

Preschool Themes Newsletter – March 2017

Hello Everyone,

Here we are already a quarter of the way through 2017. I hope you are all settled and enjoying your teaching. I have put some Easter ideas into this newsletter as Easter falls later in April this year so I thought these ideas can get you thinking about what you can include in your planning. There are so many ideas on the Pinterest board for activities in all the learning areas and play areas. I hope you can implement some of them and enjoy doing them with the children. Please remember to be culturally sensitive to the various religions within your groups.



Plastic container and postage price increase from 1 March 2017



Some good news first! We were expecting a price increase for the printing but we have been able to hold the current price of R40 per theme book for the time being. Unfortunately we have to increase the cost of the plastic containers which are optional when you order your theme books. The plastic containers increase in price from R40 to R50 from March. The postage and courier rates are also increasing from 1 March 2017.

Free courier and a plastic container will only be applicable on an order of 40 books or more (no longer 35 or more books)

Courier rates are very much dependent on where you live and how many books you order. This amount will be sent to you as part of your proforma invoice when you place your book order.

We very much prefer to use courier as the method of delivery as this is more secure and faster. Please ask for courier if you prefer that method of deliver.

The new postage and rates are as follows. These rates are only applicable to delivery within South Africa .The fee will be calculated before you pay for the order.

Quantity	Postage	Cost
1 book	Envelope, no tracking, insurance	15.00
1 - 4 Books	Tracking & insurance	60.00
5 - 12 Books	Tracking & insurance	75.00
13 - 19 Books	Tracking & insurance	90.00
20 - 26 Books	Tracking & insurance	105.00
27 - 34 Books	Tracking & insurance	115.00
35 - 39 Books	Tracking & insurance	125.00
40 - 44 Books	No charge	None

Easter activities – Pinterest board

Please follow this link to the Easter Pinterest board for many Easter ideas and activities

<https://nz.pinterest.com/kstedall/easter-school/>

Lots of ideas here too

<http://www.craftymorning.com/easy-fun-easter-crafts-kids/>

Easter Activities



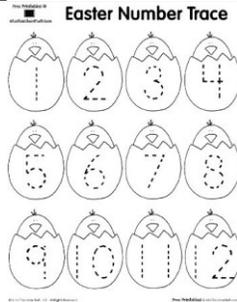
easter egg pattern match



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These are some of the Easter art activities we made with the 3-4 1/2 year olds last year.

		
<p>Collage – chicks in a nest. Use half a paper plate</p>	<p>Collage and construction – an Easter basket with Easter eggs</p>	<p>Painting on foil – Easter egg. Use cereal boxes for the base and cover with kitchen foil</p>
		
<p>Collage and construction – a pop up Easter chick and egg</p>	<p>Bubble wrap with a cardboard egg frame – just staple the frame to the bubble wrap</p>	<p>Paint the bubble wrap</p>
		
<p>Car painting to create the baskets. This can be done for individual baskets or on one big sheet for a group display</p>	<p>This was a group effort so we made several baskets to display our bubble wrap eggs</p>	<p>Chicks made from ovals and hand wings – we traced our hands and cut them out. Printing them with corks will be effective.</p>

Art activities

Painting - Squash painting small butterflies and flowers

You will need:

- Butterflies – cut from paper or lightweight card – any colour
- Paint in flat containers or diluted food colouring
- Earbuds to dab paint on the butterflies and/or paint brushes
- A4 paper
- Glue



Method

The teacher cuts out several butterflies from lightweight card or paper. The butterflies should be folded in half. The child places small dots of paint on the one side of the butterfly, then folds the butterfly in half and rubs gently to blend the paint. The butterfly gets opened to reveal the lovely colours and is pasted to the paper. Once there are a few butterflies the child paints some flowers or the blue sky background as above.

Notes:

- Some children preferred not to paint the flowers and enjoyed making many butterflies and pasting them to the paper.
- Encourage the children to put the glue on the back of the butterfly instead of on the paper.
- Several children put paint on both sides of the butterfly wings. It is still effective.
- Bigger butterflies can also be used and would be better for the younger children.



Collage and Painting – flowers with playdough centres

I hate throwing away old play dough that is no longer suitable to use at the play dough table. It's a good medium to stick things into and dries hard. It can be painted and left to dry.

In this activity we used the old play dough to create our flower centres.

You will need:

- Milk bottle lids
- Play dough – old is fine
- Cupcake liners – any colour
- Something for the centre of the flowers- earbuds cut in half, coloured matchsticks, natural items, cut pipecleaners etc
- Paper – I used coloured but white is fine
- Paint
- Glue

Method:

The child pastes a milk lid to the centre of the cupcake liner and pastes the cupcake liner to the paper. The child fills the lid with a blob of play dough. The child adds collage materials to the play dough to create a flower centre. The child paints the petals around the flower centre and paints a stem and leaves. Encourage the children to add detail to the petals of the flowers.



Notes:

- Give each child their own piece of play dough. If you place it all on the table one child may take too much, leaving none for the others.
- White paint on coloured paper if very effective.
- Some of the younger children did not quite get the concept of the centre of the flower with petals around it but still enjoyed the activity.
- An plastic ice tray makes a useful container to put small items out on the table such as paint with earbuds



Hand printed spiders and colour wash spider webs



When I started this activity I planned for the children to create the spider web and then to hand print a spider onto the web but it wasn't working very well as the spider webs were still wet. So I switched the activity and got the children to create their hand printed spiders on orange paper which we cut out when they were dry. If you prefer , this can be done over two days so the spider web is dry before printing the spider

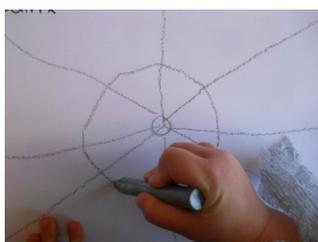
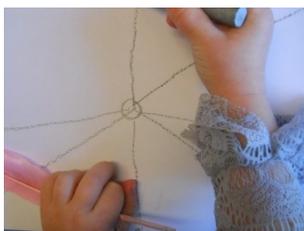


You will need:

- White paper and/or orange paper
- Black or grey wax crayons
- Diluted black food colouring or paint
- Black paint
- Optional: String

Method

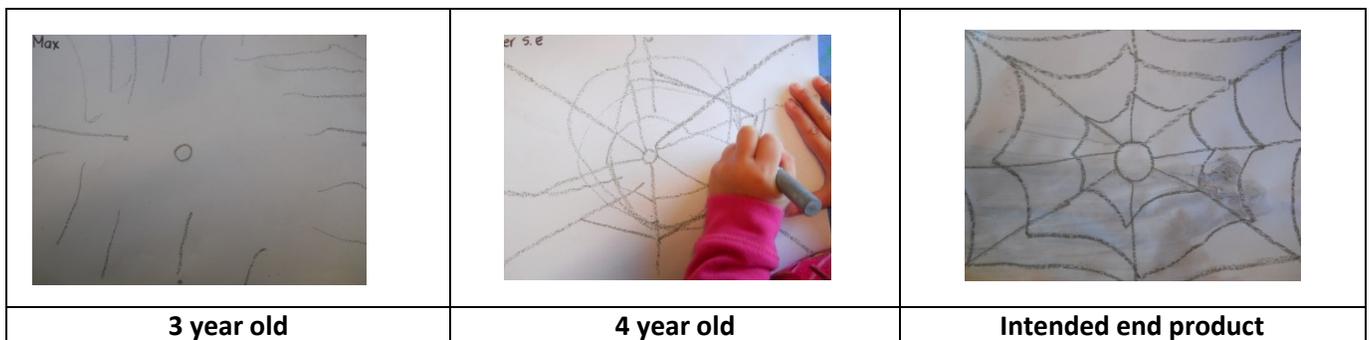
The child creates a spider web. I demonstrated to the child to draw a circle in the centre of the paper (horizontal layout) and then to draw a line to each corner and to the centre of each side of the paper. You could make dots on the paper to help the child know where to draw the lines. Once the spider web 'spokes' are in place, the child does the circles around the centre to complete the spider web. Once complete the child paints over the spider web using the diluted paint or food colouring. The spiders are hand printed. I helped the children to paint their hand and some did it for themselves and then we pressed the hand down onto the spider web (or the orange paper) and repeated the hand print overlapping on the palms to create a spider. The child washed their hand and once the spider was dry the child added eyes. These can be googly plastic eyes, just draw circles or as we did used sticky backed eyes we had at school.





Notes:

- These were done for Halloween so we used orange paper but any colour will be effective.
- Some of the younger children struggled with drawing the spider web but it was still effective.
- We added string to some of the spiders and the children enjoyed playing with and bouncing their spiders.
- We extended the activity by creating Halloween hats using the spiders on the crowns and adding wobbly paper legs. It is quite challenging to fold the paper strips to create the wobbly legs. I showed a few children and once they had grasped it I asked them to show the other children and to help them.



Happy teaching

Regards
Karin