Approaches to learning

Name of Activity: Let’s Wash our Hands.

Originating Idea: Encouraging children to wash their hands all by themselves.

Materials: Sink, soap, paper towel, step stool

Appropriate Age Group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Teachers can demonstrate how to properly wash hands. The teacher can sing ABC’s while washing hands to show children how long to wash their hands for.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might not be able to reach the water. Might even play with the water and soap. Teacher can help pick up the child.

Middle: Toddlers may be able to wash their hands and not fully know how to sing the ABC’s song. Older toddlers can help them sing.

Later: Older toddlers will be able to wash their hands and sing the song.

End of Activity: Now that the children’s hands are clean, teachers can transition to snack time.

Follow-up Ideas: Teachers can have a lesson on how to brush your teeth properly. Teacher can bring extra toothbrushes and demonstrate.

KDI- Approaches to Learning- Self Help

Name of Activity: Let’s Go Outside

Originating Idea: Encouraging children to put their own jackets on and shoes all by them self

Materials: Children’s jackets, shoes, depending on weather hates, gloves, scarfs may be used

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Teacher can demonstrate how to put a jacket on by using their own jacket. Can demonstrate how to put shoes on by using their own pair of shoes.

Middle of activity

Early: Younger toddlers might not be able to put their jackets on. Older toddlers might help them.

Middle: Toddlers might struggle to put both arms in their jackets as well as putting on their shoes.

Later: Older toddlers will be able to put their jackets on as well as their shoes. Might even attempt to zip or button up their jacket.

End of Activity: Teachers can take the children outside.

Follow-up Ideas: Teachers can take out a box of dress up clothes. Ex: police man suit, princess dresses, dinosaur suit, doctor

KDI- Approaches to Learning: Self-Help

Name of Activity: Model Problem Solving

Originating Idea: Providing an activity that children can solve problems encountered in exploration and play.

Materials: Empty container with lid, at least one block

Appropriate Age group: Infants

Beginning of Activity: Have teacher take the lid off and put the block in the container. Put back the lid. Then take the lid off and take the block out. After have the infant try to get the block out.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger infants may shake the container with the block in it.

Middle: Infants may struggle to take the lid off.

Later: Infants may be able to take the lid off and take the block out.

End of Activity: Leave out the blocks and have infants explore and play with the blocks.

Follow-up Ideas: Add a variety of containers with different types of lids to the infant play area. Allow the infant a chance to take the lid off and to put things in or take out.

KDI- Approaches to Learning- Problem Solving

**Social and emotional development**

## **Name of Activity: Model Problem Solving**

## **Originating Idea:**Providing an activity that children can solve problems encountered in exploration and play **Curriculum Area:** Approaches to Learning- Problem Solving Materials**:**Empty container with lid, at least one block **Appropriate Age group:**Infants **Beginning of Activity:**Have teacher take the lid off and put the block in the container. Put back the lid. Then take the lid off and take the block out. After have the infant try to get the block out. **Middle of Activity** **Early:**Younger infants may shake the container with the block in it. **Middle:**Infants may struggle to take the lid off.            **Later:**Infants may be able to take the lid off and take the block out.  **End of Activity:**Leave out the blocks and have infants explore and play with the blocks. **Follow-up Ideas:**Add a variety of containers with different types of lids to the infant play area. Allow the infant a chance to take the lid off and to put things in or take out.

KDI- Problem Solving- Approaches to learning.

Name of Activity: Mirror, Mirror

Originating Idea: Identifying faces with emotions, expressing emotions

Materials: Unbreakable plastic mirror

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Teachers can give each child a mirror and ask them to make certain faces in the mirror. Ask them to make a mad face, a sad face, happy face, and so on.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers may just make any faces they want. Might just look at themselves.

Middle: Toddlers may try to attempt to make faces.

Later: May be able to make certain faces and can identify different kinds of emotions

End of Activity: Ask the children what kind of faces they can make. Transition to the next activity.

KDI- Social and Emotional Development- Emotions

Follow-up Ideas: Teachers can have children draw themselves while looking at themselves in front of a mirror.

Name of Activity: Wiggle your Fingers, Wiggle your Toes

Originating Idea: Babies discover different body parts and become interested in their hands and feet

Materials: None

Appropriate Age group: Infants

Beginning of Activity: Teacher can sing the finger and toe rhyme, and each time the teacher says fingers or toes, the teacher can wiggle the babies finger and toes.

Rhyme:

Fingers and toes, fingers and toes

Here are your fingers, and here are your toes

Wiggle your fingers

Wiggle your toes

Here are your fingers, and here are your toes

Wave with your fingers, wave with your toes

Here are your fingers, and here are your toes!

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger infants might just look at you and grab your hands.

Middle: Infants may laugh when you touch their fingers and toes.

Later: Infants may try to follow you along.

End of Activity: Transition to the next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Teachers can sing other songs about other body parts to the infants.

KDI- Physical Development and Health- Body Awareness

**Physical Development and Health**

**Name of Activity: Clean The House**

Originating Idea: Children often enjoy imitating the work of adults. Encourage children to work together and use tools

Materials: Toy brooms, dust pans, toy vacuum

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Have teachers talk about cleaning and demonstrate how to properly use a broom and a vacuum to clean up the room and floors. Encourage children to work together with the broom and dust pan. Make vacuum pretend sounds. Encourage children to imitate.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might just play with broom and dust pan.

Middle: Toddlers may use the broom but not be able to use the dust pan at the same time. Older toddlers can help.

Later: Toddlers can properly use the broom and vacuum and make pretend sounds.

End of Activity: Teacher can show other different types of cleaning tools. Transition to the next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Play pretend house.

KDI- Physical Development and health- moving with objects.

Name of Activity: Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes Dance Song

Originating Idea: Getting the children up and moving

Materials: CD song

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Have teacher play the song “Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” Have teacher demonstrate the moves for it. Then have the children sing and dance along.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might just touch different parts of the body. Is unsure what the order of the moves are in.

Middle: Toddlers may try to sing the song and get most of the moves right.

Later: Toddlers will learn the song quickly than other children and do the motions in the correct order.

End of Activity: Transition to next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Free style dancing, add musical instruments.

KDI- Physical Development and Health- Moving parts of the body, Moving the whole body- Gross-Motor Skills

**Communication, Language and Literacy**

Name of Activity: Sign Language

Originating Idea: To be able to explore various forms of non-verbal communication.

Materials: None

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Teachers can demonstrate how to communicate with the children using sign language. Teachers can show children how to express “More” “Thank you” and “Please” using their hands.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might have trouble learning the different sign language expressions. Might get confused which one is which.

Middle: Toddlers may be able to express a few expressions with their hands, might even ask for help.

Later: Toddlers will learn faster than others. Will know how to make the expressions.

End of Activity: Wrap up. Transition to next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Teachers can act out stories with puppets with the children.

KDI- Communication, Language, and Literacy- Nonverbal Communication

Name of Activity: Read and Explore

Originating Idea: Children exploring picture books

Curriculum Area: Communication, Language, and Literacy- Exploring Print

Materials: Variety of picture and bright colored books, books with flaps and touch sensations

Appropriate Age group: Infants

Beginning of Activity: Provide books that are appealing to the infants on the floor with the children. Have infants explore the books.

Middle of Activity

Early: Infants may grab the books and put it in their mouth.

Middle: Infants may explore the books and touch them.

Later: Older infants may attempt to turn the pages.

End of Activity: Put away book and transition to next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Read a simple story to the infants.

KDI- Language, Literacy and Communication- Reading- Concepts about print

**Cognitive Development**

Name of Activity: Dump and Fill

Originating Idea: Children fill and empty, take in and take out

Materials: Sandbox, cups, spoons, shovels, bucket

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Have children play in the sensory sand table filled with materials.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might just play with the materials and explore with the sand.

Middle: Toddlers may fill up buckets and dump the materials.

Later: Toddlers will fill buckets and cups and empty them out.

End of Activity: Wrap up and wash hands for the next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Playing with colored rice or pasta noodles.

KDI- Cognitive Development- Filling and Emptying

Name of Activity: Building with Blocks

Originating Idea: Children repeat an action to make something happen again, Infants learn how to problem solve when building with blocks

Materials: wooden blocks

Appropriate Age group: Infants

Beginning of Activity: Have infant on teacher’s lap. Have the teacher demonstrate how to stack blocks and then knock it down to show cause and effect.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger infants might just explore with the blocks and put it in their mouth.

Middle: Infants may struggle to stack the blocks needing the teachers help.

Later: Older infants may be able to stack blocks and knock them down.

End of Activity: Clean up and transition to next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Playing with empty boxes and stacking them.

KDI- Cognitive Development- Cause and Effect- Exploring Objects

**Creative Arts**

Name of Activity: Animal Sounds and Movements

Originating Idea: Children explore and imitate sounds

Materials: Animal sounds on CD

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Have teachers yell out an animal and have them play the sounds of that specific animal. Then have children imitate it and make movements of what the animal may do.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might just move around and make sounds. Might not know what kind of animals there are.

Middle: Toddlers might be able to make animal sound but not sure how they move. Might imitate older toddler’s movements.

Later: Toddlers will make animal movements and sounds.

End of Activity: Wrap up and transition to next activity.

Follow-up Ideas: Old McDonald had a Farm song.

KDI- Creative Arts- Imitating and Pretending- Sounds

Name of Activity: Dancing to Music

Originating Idea: Children moving their bodies to the music

Materials: CD with a variety of songs

Appropriate Age group: Toddlers

Beginning of Activity: Have teacher put a CD on. Children can dance to the music.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger toddlers might just move around or choose not to participate.

Middle: Toddlers may move their body and change movements to the different songs playing.

Later: Toddlers will dance to the music and may even sing.

End of Activity: Teacher can ask children what their favorite style of music was and what their favorite dance was.

Follow-up Ideas: Ring around the Rosy Song

KDI- Creative Arts- Imitating and Pretending- Sounds

Name of Activity: Finger Painting/Cotton Balls

Originating Idea: Exploring with paint and materials

Materials: Variety of colors of paint, cotton balls, paper, cups

Appropriate Age group: Infants

Beginning of Activity: Have teachers place infants on the floor along with their sheet of paper, paint and cotton balls. Have them explore the paint and materials.

Middle of Activity

Early: Younger infants may touch and feel the paint. May even put paint on themselves.

Middle: Infants may explore the paint and explore the cotton balls.

Later: Older infants may dip the cotton ball in paint and put it on the sheet.

End of Activity: Clean and wash up. Hang artwork on the wall.

Follow-up Ideas: Scribbling with markers and crayons.

KDI- Creative Arts- Exploring Art Materials