets with lots of Christmas toys and items
- Glue and glue brushes
- Scissors
- Cotton wool – optional or crumpled toilet paper squares
- Wax crayons

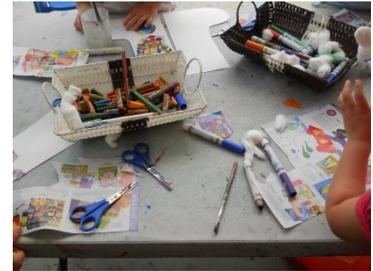
Method:

The children select some pictures of items they would like to find in their Christmas stocking. They carefully cut out the pictures and paste them to the stocking planning the spacing. The children can paste some cottonwool across the top of the stocking to represent the fur. (See notes). The children can draw and colour between the pictures. If you do not have access to pamphlets the children can draw their own pictures.

Notes:

- The children wanted to paste so many pictures! Perhaps this can be extended to pasting in a book made by stapling folded A4 paper or a group class chart.
- Quite a few children didn't really understand the idea of the fur at the top of the stocking.
- No cotton wool – use squares of toilet paper crumpled
- I unrolled balls of cotton wool for the children





Christmas trees – painted with pot scourers

There are two ways of approaching this activity. Either the children paint the A4 paper first and once dry you or the child cuts out the tree shape. Alternatively the tree shape can be cut first and painted. Either way works BUT the tree shape must be cut out before the children paint especially for the 2 – 4 year olds. If you present them with a traced outline on a page they will paint all over the page anyway.

Themes: Christmas, trees, Summer

You will need:

- White paper – either A4 or cut into a Christmas tree shape
- Metal scourers
- Paint – green and white
- Flat containers for the paint –ice cream lids work well



Method:

The children dip the the metal pot scourer into the paint mixing the green and white paint as they swirl the scourer in circles. Once complete and dried, decorations can be added to the tree with finger prints or your own choice of activity.

Notes:

- The scourers are inexpensive and can be washed and reused. Make sure you dry them well so they don't rust
- If you don't have white paint then green on it's own is fine
- The younger children tend to smear the paint which is fine. Show the older children how to create swirls.





Santa – construction and collage

Themes: Christmas

You will need:

- Small paper plate
- Red paper – cut into a triangle for the hat and rectangle for the body and arms
- Black paper – cut into strips for the belt and boots
- White paper
- Cottonwool
- Glue and glue brushes
- Scissors
- Wax crayons



Method:

I found it best to staple the hat to the paper plate after Santa has been made. If you staple the hat first the children often draw the face with the hat at a funny angle. The children draw a face and add a cottonwool beard. The body is created with a rectangle for the body and smaller pieces for the arms and legs. A belt and boots are added last. The children cut a sack shape (or teacher can provide the cut shape) and the children draw what they would like from Santa. Alternatively they can cut out pictures from advertising pamphlets and paste them to the sack. Attach the Santa sack to his arm





Notes:

- This activity is only really suitable for the older children
- Allow them to do as much as possible. Accept all the children's efforts

Other Creative activities

Sea and fish – balloon printing and draw, cut and paste

Themes: Sea, water, fish, beach, under the water, water, colour blue

You will need:

- White paper
- Balloons
- Paint on a flat lid – blue, white and dark blue
- Paper
- Crayons or koki pens
- Scissors
- Optional – glue

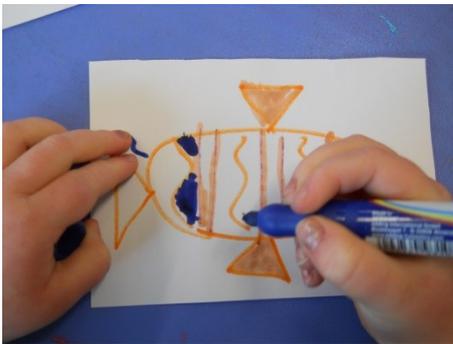


Note:

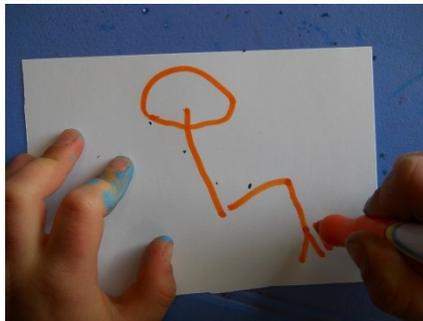
Fill the deflated balloon with water to the top and then blow up the balloon keeping it small enough for a child's hand to hold it easily. The water prevents the balloons from rolling away. This activity can be done over two days in which case you will need glue to paste the cut out fish to the background. If done in one day, the cut out fish will stick to the wet paint.

Method:

The children dip the balloon into the paint and print circles completely covering the paper and dipping into the paint often. Set aside to dry. The children drew underwater items such as fish, divers and mermaids, cut them out and pasted them to the printed background. Optional: sprinkle blue glitter to make it shiny.



mermaid



diver



she said she drew letters



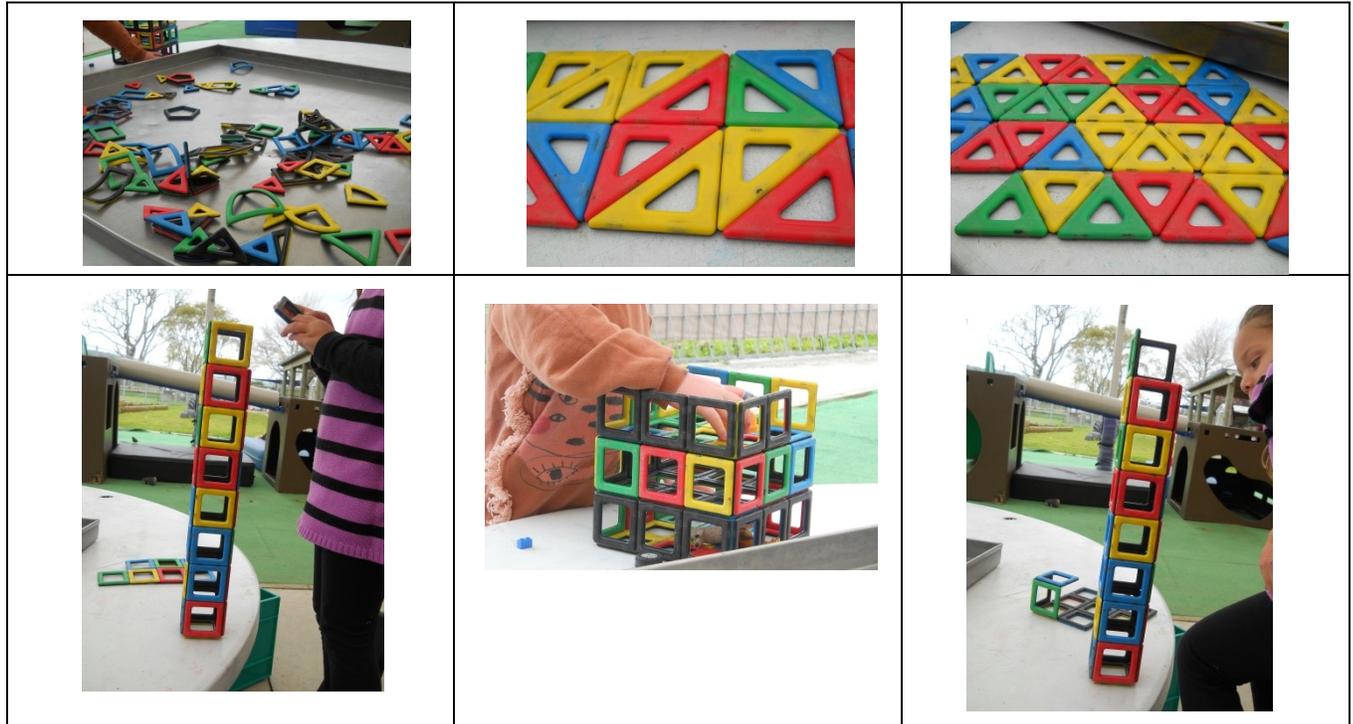
Notes:

- Some children struggled to cut close to the drawing but it was fine
- The younger children's drawings were scribbles so I asked what they had drawn and labelled the drawings
- This activity attracted several boys to the table
- I cut the A 4 paper into 4 so the drawings were not too large
- Some children smeared the paint with the balloon instead of printing
- Encourage the children to cover the whole page with paint

Resources

Magnetic shapes

This is by far one of the most favourite construction sets we have at school. It is loved by all the age groups and boys and girls alike. It is played with on a daily basis. It is expensive but well worth the investment. More pieces can be added as the budget allows. So many skills are learned while playing with them including science and maths concepts. Below the girl built a tower as tall as herself and then stood on a chair to continue building further until the tower eventually toppled over. The other child selected all the triangles between the other pieces (Great figure ground perception) and arranged them to make a flat mat (tessellate).



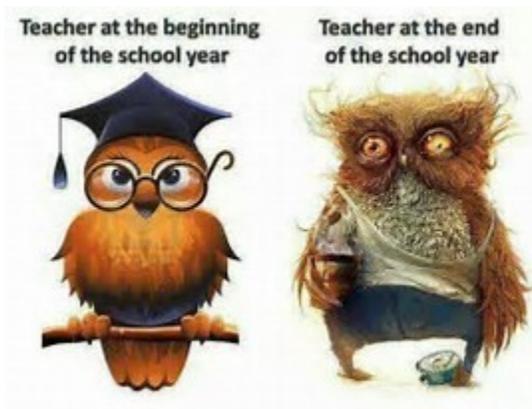
In South Africa it called Geostructa and a price guideline only is around R240 for about 86 pieces
They are available from some of the larger educational toys shops.

<https://www.toys4you.co.za/catalogue/construction/construction/geostructa-jk-1733#1>

Hang in there for the last few weeks. You are nearly there!

Happy teaching

Regards
Karin



TEACHING IS *love*
IN ITS PUREST FORM



PINK TULIP
Creations