**Approaches To Learning**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity**

Fourth of July Fireworks

**Originating Idea**

The 4th of July was approaching, and children had interest in fireworks and wanted to make fireworks.

**Curriculum Area**

Approaches to Learning #1- children demonstrate initiative as they explore their world.

**Materials**

Toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, red, white, and blue paint, paintbrushes, paint trays, scissors, art rack.

**Appropriate Age group**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

At carpet time we discussed that if the children wanted to make fireworks, they would need to produce the supplies to make them. They came up with toilet paper rolls.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early Extension:**

**Middle:**

**Later Extension:**

**End of Activity**

Put on drying rack to dry. Take it home at the end of the week.

**Follow-up Ideas**

To ask children questions about what they do for the 4th of July. Read ‘The Night Before the Fourth of July’ by Natasha Wing.

**Name of Activity**

Construction Letters

**Originating Idea**

Boys are obsessed with construction vehicles.

**Curriculum Area**

Approaches to Learning #3- Children focus on activities that interest them.

**Materials**

Toy excavator, toy crane, mat man hands, wood pieces for capital letters, mat man poster, sensory table, sand or rice, tape

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool (3-4 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

Discuss how we are going to learn our letter of the week using construction vehicles and may man’s body to build our letter.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children sing their ABC’s and use cranes and excavator in sensory table.

**Middle:**

Children will pick up wooden pieces out of sensory table.

**Later:**

Children will recognize small, big, curvy, and straight pieces of mat man and use construction vehicles to dig them out and tape to our wall.

**End of Activity**

Once we finish putting together our letter of the week, discuss what pieces of mat man’s body we used to create our letter of the week.

**Follow up Ideas**

Sing mat man song by handwriting without tears, sing every letter makes a sound by leapfrog, read ‘chicka chicka boom boom’ by Bill Martin Jr.

**Name of Activity:**

Treasure Hunt

**Originating Idea:**

Boys wanted to be pirates.

**Curriculum Area:**

Approaches to Learning #4- Children solve problems encountered in play.

**Materials:**

Gold coins, paper w/ clue, crayons, small treasure box, stickers

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity:**

Discuss how before centers we will do a treasure hunt to find gold coins.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will look around the room to find the treasure box.

**Middle:**

Children will walk around the room and move things around to look for treasure box.

**Later:**

Children will use the clues while looking in every area to find the treasure box.

**End of Activity:**

Once the treasure box is found, hand out gold coins to the children.

**Follow up Ideas:**

Make our own treasure boxes for art and dance to “The Silly Pirate Song” by Jack Hartmann.

**Social and Emotional Development**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity:**

Mirror Mirror on The Wall

**Originating Idea:**

Children love looking at themselves in the bathroom mirror when washing their hands.

**Curriculum Area:**

Social and Emotional development #7: Children have a positive self-identity.

**Materials:**

Mirror

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 years)

**Beginning of Activity:**

At group time, discuss children's interest with mirror and explain what we will be doing for small groups- mirror mirror on the wall activity.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will recognize themselves in the mirror.

**Middle:**

Children will point to themselves in mirror recognizing some facial features like eyes and mouth.

**Later:**

Children will name what they see in the mirror such as eye color and facial features.

**End of Activity:**

Children will go back to group time carpet to get ready for centers.

**Follow up Ideas:**

Talk about "What Makes you Special?" and another idea would be to read "What I Like about Me!" by Allia Zobel Nolan.

**Name of Activity:**

Feeling Bingo

**Originating Idea:**

Children really love playing princess bingo and seeing the different faces.

**Curriculum Area:**

Social and Emotional Development #9- Children recognize, label, and regulate their feelings.

**Materials:**

Laminated bingo face cards, bingo chips or markers

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Preschool (3-4 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity:**

At carpet time, have a talk about what we'll be doing at a center today, feeling bingo.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will recognize faces on cards.

**Middle:**

Children will put bingo chips on the cards.

**Later:**

Children will recognize all emotions on cards and put bingo chips on the face being shown.

**End of Activity:**

Clear bingo cards and go to next center.

**Follow up Ideas:**

Read Dr. Seuss's 'My Many-Colored Days' which is about how colors are associated with a specific emotion, my second follow up idea would be to sing "If your happy and you know it".

**Name of Activity:**

Animal Relay Race

**Originating Idea:**

Children love playing with the animal bucket.

**Curriculum Area:**

Social and Emotional development #13- children engage in cooperative play.

**Materials:**

Orange cones, baton

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Preschool (3-4 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity:**

During snack time discuss what activity we will do during outside time- Animal relay race

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will run to their partner.

**Middle:**

**Later:**

Children will be able to motion the animal’s movement while racing to their partner.

**End of Activity:**

Play outside on playground until it's time to go inside for lunch.

**Follow up ideas:**

After nap play the "Animal Freeze Dance" by the Kiboomers and review our "First 100 Animals" flash cards.

**Physical Development and Health**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity**

Pass the Balloon

**Originating Idea:**

Saw the older kids playing volleyball and thought it was fun.

**Curriculum Area:**

Physical development and Health #16- Children demonstrate strength, flexibility, balance, and timing in using their large muscles.

**Materials:**

Balloon

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity:**

During group time discuss children's interest in volleyball and explain we will be playing a similar game during the beginning of our outside time called pass the balloon.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will get a feel of the balloon by rubbing it and tossing it in the air.

**Middle:**

Children will pass the balloon back and forth but at a close distance.

**Later:**

Children will pass the balloon back and forth but at a further distance.

**End of Activity:**

Talk about similarities and differences between our activity and volleyball. Then release them to go play on the playground.

**Follow up Ideas:**

Read Bump! Set! Spike! by Nick Fauchald as an introduction to volleyball and do some stretches.

**Name of Activity:**

Grass in a Cup

**Originating Idea:**

Children need more practice using scissors.

**Curriculum Area:**

Physical development and Health #17- Children demonstrate dexterity and hand-eye coordination in using their small muscles.

**Materials:**

Small plastic cup, water, potting soil, grass seeds, scissors, sunlight.

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten (3-5 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity:**

At centers children will plant their grass seeds in their cups and water them. Wait till grass grows high.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will feel and pluck and grass.

**Middle:**

Children will use scissors but not hold them properly to cut their grass.

**Later:**

Children will use scissors properly to cut grass in cups.

**End of Activity:**

Send home with children.

**Follow up Idea:**

Practice cutting with line cutting worksheets (Advanced), use scraps (Not advanced) and cutting playdoh.

**Name of Activity:**

Brushing (Egg Carton) Teeth

**Originating Idea:**

A student lost a tooth and the children found it cool.

**Curriculum Area**

Physical Development and Health #20- Children engage in healthy practices.

**Materials:**

White egg cartons (foam), toothbrushes, paint, water, bucket, towels, toothpaste.

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity:**

At group time discuss the importance of brushing teeth and explain todays activity at centers- brushing teeth

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

children explore materials.

**Middle:**

Children will be able to use some of the materials to start brushing the "teeth".

**Later:**

Children will be able to use all the materials to brush the teeth the correct way.

**End of Activity:**

Talk about the importance of brushing teeth.

**Follow up Ideas:**

Sing the tooth brushing song by Blippi, read Pout Pout Fish: Goes to the Dentist by Deborah Diesen and do tooth collage.

**Language, Literacy, and Communication**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity:**

Show and Tell

**Originating Idea:**

Children love bringing their books and stuffies from home.

**Curriculum Area:**

Language, Literacy, and communication #22- children express themselves using language.

**Materials:**

table, blanket, pillows (to sit on)

**Appropriate Age Group:**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity:**

At group time have a discussion about how the class will be doing a show and tell. They can bring anything in that makes them, them.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children may be shy and not want to talk.

**Middle:**

Children can express some words and may ask the teacher for help.

**Later:**

Children can express themselves and words without or limited teacher help.

**End of Activity:**

Wrap up and head to centers.

**Follow up Activity:**

Teachers can share fun facts about themselves.

**Name of Activity:**

Alphabet Bowling

**Originating Idea:**

Focusing on recognizing letters in the alphabet and identifying.

**Curriculum Area:**

Language, Literacy, and communication #25- Children identify letter names and their sounds.

**Materials**

Bowling pins (kids set), reusable sticker letters.

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool (3-4 yrs.)

**Beginning of Activity**

At group time have a discussion about what we will be doing during small group- alphabet bowling

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will be able to bowl but not recognize many letters.

**Middle:**

Children will be able to bowl and recognize some letters.

**Later:**

Children will be able to bowl and recognize all letters and pronounce their sounds.

**End of Activity**

Clean up and get ready for centers.

**Follow up Ideas**

Sing ABC’s, read Dr. Seuss’s ABC book.

**Name of Activity**

Fill in the blank story.

**Originating Idea**

Children loved the story Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin

**Curriculum Area**

Language, literacy, and communication #28- children demonstrate knowledge about books.

**Materials**

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten (3-5 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

Discuss how we will be creating our own Dragon use Taco story by filling in the blank with our own words.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Some children might have trouble coming up with words to fill into the blank areas.

**Middle:**

Children may be able to come up with some words.

**Later:**

Children will be able to fill in the blanks with words.

**End of Activity**

Teacher reads some stories aloud at free time.

**Follow up Ideas**

**Mathematics**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity**

Ten apples up on top (Play-Doh activity)

**Originating Idea**

During snack children like counting their food. I.e. (goldfish, Cheez-its, animal cookies)

**Curriculum Area**

Mathematics #32- children count things.

**Materials**

Red Play-Doh (rolled in balls), brown pipe cleaners (cut in tiny pieces), green foam sheets (to make leaves)

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool (3-4 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

At centers we will talk about how we will use the Play-Doh “apples” to stack with the designated number on Play-Doh mat

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will play with the Play-Doh instead of counting and matching the apples to the corresponding number.

**Middle:**

Children will be able to recognize some numbers and match Play-Doh to right number.

**Later:**

Children will be able to recognize all numbers and match Play-Doh to right number.

**End of Activity**

Put Play-Doh away and head to next center.

**Follow up Ideas**

Read “How do Dinosaurs Count to Ten?” by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague and sing one, two, buckle my shoe.

**Name of Acti**vity

If you give a Pre-Kindergartener a muffin (cooking project)

**Originating Idea**

Children really wanted to do a cooking project, and teacher can incorporate math (measuring)

**Curriculum Area**

Mathematics #36- Children measure to describe, compare, and order things.

**Materials**

Muffin mix, large bowl, large wooden spoon, muffin pans, measuring spoons/ measuring cups, milk/ water, eggs.

**Appropriate Age Group**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

At carpet time, read the book “If you Give a Muffin” by Laura Numeroff, then explain how we will be making muffins during small group.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will just put mix into pan without measuring anything.

**Middle:**

Children can measure using measurement spoons, but not with the cups.

**Later:**

Can measure using both spoons and cups.

**End of Activity**

Discuss how we used measurements during our cooking project by using the cups and spoons. By matching the numbers on the box to the spoons and cups.

**Follow up Ideas**

Use Lego’s for measurements and read ‘Measure of Things’ by Joan Sweeney

**Name of Activity**

Pom Pom Rainbow Pattern

**Originating Idea**

Children love using pom-poms.

**Curriculum Area**

Mathematics #38- children identify, describe, copy, complete, and create patterns.

**Materials**

Rainbow pack pom poms, rainbow pattern sheets, tongs or clothes pins

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool (3-4 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

Discuss how children will be making patterns using pom poms at centers.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will make any pattern they want. They won’t follow the pattern on the mats.

**Middle:**

Children will recognize some colors and will put pom poms on those corresponding colors. Colors they don’t recognize they will put wherever.

**Later:**

Children will be able to recognize and acknowledge the patterns and colors and place pom poms correctly.

**End of Activity**

Clean up and head to the next center.

**Follow up Ideas**

Make beaded bracelets.

**Creative Arts**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity**

Marble painting

**Originating Idea**

Children’s love for painting

**Curriculum Area**

Creative Arts #40- Children express and represent what they observe, think, imagine, and feel through two- and three-dimensional art.

**Materials**

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool and pre-Kindergarten (3-5 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

While at the art table, discuss how students can use any color they want to marble paint.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children can not get marble to move.

**Middle:**

Children get marbles to move a little bit but not far.

**Later:**

Children can move the marbles easily to paint their pictures.

**End of Activity**

Put art on drying racks, wash hands, and go to next center.

**Follow up Idea**

**Name of Activity**

Jingle Bells

**Originating Idea**

Children like using instruments during music and movement.

**Curriculum Area**

Creative Arts #41- Children express and represent what they observe, think, imagine, and feel through music.

**Materials**

Pipe cleaners, jingle bells.

**Appropriate Age Group**

Preschool (3-4 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

At circle time discuss how we’ll be making jingle bell bracelets for small group

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children won’t be able to lace the bells on pipe cleaners but will shake them.

**Middle:**

Can lace with help and will shake the bracelet.

**Later:**

Can lace by themselves and will shake the bracelet by wearing it.

**End of Activity**

**Follow up Ideas**

**Name of Activity**

Musical Chairs

**Originating Idea**

Wanting to incorporate more music activities.

**Curriculum Area**

Creative Arts #42- Children express and represent what they observe, think, imagine, and feel through movement.

**Materials**

10 chairs, radio, CD’s

**Beginning of Activity**

At carpet time discuss how we will be playing a game- musical chairs

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Standing still not moving with others.

**Middle:**

They move with other children but don’t realize when to sit.

**Later:**

Move when supposed to and listen to when music stops to sit down.

**End of Activity**

Put chairs away and start centers.

**Follow up Ideas.**

**Science and Technology**

**Definition**

**Name of Activity**

Sink or float.

**Originating Idea**

Children’s interest with water

**Curriculum Area**

Science and Technology #48- Children predict what they expect will happen.

**Materials**

**Appropriate Age Group**

**Beginning of Activity**

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

**Middle:**

**Later:**

**End of Activity**

**Follow up Ideas**

**Name of Activity**

Nature Hunt

**Originating Idea**

Children’s interest in being outside.

**Curriculum Area**

Science and Technology #51- Natural and Physical world- Children gather knowledge about the natural and physical world.

**Materials**

Clipboards, crayons, template papers with pictures of leafs, flower, rock, bug, tree

**Appropriate Age Group**

Pre-Kindergarten (4-5 y/o)

**Beginning of Activity**

At large group, have a discussion about what we will be doing for small group- A nature Hunt.

**Middle of Activity**

**Early:**

Children will point out or maybe label the items they see on our nature walk.

**Middle:**

The children will use the crayon to mark off the pictures of the items they see as they walk through the woods.

**Later:**

Children will draw and/or write what they see in nature on their papers.

**End of Activity**

Walk back to the classroom, put clipboards in a basket and wash hands for snack.

**Follow up Ideas.**

Read about different animals you may see in the woods, weather discussion, graph what we saw/ didn’t see on our nature walk. Make bird feeders.