

Thoughts From Supported Child Development

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Inclusion - Your Great Ideas

Yvonne Chen, Early Childhood Educator at Bulkley Valley Christian Preschool designed easy to use paint dabbers/brushes. She put hot glue on a pompom and pushed it part way into a jumbo straw (such as a bubble tea straw). Great new way to be creative while working on fine motor skills. Children can paint on a shape or create their own picture on plain paper.



Thanks to those who attended the **sign language workshop** in Smithers last month. . Your enthusiasm and feedback was appreciated!



A is for apple



ART

Dish Brush Dandelions Craft for Kids

Materials: black paper, white paint in a shallow dish brush, Optional: green paint and small paint brush



Children dip dish brush into white paint and then press onto the black paper to create dandelions.

Optional: After stamping on the black paper, take small paintbrush and paint some green stems.

Painting with Plastic Easter Eggs

If you have plastic eggs left from Easter, put them to use in your art area.

Materials:

- Tempera paint
- White paper
- Plastic Easter eggs
- Paper plates or other surface for paint

Start by squirting some tempera paint onto paper plates and add an opened plastic egg to each plate.

Children place the open end of a plastic egg in the paint and use it to stamp circles on your paper.



Looking Ahead to Mother's Day

Handprint Magnets

Materials: red craft foam, stem shapes cut from green craft foam (cut wide enough to cover the clothespins), washable yellow paint,

paint brush, hot glue gun, clothespins, magnets, picture of each child. :wash up materials

Paint child's hand with the yellow paint.

Assist the child as needed in pressing his/her hand on the craft foam. Allow to dry.



Cut out around the handprint
Put glue on the top side of the clothespin and glue the stem in place.
Glue the flower to the top of the stem.

Glue magnetic to the back.

Simple Lion's Manes

Practice Drawing Lines

Materials: simple outline of a lion head, glue, crayons or markers, paper



Children glue the lion head onto paper and then create a mane by drawing straight lines outward from the head.

Variation: Cutting practice - children create face in the middle of a large circular piece of paper or paper plate and children snip the edge to form mane.

Sensory Bins for Spring

Pond

Materials: Water table - only filled with a couple of inches of water, plastic bugs, frogs etc. tongs or tweezers



What is Magnetic?

Materials: Sensory material (ex. Sand), variety of materials that are magnetic and some that are not, magnets



Create a Bird's Nest

This idea is from Carolyn Visser (formerly from BVC Preschool)

Materials: A 'U' shaped sturdy branch secured to a flat base, straw, yarn, your choice of other nest making materials, plastic eggs,



The nest below is one of many I watched the children create.

Earth Day I Spy Bottle

Materials: small recycled water bottle (washed and dried) , green split peas, small objects that are green - dice, magnet crayon etc. , hot glue ...

After filling the bottle with peas and small objects, glue to top securely on

Ask children what they can find hiding in the bottle.

Optional: Take pictures of the objects before putting in the bottle to use as a prompt.

Focusing on Effort

Try to focus on what a child is doing rather than how you feel about what he/she is doing. For example, The next time a child shows you a painting he or she just painted - instead of saying "Your painting is so pretty" try saying "Wow, I see you chose to use red, blue and yellow paint!" The second statement may not seem like a compliment but positive reinforcement isn't necessarily complimenting children - it is instead the building of a child's confidence, understanding, and interest in what he or she is doing. It is focusing the child's attention back on his or her

own choices and efforts as he or she participates in or completes a task.

How can you transfer this to a child's efforts in the construction area?
Here are some examples as a child is building a pirate ship:



"You have discovered how to fit all those pieces together!"



- ❖ "I see you have chosen to use red, yellow, green, and blue waffle blocks!"
- ❖ "You have taught me how anything can be designed from a set of waffle blocks!"
- ❖ "You chose to make a pirate ship that is both tall and wide!"

Science

How Can you Make a Lemon Sink?

Materials: bowl of water, a lemon

Begin by asking children if they think the lemon will float or sink.

When they discover that it floats, allow them to try to sink it by pushing it down.



- ❖ What happens if we chop it into smaller pieces?
- ❖ What happens when you remove the skin?
- ❖ Remove the skin and found the bits of lemon sank? Why do you think this is?

If you look at the inside of the lemon skin you can see it is very thick and porous, this means it contains lots of air which makes it float.

Which other fruits do you think would float and which would sink?

