

## Preschool Themes Newsletter – October 2014

Hello Everyone,

I was just thinking yah the warmer is here when we got hit with a late cold spell and some snow, so it's back to being cold and wet again. My heart sinks when I wake up to a grey sky and pelting rain on a school day. I don't know about you but I certainly find rainy days very long, very challenging and very noisy. I certainly question my choice of job on days like these and I find it really hard to remain positive especially when we have a few of these rainy days in a row. And then the sun comes out and it's all forgotten.

How do you cope with rainy days at your school? I would love to hear your tips and suggestions so I can compile a list of ideas to share with others. Drop me a mail with your suggestions [rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rodandkarin@xtra.co.nz) and judged by me **the most helpful suggestion will win two preschool themes of their choice.** (Closes Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> in time for the October newsletter)

Happy holidays to those of you who are lucky enough to get a break. You will need to gather all your energies for the final count down to the end of the year.

### Important and useful information re registering your ELC

I have copied a post which appeared on the AECYC Association for the education and care of young children Facebook page which may be relevant and useful to some of you. You can read it at the end of the newsletter or on their Facebook page. I don't know any other details so best to call the numbers they have supplied.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/AECYC-Association-for-the-education-and-care-of-young-children-VVOS/554860747934509?fref=ts>



### Newsletters

I think I have resolved the issues with mailing the newsletters. If you are still not receiving them or can't open or read the newsletter please let me know. Thank you to those who did notify me of a change of e mail or problems.

### Art ideas

#### Collage – A picture frame with puzzle pieces and wooden sucker sticks



In the September newsletter I showed you an activity where we used puzzle pieces to collage the first letter of their name. Here is a picture for those who did not see it. Following on this activity the children kept asking to do the same activity again. I decided to extend the activity to create a picture frame.

**You will need:** Adult puzzle pieces, wooden sucker sticks or cut toilet rolls into strips, cardboard, glue, paint and scissors and something to draw with.



The children pasted 4 sucker sticks into a square shape. Then they pasted glue on the sucker sticks and placed puzzle pieces onto the sticks. Once the pieces were pasted, the children drew a picture and painted the puzzle pieces. I

attached some string to hang the frame (no photo). If I did this again I would get them to draw before pasting the puzzle pieces or do it over two days so the frame can dry first. Lightweight card works best for the background and you need to use plenty of glue. Dry the frame flat. This is not suitable for the younger children, but it could be set out as a free collage activity of pasting sticks and puzzle pieces. It's interesting to note how carefully they paint each puzzle pieces so smaller brushes are a better idea.

**Drawing – magnetic pictures to tell a story**

I was given some magnetic discs which had self-adhesive backings so I decided to use them with the children to make magnetic stories. You can also use magnetic tape. (Or presstuck if you don't have magnets)

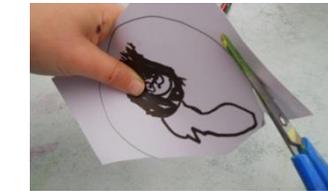


The children were given small pieces of light weight cardboard to draw on. We used koki pens but crayons will be as effective. Once the children did a drawing, I drew a line around the picture and they cut each one out. I had several old envelopes which they used to store their story pieces while they drew some more.

They attached a magnet to the back of each drawing. We used a baking tray as our magnetic board. The children placed their pictures on the magnetic board and shared their 'story'



**These are my drawings to explain the process**



In these two examples you can see that these have been done by younger children who are not able to draw completely recognizable forms. Never the less it was a great drawing opportunity and they loved it. They knew what they had drawn and could tell their story to others.

**Painting – join the paint dot**

**You will need:** Paint in a few colours and large paper



The children painted blobs of paint on the large piece of paper. Using one brush they join all the paint dots together creating a very pretty painting of blended colours. If you feel your children are a bit young for this, teacher can paint the blobs and the children join them. For the 4 year olds you could draw some dots for them to paint over .

## Painting – paper folded flowers

**You will need:** Paper, scissors, paint, glue

It is a bit tricky for children to cut their own flower shape but you could try it with the older children and the grade R children. I would suggest that if you do let the children cut the flower shape that you draw the line for them to cut along. Make sure you have 'decent' scissors as they are cutting through 4 layers of paper.

I used A3 sheets of paper which made rather large flowers so perhaps A4 will be better in terms of the space they take up while being painted. To make the flower create a square shape, fold into 4 and cut out the flower centre at the folded corner and the petals around the outer edge. I tried to take some photos to show you. It's well described in the spring theme book. We added a paper stem and some leaves. Dry flat if possible.



## A few other ideas

### Painting rocks



I was using some stones/small rocks to stop the papers from blowing away while we painted outside. When I next looked the children were all painting the rocks! They loved it, especially with the glitter paint I had set out. So now we have colourful rocks to use. Simple but fun.



## Painting – faces using a circle to start with

I often find the children paint aimlessly at the free painting area and while this does serve a purpose in their drawing painting development I try and encourage the children to paint something specific. Often I get a response of "I don't know what to paint or how to paint something". Sometimes all they need is a starting point such as a shape or circle. I painted the circle for this child and she turned it into a lovely painting of a face. Hopefully this has shown her how to get started and given her the confidence to paint a picture on her own. The green line is a moustache! You may question the colour choices of paint, but those were the colours set out and were irrelevant to the child painting



### Father's day ties

In New Zealand Father's day is in September. The children made cardboard ties for their dads. The school also held a breakfast for the dads to enjoy with their children which was very successful. Sorry no pics were allowed.



### Fine motor



I have showed you this idea before but I thought I would include it once again as the children really enjoy this activity and it keeps several children happy for a while at the same time as developing their eye hand and fine motor skills in an inexpensive way.

I use 1 litre yogurt containers with lids that clip tightly. This is a good idea as the children have an urgent need to keep shaking the containers once they have fed it with matches and if the lids do not secure tightly you will have matchsticks everywhere! I have considered using the yogurt lids with clear plastic lids so they can see the sticks in the container. I find they put in a few and then want you to open it so they can see the sticks, but the clear lids do not secure too well.

I made the holes in the lids using a leather hole-punch so I could make quite small holes. If you don't have access to a punch, make small holes using a sharp knife. I made 4 holes so 2 children could share one container but a lot of the time there was conflict sharing the box!

I also place the sticks into little plastic containers so that they do not end up all over the floor.

Be aware of the children who break your sticks in half instead of posting them into the holes.....



If you do not have access to coloured matchsticks use regular ones but burn the tips or try and cut them off. Cut up straws could be effective too as could macaroni but make sure the holes are large enough and supervise so the children don't eat them.

(Sorry this photo of the yogurt container is blurred)



Happy teaching

Regards  
Karin

## Preschool registration and training

Another useful article

[http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=eaecf0cb7fa17f78ae027af41&id=6c36385127&e=\[UNIQID\]](http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=eaecf0cb7fa17f78ae027af41&id=6c36385127&e=[UNIQID])

### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

#### ARE YOU RUNNING AN UNREGISTERED CRÈCHE OR WERE YOU REGISTERED PRIOR TO 1 APRIL 2010?

Anyone who cares or intends caring for more than six children between the ages of 0 – 6 years should register with the Gauteng Department of Social Development.

All Early Childhood Development Centers (crèches) that meet the requirements will be trained and registered in terms of the Children's Act.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

- Application form (form11) obtainable at DSD offices
- Qualifications/skills and experience of the applicant
- Description of the content of the programme
- Constitution of the organization
- Approved copy of the building plan
- Emergency plan obtainable from Municipality
- Health Permit/ Certificate obtainable from Municipality
- Clearance certificate/ form 29 obtainable from DSD
- Two weekly menu

### BENEFITS IN REGISTERING YOUR CENTER

- Receive NQF level 4 for ECD practitioners training by Department of Education
- Stand a chance to receive funding from the Gauteng Department of Social Development
- Operate a legal ECD center
- Receive free support and guidance from the Department of Social Development

Application forms are obtainable at the Gauteng Department of Social Development

### IMPLICATIONS IF NOT REGISTERED/ OPERATING AN UNREGISTERED ECD

- The center will be operating illegally and thus contravening the Children's Act 38 of 2005
- Children's safety is compromised
- Department of Social Development will take legal steps against such centers by enforcing the Children's Act.

Applications forms are obtainable at the Department of Social Development; to register your ECD center visit the nearest Social Development office or give us a call at the following numbers:

- HEAD OFFICE

Tel: 011 355 7845  011 355 7845/7846/7716

Fax: 011 355 7681

### REGIONAL CONTACTS DETAILS:

- EKURHULENI

Tel: (011) 820 0403  (011) 820 0403/820 0396  
Fax: (011) 820 0363/ 873 9390

- JOHANNESBURG

Tel: (011) 355 9372  (011) 355 9372/9362

- WEST RAND

Tel: 011 950 7771/950 7775  
Fax: 011 950 7701

- TSHWANE

Tel: 012 359 3376  012 359 3376/359 3407  
Fax: 086 567 1397

- SEDIBENG

Tel: 016 930 2094/930 2123  
Fax: 016 988 1082