



Programme 1 - The Arts

Introduction

In this first programme of the series, the emphasis will be on encouraging children to explore a range of materials, discovering some of their properties, and giving the children opportunities to experiment with the material. The animated story will hinge on the properties of familiar materials and will be complemented by a filmed insert of pre-school children enjoying art activities. As with all the programmes, a specially commissioned song will consolidate the learning.

Learning Opportunities

The Arts

- using natural and seasonal materials to create pictures;
- creating observational paintings;
- making patterns using natural materials;
- making a collage using hand prints;
- exploring colour;
- listening to the sounds made by different musical instruments.

Early Maths

- comparing objects for size and shape;
- understanding the routines of the day;
- counting objects;
- developing language e.g. tall/ long /short, old/young, big/little

Language Development

- communicating with each other;
- recognizing and naming objects;
- following instructions;
- listening to stories and rhymes about the outdoors.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- looking after and helping each other;
- being aware of safety in the environment;
- working together;
- making choices.

Physical Development

- developing manipulative skills using a variety of tools and materials;
- walking / balancing etc. outdoors;

The World Around Us

- exploring the textures and other properties of materials;
- learning about the parts of a tree;
- being aware of the importance of wearing protective clothing;
- building with blocks of wood.

Suggested Activities

- Talk about the different tools you can use for painting and then make a collection of them on an interest table. Allow the children to experiment with the different tools e.g. rollers, thick and fine brushes, sponges. Make a wall display where they can identify the tools they used to make the different patterns and textures.
- Look at the different colours of paint and talk about light and dark colours. Let the children experiment with colour mixing to see how many other colours can be made from the three primary colours.
- Encourage the children to talk about what they wear to protect their clothes when painting and why this is important
- Talk about people who wear special clothes to protect themselves. Use reference and story books to show people wearing protective clothing. If possible, invite someone to visit your setting to talk to the children about their job and show them the special clothes they wear.
- Gather together some waterproof and porous materials. Ask the children which materials would be good for making a raincoat. Allow them to pour water onto the materials in a water tray to find out which ones repel water and which ones absorb water.
- Encourage the children to collect natural materials e.g. when on a walk in the woods or on a beach, and use the materials for printing, making rubbings and collages.
- Provide opportunities for the children to create their own scene in a shoe-box or on a polystyrene tray using e.g. grass, leaves, twigs, shells, sand. Display them together so that the children can appreciate each others work. (This can be done at different times of the year to heighten the children's awareness of seasonal changes).
- Look at tree trunks and allow the children to use their senses to explore rough and smooth. Look at a cross-section of a tree trunk and let the children count the age rings to find out the age of the tree.

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- Collect an assortment of sizes and lengths of wood. (They make excellent and inexpensive building bricks.) Talk about the properties of the bricks e.g. long/short, thick/thin, heavy/light, tall/short. Encourage the children to count the bricks and use them for building.
- Examine textures by making a 'feely' box or interest table. Gather together different materials from hard plastics to soft ribbons and wools. Ask the children to describe what each material feels like.