Art and Expression
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Art and expression are an important part of the pre-school curriculum and need to be a common feature in classes. Children need both free and guided art and craft activities, so it is important to provide both. Young children enjoy ‘doing’ art and are not necessarily concerned with the finished product. The art process is a sensory experience. Crafts activities are a very valuable way of giving the children ‘comprehensible language input’ as they have to listen to instructions in order to complete an activity.

Free art and craft activities help develop the children’s sense of independence and allow choice of their own what they are painting or drawing. Displaying the completed artwork after it has been mounted on construction paper gives the children a sense of achievement (Very Young Learners).

The development of self-expression can be supported through the use of dramatic play and creative play activities. There are many opportunities for dramatic play and art activities to work together.
Art Materials List

Paper

Newsprint of different sizes
White paper, any kind
Rolls of paper for murals and other – brown, white
Construction paper – 11”x17” and 9”x12” of every color
Cardstock for heavier projects
Tissue paper of various colors
Wax paper
Aluminum foil
Paper towel
Doilies, different sizes
Newspaper, lot of it
Wallpaper

Assorted Art Material

Glue stick (UHUstic, a good brand)
Children’s washable glue (Reeves, a good brand)
Colored glues and shiny glues
Materials for making play dough (flour, salt, cream of tartar, oil, cornstarch)
Popsicle sticks
Pipe cleaners
Ribbons, crepe paper rolls
Paper plates
Paint brushes of various sizes and shapes
Sponges for painting
Straws
Glitter
For Colouring

Mr. Sketch scented markers
Crayola crayons: big ones for small children and regular size for bigger children
Coloured chalk
Pencil crayons (Prang fun pro)
Charcoal pencils (Prang fun pro)
Oil Pastels (Demco)
Tempera paint (Funstuff, liquid)
Finger paints
Food colouring
A set of drawing pencils

Miscellaneous

Beads
Lacing, string, yarn, rope
Beading needles (round point)
Seeds of many kinds (rice, sunflower, spice, corn)
Macaroni, beans
Sand
Dried grasses
Dried flowers
Pinecones (can collect when needed)
Big shirts for messy stuff
Rocks
Bark
Containers: Lots of containers of various sizes- keep used fruit cups, discarded plastic bowls and dishes, yogurt lids, mismatched lids
Sample Art Lesson Plans

Animal Fingerprints

Lesson plan using the animal theme
Time: 15-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn names of animals.
• Children will learn language.
• Children will learn about color and use fine motor skills.

Preparation: Have several colors of paint in small containers at a covered table. Have large shirt or paint smock for children to cover up their front. Lay out construction paper in front of each child. Cover tables with newspaper for painting.

Procedure:

1. Have a discussion about animals and ask what colours would best suit each animal.
2. Demonstrate for the children and make different fingerprints with various colours.
3. Then show them how to use the marker to make beaks, etc...
4. After drying mount the pictures on larger piece of construction paper or cardstock then display them in the class.
5. For further activities, have an art display show for parents.
Paper Clothesline

Lesson Plan using the clothing theme:
Time: 20-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn language.
• Children will learn clothing vocabulary.
• Children will use fine motor skills.

Material:
• String.
• Drawings of various clothing.
• Clothespins.
• Different colors of paint, or crayons.
• Paint smocks.

Preparation: Put up a string across a wall, or window, or across the room to illustrate a clothesline. Set up a table for painting and have a sample of what the children will be making.

Procedure:

1. Demonstrate to the children what the clothesline will be used for and hang up your sample of work that you completed.
2. Tell the children that it is a washday and they are hanging out their clothes.
3. Have the children choose two or three pieces of clothing and tell them that they are going to make them look nice and clean to hang up to dry.
4. For further activities, play a shoe game where you put all the shoes mixed together in the center and have the children take turns finding a matching pair, or find their own shoes to put on.

(C Manuel)
Garden Mural

Lesson Plan using Food Theme:
Time: 15-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn language.
• Children will learn names of food.
• Children will learn healthy eating habits.

Material:
• Long roll of paper or large poster board.
• Markers, or crayons.
• Pictures of plant food-fruits, vegetables, grains, beans, nuts etc.
• Fresh fruit and vegetables cut in quarters.

Preparation: Prepare the background for an indoor garden. Draw two lines across the length of the paper, one to represent the top of the underground part of the garden, the other to represent the horizon. Add a few trees, shrubs, and fields. Colour the field green and the ground brown, the sky blue, trees, shrubs, and bushes green.

Procedure:

1. Discuss with the class where fruit, vegetables and berries grow.
2. Ask the children to pick a picture to colour and upon completion place their picture in the appropriate area on the long paper.
3. Ask the children to choose a piece of vegetable or fruit and have them point to where it would grow in the mural.
4. For further activities, plant a bean with older children and have them measure the water in a cup and keep a growing record of the bean plant.

(by Kati Chevaux)
Hand activity

Lesson Plan using Body Parts Theme

Time: 15-30 minutes

Objectives:
- Children will learn language.
- Children will learn name for hand
- Children will express themselves through art.

Materials:
- Templates of animals (Butterfly, Eagle, Moose, and Salmon)
- Paint or Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Instructions:
1. Get child to colour template of animal body.
2. Option 1 -
   On construction paper, place children’s hands on paper and trace. Cut out outlines of hands. Have children glue the paper hands onto the animal bodies.
   Option 2 -
   Put paint on child’s hand and stamp their hand on animal body.
   Examples:
   Salmon use hand for tail.

4. Another option is to use a stiffer paper to create mobiles or hang the butterflies and eagles up to fly by adhering the hands to the bodies as outstretched wings.
Hand Activity Eagle Template
Hand Activity Butterfly Template
Puppets/Drama

Puppets are a fun way of catching the children’s attention. It is fun but also a tool that aids in communication. Puppets help break any barriers and make the children feel at ease. With the use of puppets as a tool, it is a good way to engage the children in the activities and can be used to make transitions to new activities.

Puppets can be used to bring a story to life and engage the children in listening as a story unfolds. Puppets are also used to develop expressive language skills. It gives the children a chance to practice role-playing, and is a great tool that the children can use to retell a story. Puppets are fascinating. They create special environment whenever and wherever they are performed. Puppets can be effectively used in stories and dramas, which have imaginary events, places and characters (Learning and Teaching Through Puppets).

Drama is one aspect of teaching children to be creative and use their imagination. It engages them in the activities of the day and allows the shy introverted child to open up. Drama is a fun time for dress up and a fun way to learn to take direction, to learn language, and to learn new vocabulary.

Drama can be used to teach commands. It can also be a tool to teach cooperation, and social skills. Drama is one way that a child can go to the extreme with their imagination and bring them to places that not require travel. Drama is a tool that enables the teacher to bring fun and learning together. Acting out stories out and demonstrating concepts and vocabulary will increase understanding. Drama is a good way to teach children the power of communication. Students who are beginning communicators will begin to see that their speech has direct implication on the action of others.
Ideas for Drama/Puppets

Little Red Hen Story

Time: 15-20 minutes

Objectives:
Children will:
• Learn language
• Learn about sharing
• Learn about helping others
• Learn names for animals, bread, wheat, etc...

Materials:
• Red Hen Storybook by Lucinda McQueen
• Templates for Red Hen cutouts
• Popsicle sticks
• Stock card, or felt material, or foam sheets
• Glue stick or glue gun
• Permanent marker

Preparation: Make the stick puppets prior to doing the lesson.

Procedure:
1. Have the children sit in front of you.
2. Show them the storybook “The Little Red Hen Story”.
3. Choose children to be the characters and the flour, wheat and bread
4. Go over the names of the characters, and other items from the story.
5. Explain to them that they will watch for their cue as a nod or what you choose to do to indicate their cue.
6. Demonstrate to the children what they will be doing as the characters and explain to the group that this is a story and a puppet show.
7. Begin reading the story and as you read, emphasize the parts where you want the characters to do their part, and nod or directly say to them their cue.
8. For further activities have the children color pictures of the Little Red Hen and the characters.
Instructions for the Little Red Hen and The Three Bears Stick Puppets:

Material:

- Popsicle sticks
- Cardstock paper or foam sheets or felt material
- Glue stick for paper, glue gun for foam or felt material
- Black marker
- Scissors

Procedure:

1. Trace out the figures on your choice of cardstock paper, felt or foam.
2. Cut out the figures and draw the eyes, nose, etc...
3. Glue the figures on the end of a Popsicle stick.
4. Use the glue gun to glue felt or foam figures on the Popsicle stick.
5. Use the puppets for the related stories.
Little Red Hen

seeds

wheat

flour

bread
The Three Bears and Goldilocks

Time: 15-20 Minutes

Objectives:
Children will:
• Learn language
• Learn about right and wrong
• Generate ideas (solutions) to the problem

Material:
• The Three Bears and Goldilocks Storybook
• Templates for stick puppets
• Stock card paper, or felt material, or foam
• Glue stick or glue gun
• Permanent marker
• Scissors

Preparation: Ahead of time, make the stick puppets from the Three Bears templates.

Procedure:

1. Have the children sit on the floor/carpet in front of you.
2. Choose children to help with story and assign characters from the story.
3. Explain to the children that they will watch for their cue as a nod or what you choose to do to indicate their cue.
4. Demonstrate to the children what they will be doing as the characters and explain to the class that this is a story and a puppet show.
5. Begin reading the story and emphasize where you want the children helping with the story to know their cue is coming up and give them their cue (nod, etc...).
6. For further activities, make masks of the characters and let the children play out the story during playtime.
Use these patterns to make felt figures, stick puppets, or a file folder story.

Baby’s chair - make 2 more chairs for Papa and Mama

Baby Bear’s bed - make a middle-size and large-size bed
"Zoo Keeper"

Lesson plan using dramatic play.
Time: 15-20 Minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn to play cooperatively.
• Children will be creative and use their imagination.
• Children will learn language.
• Children will learn the sounds animals make.
• Children will learn animal movements.

Materials: Nets, boots, gloves, pail, plastic shovel or scoop, hay; pictures of animals and zookeepers also stuffed animals.

Preparation: Set out the materials. Set up an area where the zoo will be, ensure there is enough room for the children to walk around. Children can pretend to be a zookeepers working at the zoo and feeding the animals.

Procedure:
1. Discuss with the class what a zoo is, who the zookeeper is and what the zookeeper’s job is.
2. Show the children the area where the zoo will be.
3. Choose one child to be the zookeeper, and have the rest of the students play animals that you would find at the zoo.
4. Start the children off by getting the zookeeper to feed the animals.
5. Have the children playing the animals make the animal sounds and movements.
6. Let the children use their imagination, and allow some free play of zookeeper.

Alternative: Use a farm scene.

(by Nancy V.)
Animal Masks

Lesson plan using the animal theme
Time: 20-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn the names of animals.
• Children will learn language.
• Children will engage in a fine motor skills activity.
• Children will learn the sounds animals make.

Material:

• Paper plates
• Different color paint.
• Crayons
• String.

Preparation: Get paper plates, paint, or crayons set out at a table. Have pictures of animals that the class has been going over, for example forest animals. Cut the paper plates in half to make masks.

Procedure:

1. Discuss with the children what kinds of animals live in the forest.
2. Tell the children that they will choose one animal that they might want to be.
3. Ask the children to make the sound of the animal.
4. Demonstrate the drawing of an animal face, pointing out what is needed to make the face.
5. Once the masks are drawn and painted, put two holes on each side of the face to put string through.
6. Have the children hang up their masks to dry.
7. For further activities, play a game of “who am I?” Let the kids wear their new mask and make the sounds of their animal, and have the rest of the class guess what animal they are.
Bear, Frog and Rabbit Hand Puppets

Lesson plan using the animal theme
Time: 20-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn the names of animals.
• Children will practice speaking.
• Children will engage in a fine motor skills activity.
• Children will engage in dramatic play.

Materials needed:
• 2 sheets of felt for each body
• Large sewing needle
• 2 Wiggly eyes
• Embroidery thread
• Fabric glue or glue gun

Instructions:
1. Trace pattern and cut out 2 bodies with felt.
2. Sew on or embroider (to one side of body):
   Bear- nose, and mouth
   Rabbit- ears, nose, and mouth
   Frog- nostrils, and mouth
3. Glue on wiggly eyes.
4. Sew together the two bodies with a blanket stitch. Or with right sides of fabric facing each other sew around puppet; remember to leave the bottom open.
5. Turn right side out.
Bear Puppet Template
Bee, Cat and Dog Foam Puppets

Lesson plan using the animal theme
Time: 20-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn the names of animals.
• Children will practice speaking.
• Children will engage in a fine motor skills activity.
• Children will engage in dramatic play.

Materials:
• Foam sheets
• Black permanent marker
• Glue gun or foam adhesive
• 1 popsicle stick

Instructions:
1. Trace pattern from templates on foam sheets with desired colours.
2. Use permanent marker:
   Bee- Use the marker to draw in stripes on body and to draw in the mouth on the head of the bee.
   Cat- Use the marker to draw in mouth on the muzzle.
   Dog- Use the marker to draw in dots on the head and ears. Draw in mouth on muzzle.
   * Optional: cut out eyes on white paper and glue on puppet head.
3. Glue foam in appropriate areas.
4. Glue Popsicle stick behind foam puppet.
Bee Foam Stick Puppet Template

eyes
Antenna
head
stinger
body
wing
Pig Foam Stick Puppet Template

paste

paste

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Dog Foam Stick Puppet Template

[Diagram of a dog face template with two large ear shapes, a circle for the head, a rounded nose, and two oval eyes]
Monkey, Frog and Pig Paper Bag Puppets

Lesson plan using the animal theme
Time: 20-30 minutes

Objectives:
• Children will learn the names of animals.
• Children will practice speaking.
• Children will engage in a fine motor skills activity.
• Children will engage in dramatic play.

Materials:
• Paper bag
• Glue stick
• Patterns

Instructions:
1. Get child to colour the patterns of puppet on white sheet of paper.
2. Cut out patterns.
3. Using the glue sticks, have the children glue pattern pieces to appropriate areas on the paper bag.
4. Have fun!
Monkey Paper Bag Puppet Template Part B

Stomach

Tail
Monkey Paper Bag Puppet Template Part C

Arms
Frog Paper Bag Puppet Template

Eyes

Fold

Fold

Fold

Fold
Pig Paper Bag Puppet Template Part B

Eyes

Ears

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