Helps and Hints
Family Child Care Newsletter

Childhood Services

Arkansas State University

2007

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Inside this issue:

Parent Involvement

Resources

Nature Art

Gross Motor

Math

And much more!

TRASH TO TREASURES

In previous generations, recycling was part of every day life. It wasn't called "recycling", it was called "making do." I have crochet patterns I inherited from my grandmother from the Great Depression era teaching the ladies to crochet pretty doilies from the string that came around packages from the store! I also have patterns for embroidering flour sack dish towels from the same era. In my own life, I remember a Christmas when there was no money for a Christmas tree. My mother took a large cardboard box and cut two sides from it. She cut each side into the shape of a Christmas tree and gave my sister and I green crayons to color the cardboard Christmas trees. She slit each tree and put them together at a ninety degree angle for the most beautiful Christmas tree in my memory. I remember going to school and bragging to my friends "My mama MADE our Christmas tree!" I was the envy of the first grade!

Mom didn't let lack of money ruin our Christmas. She used what she had on hand to create a wonderful memory. Too often as early childhood educators we think we must have the great materials in the Lakeshore or Kaplan catalogs to have a terrific program. We don't need those things to educate our little folks. In fact, sometimes the "make do" way is more fun, more educational, and more memorable.

Coming Soon!!

Early Child Care Conference

August 6th-8th, 2007
Campus of Arkansas State University

Registrations being accepted now!
Call 1-888-429-1585 for more information.

Introduction

This Helps and Hints is all about making your program better with very little expense. Research has proven a direct correlation between the education of child care providers and the quality of the programs they provide. Family child care practitioners often have conflicts between budget, family and business which may make obtaining good quality training difficult. Here are some free resources for training:

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ASU Childhood Services offers excellent training opportunities. Many of these workshops are available on Saturdays or evening hours. Call 888-429-1585 to request a free brochure listing available training around the state or to request specific training events for your area.

See the following website (Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education) for training opportunities through Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas. These trainings are free. There are several offered which are online courses allowing busy family child care providers flexibility in obtaining training.
http://www.state.ar.us/childcare/trnlist.html

Networking is one of the best resources available to Family Child Care providers. Because many of us work alone, we need the adult interaction and the information provided by other early education educators. There are many ways to find networking opportunities.

1. When I attend training opportunities I always exchange addresses, phone numbers and especially email addresses with any other FCC providers I meet. I have had some great interaction and friendships develop from this networking

2. Yahoo and Google have early childhood education groups. It may take some experimenting to find a group you enjoy, but these are great resources.

3. Northwest Arkansas Family Child Care Association maintains an awesome board for networking with other family child care providers around our state. You can find out more at: http://www.nwafamilychildcare.com/

Resources

FREE RESOURCES

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education has a huge lending library called the Resource Center available to all licensed child care providers in our state. Call 1-800-322-8176 to request a catalog of their materials or access the catalog at http://www.state.ar.us/childcare Click on "Services from A-Z" . The services are listed alphabetically, click on Resource Center for information.

Your local library is also an excellent free resource. If you do not have a computer to access the sites given below, spend some time at your library using their computers. Also, if you are looking for something specific, your local librarians can help you find the information or patterns you need.

INTERNET SITES

These sites contain great ideas for free printable materials such as file folder, flannel board and other resources:

- www.allfreecrafts.com
- http://www.state.ar.us/childcare
  (Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education website. Under printed materials there are flannel board stories, theme units, and other materials you can download and print)
- http://www.dltk-kids.com/
- http://www.preschoolprintables.com/
- http://www.first-school.ws/
- http://www.hummingbirded.com/
- http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/oliver.html
  (This site has information on using rain gutters as bookshelves. We use them for dishes in the kitchen center, instruments in the music area, etc. Inexpensive and easy to install.)

This is just a small list of the internet resources available to you!

Resources

LOW COST MATERIALS

Making flannel board pieces, file folder games, etc. does not have to be an expensive project. I highly recommend purchasing a small laminator if at all possible. It takes time to make these educational materials and laminating makes them last for years.
http://wilde-ideas.com/ has a laminator which will laminate file folder games and even the larger size construction paper for under $200. If a laminator isn't in your budget and you can't get time to go to the coop, you can purchase Duck brand clear laminating film which gives a really good looking laminated surface. Look for it in the contact paper section of your local store.

Use sales flyers, magazines, photos, clip art, stickers, etc. to create file folder games. You can cut out felt board figures yourself. No, they may not look as beautiful as Lakeshore's, but the children you care for are going to be involved in the story you tell with the figures, they won't be busy comparing other flannel board figures.

You can use a smaller box and flannel or felt to create a flannel board in the same way. Bend the two side flaps back to support the larger flannel board surface. Flannel board pieces can be made using old books which need to be discarded. You can cut the characters from the book, mount on cardstock and glue felt to the back. You can also cut figures from sale flyers to use as paper dolls or flannel board figures. If you have a printer/scanner you can scan characters from books and create flannel board figures in that way.

Check out internet sites such as dltk-kids.com, preschoolprintables.com, etc. for free printable materials such as file folder games and flannel board stories

I print or mount my figures on cardstock (costs two cents per sheet, so it is very inexpensive). You could also use cereal box cardboard. After mounting the flannel board figures, I laminate them. I use adhesive backed felt to apply to the back. I have used the spray adhesive and regular felt. It also works well. You can also use magna tape or Velcro. I store my flannel board figures in the type file folders which are closed on three sides. I write the name of the story at the top of the file and file them alphabetically unless they go with a specific theme. If they are specific to a theme I file them with that theme.

Resources

LOW COST MATERIALS

DISPLAY BOARDS
If a bulletin board is not in your budget there are several ways you can create a display area for minimum expense.

APPLIANCE BOX DISPLAY BOX:
Cut one side and both ends from the appliance box. Cover the other three sides in inexpensive fabric. Wrap the fabric around the box sides and staple on the reverse side.
To add interest, criss cross ribbon, rick rack or other trim across the surface in a diamond pattern. You can use this display board with tacks or place pictures, announcements etc. behind the ribbon. This display board is very portable, so you can fold it away at the end of your work day if you do not want it displayed in your home 24-7.

BLUE BOX
Use blue painters tape to outline a display area on a plain wall. Use poster tape or sticky tak to mount pictures or other display materials.

PAINT DISPLAY BOX
Use a contrasting paint to create an interest area on one of your walls. Check with local stores which sell paint. They will sell paints which have been mixed incorrectly at low prices. Inquire about donations of paint for your program, particularly if you are an ABC program or serve low income families in your community. Many businesses are willing to donate materials to programs serving low income families.

LUMBER
If you have scrap lumber or can get your local sawmill to donate scrap lumber you can create your own bulletin board with the lumber scraps.

Resources

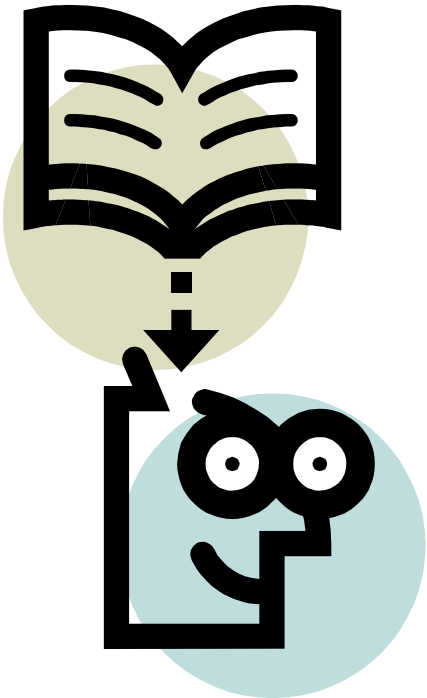
FREE OR LOW COST PROGRAMS

Contact your local extension office to find out what resources are available through them. Local extension homemakers clubs may come to your program to teach children how to quilt or to do other crafts. They may be willing to make small quilts for the children to use while napping.

Local forestry department (forest rangers) can bring special programs on nature topics such as birds, bugs, autumn, trees, Smoky the Bear, etc.

Arkansas Game and Fish has incredible resources available. There are grants of up to $5000 available to create a nature habitat in your play yard, a program which supplies a FREE 55 gallon aquarium (they will even come and set it up for you), a bird watching program for children which gives awards for the birds they record watching. These are just a few of the incredible resources available through Game and Fish. Their website is a treasure trove of information on the animals, wild life, forests, etc. of our state. Check it out at: http://www.agfc.com/

Local educational co-op:
Your local educational co-op has copiers, laminating machines, Ellison die cuts, books and patterns available to you at little or no cost. Call Division of Child Care at 888-429-1585 to find the educational coop closest to you.



Resources

BOOKS

- Request parents donate children's outgrown books to your program.

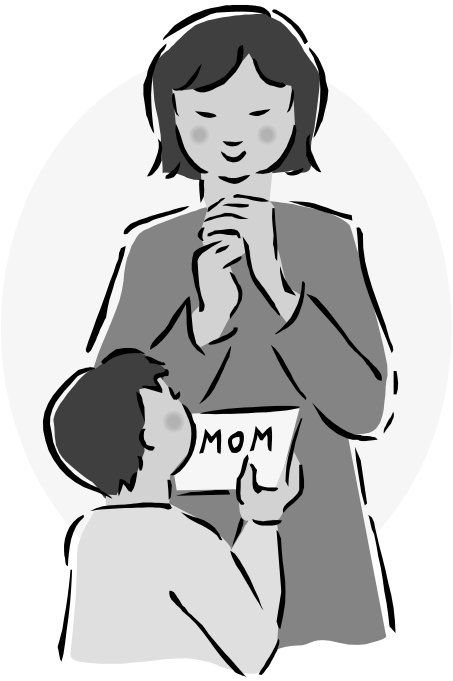
- Garage sale, church sales, second hand stores often children's books sell for under fifty cents each.

- The local library. We go to our local library and check out books. If the children really enjoy a book and we want to add it to our own library collection I check on amazon.com and/or halfbay.com. Often I can get hardback books in good shape for as little as TEN CENTS plus shipping and handling. Look especially for books which are described as "library binding". These books have a binding which is more durable than the average children's book binding.

- Scholastic (http://scholastic.com/) has a great program. The parents in your program order books through Scholastic and your program receives free bonus points for the books. We have a collection of big books we bought with our Scholastic bonus points. Everyone wins…the books are great quality inexpensive books which makes the parents happy, the children are happy because they are getting new books for their home and the program benefits by getting free books. Scholastic sends out flyers with descriptions and prices of the books monthly. The children also enjoy looking at the book flyers and pointing out the books they already have or want so we put flyers on our library shelves for them.

Parent Involvement

All the parents should be able to participate in this theme. Prior to beginning this theme, request parents to go through their homes with their children to collect a box of "trash", things they would like to get rid of. Provide each family approximately the same size box. Stress materials donated must be safe for children to handle and use. No toxic materials.



Some suggestions would be:

any type and any size cardboard box
silk or plastic flowers
fabric scraps
clothing
shoes, boots, etc.
toys
magazines, envelopes, junk mail
small appliances such as alarm clocks, radios, or toasters, CD players etc.
seed packets
picture frames, mats
yarn, craft supplies, broken crayons, dried out markers
scrap lumber, building materials
umbrellas
rain coats
boots
tablecloths
sheets, pillow cases
blankets

The best resource parents could donate would be their time. Invite parents to visit and to volunteer. This would be a good theme to use to involve children's fathers, grandfathers, etc. Invite parents to help children take apart the small appliances, to teach about electricity, to work with the scrap lumber on a building project, teach the correct use and names of tools. Provide a sign up sheet for parents to volunteer for specific jobs and time periods. Grandparents would also be an excellent resource. Family members may be available who could teach the children how to make quilts from old fabric, or rag rugs.

Parent Involvement

At parent meetings discuss the best way to use mutual resources. For instance, in the fall perhaps your program could host a "swap meet" among the parents. Invite parents to bring outgrown fall and winter clothing to swap with other parents for smaller children.

Include a "bargain column" in your parent newsletter. Invite parents to place "ads" in the column for things they would like to give away or sell at a low price.

Invite parents to come and show some of the "make do" crafts they may have learned as children or adults. Invite parents to bring in samples of their own crafts. Perhaps they make bird houses or knit afghans or quilt. Create a display of the items and include pictures of the parent whose work is displayed. Invite parents to demonstrate the skill.

Extra Helpers

"MAKE DO" STEPS

- Establish a goal. What is it you want to accomplish or create? Are you looking through a catalog and see something you'd really like to have? Look at the item and then consider what you could use to duplicate the purpose of that item.

- What do you have or can you afford that would fulfill the CONCEPT? Are you looking at a wonderful music set? You can make musical instruments for next to nothing from soda bottles, jingle bells, oatmeal boxes, paper plates etc. (See music section of this unit)

- Check for materials you already have on hand. Ask for donations of materials. Don't be afraid of sand paper, glue, duct tape and spray paint. They are essential.

- If you don't have the skills to create the concept you desire, find someone who does. Ask parents, grandparents, friends, or neighbors. They'll appreciate the fun of helping you. I recently saw a Book Wagon in one of the catalogs. This Book Wagon is awesome and perfect for both displaying and transporting books to the play yard. I showed the picture to a local carpenter and he is building a wagon like the one displayed in the catalog for half the price! As soon as my budget will allow it, he's going to design an Art Cart for paper, art materials. etc. for an outdoor art center.

- USE YOUR IMAGINATION! Dream and then look for a way to accomplish your dreams. Brainstorm with friends, family and the children for ways to make your dreams come true.

- Remember others have gone before you. NETWORK with other Family Child Care Providers. Ask how they create materials, books, etc. See the resource section for some excellent networking resources

- Use the Internet and don't forget the local library! If you are not familiar with the internet, most libraries now offer free classes teaching internet use.

Art & Creativity

Benchmarks: 2.11, Creates drawing and painting that gradually become more detailed and realistic 2.12 Preplans art project and then works with care
WSS: Domain VI. Arts Component: A Expressions and representations Performance Indicators: 3. Uses a variety of art materials

YARN DOLLS

This project is most appropriate for school age children, although some older Preschool age children may be able to make a doll with your help.

This particular craft is generations old. My mother taught me to make these dolls, as her mother had taught her. As young girls my sister and I made dozens of these dolls and sold them. We could barely keep up with the demand! In researching this unit, I discovered children in Romania make these same dolls.

Materials:

Yarn
Different color of yarn for hair
Embroidery floss
Scraps of fabric, rick rack, ribbon or other trim
Cardboard or a book about 6" wide.
Rubber bands

Cut a 6" length of yarn. Lay it at the top of your cardboard. Wrap yarn around the 6" length 25 times. Use the 6" length of yarn to tie the yarn into a bundle. Cut the opposite yarn at the opposite edge. Smooth down the yarn, then use a second piece of yarn to tie about 1" from the first tie to form the doll's head.

Separate about 10 strands of yarn on each side for arms. Use yarn to tie off at the wrist.

Tie another piece of yarn for the waist about 1" below the neck tie.
Separate the bottom strands of yarn into two legs, tie at the ankles.
Use contrasting yarn to create hair for your doll. Wrap yarn around your fingers about four times. Cut one side. Tie in the middle and sew to dolls head to create hair.

Use fabric scraps and trim to create clothing, ribbons for the doll's hair, etc.
Embroidery floss and a blunt tipped yarn needle can be used to embroider features.

Art & Creativity

GUATEMALAN WORRY DOLLS

When children in Guatemala are worried, their parents help them make these "worry dolls". They are kept in a shoe box and children often sleep with them.

Materials:

3 twist ties for each doll
Yarn
Cardboard, cardstock, or index card
Glue
Markers or crayons

Fold one twist tie in half. Slip 2nd twist tie into the fold and bend in half to create legs. Wrap third twist tie around first one to create arms.

Wrap yarn around the body frame. You will cover the body heavily with yarn to create a trunk, then wrap around arms and legs less densely. Leave ends of twist ties exposed for hands, feet and head.

Use cardboard, cardstock, index cards or whatever you have on hand to draw a face and glue to the top of the twist tie for a face.
Add fabric scraps if desired for clothing.

NATIVE AMERICAN CORN HUSK DOLL

North American Indians were the first to invent a corn husk doll. Iroquois, Cheyenne, Cherokee and other tribes created corn husk dolls for the children to play with Corn husks were dried, tied and fashioned into chiefs, warriors and women. Sometimes sticks were added for arms and legs. Here are simple instructions to create cornhusk dolls.

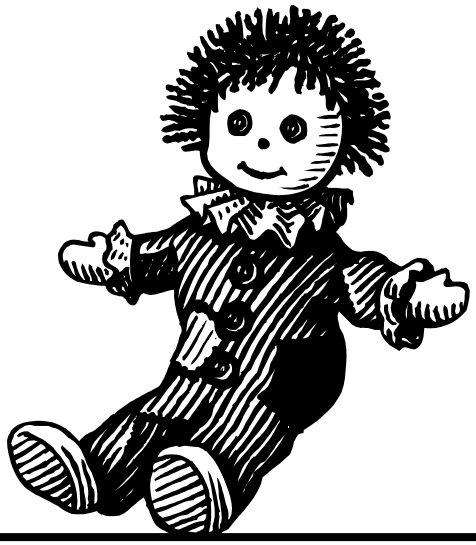
Materials:

Corn husks or tamale leaves
String or twine

Let children "shuck" corn, leaving the hair on the end of the cornhusks. Allow husks to dry two or three days. When ready to make the dolls, let the husks soak in warm water for about ten minutes.

Use 12 corn husks, yarn or string. To create the head, tie the husks a little way down from the top knot of "hair" left earlier. Separate three husks on each side to create arms, tie at wrists with string or twine. Tie waist below the neck. Separate lower husks for legs, and they can be braided if children have that skill. Tie at the ankles. Trim "hands" and "feet" closely to arms and legs.

Use fabric scraps to glue to doll to decorate. Traditional corn husks dolls do not have faces. See the Language Arts section for a story about why cornhusk dolls do not have faces.



Art & Creativity

OUR LITTER BAG

Materials:

Lunch or paper bags
Art materials
Old magazines
Glue
Scissors

Ask children to go through the magazines looking for pictures of trash, or things that become trash. Decorate the bags with these pictures. Each child will have their own special litter bag for the family car.

CAR TOY BOX

Materials:

Shoe box or other small box
Art supplies

Encourage the children to decorate their box. Children can use the box to store all the toys they carry with them in their family vehicle.

FOIL PAINTING

Materials:

Aluminum foil.
Finger paint

Let children finger paint on inexpensive aluminum foil for a new art experience.

Encourage children to create sculptures with the aluminum foil.

Art & Creativity

JUNK MAIL COLLAGE

Collect junk mail, stickers, etc. which are typically thrown away. Encourage children to use in creating collages, etc.

Junk mail envelopes are great for the writing center area.

BOX FUN

Materials:

Paint, markers, crayons,
Paint aprons
Colored duct tape
Fabric
Stapler (adult use)

Put a large box in the middle of your play yard or other area. Challenge the children to decorate it anyway they like.

STICKS

Materials:

Sticks
Glue
String or yarn
Clothespins

Show children how to use the clothespins to hold sticks together while they tie or glue them for a stick art 3D piece of art.

Nature Art

LITTLE EARTHS

Materials:

Coffee filters
Water colored blue and green with food coloring
Eyedroppers

Children use the eye droppers to drop water onto coffee filter. When they dry they resemble the earth. Good for fine motor.

TRASH MONSTERS

Materials:

Paper shopping bags with handles
Collage materials (dryer sheets, scraps of materials, lots of "trash" things work well for this one)
Glue, scissors, markers

Show the children the top of the bag. This is the mouth of the trash monster. Trash monsters only eat trash and they go "gobble, gobble, mmmm, mmm, mmm," while they are chewing up the garbage. Take the handles of a trash monster in each hand and use the handles to move the bag and make it look as if the trash monster if "eating" the trash deposited in it. Children use the collage materials to decorate trash monsters. Then go on an earth walk around your neighborhood or in your play yard to "feed the trash monsters". Before going for the walk, be sure to caution children to avoid any needles or syringes.. Use this to have a discussion about how syringes and needles are used in drug use and why we need to avoid them. Explain to the children that if a needle or syringe is found, 911 needs to be notified.. You can use thin sticks to poke trash and place into the bags so children won't need to touch the trash or give the children plastic gloves to wear during this activity. Of course, be sure children wash thoroughly after returning from any field trip. For added sanitation, carry a Ziploc bag containing soapy water and wash cloths. DO NOT USE HAND SANITIZER ON YOUNG CHILDREN. Read the label directions and you will find it is not approved for use with young children.

NATURE COLLAGE

Take a walk around your play ground carrying shopping bags or other containers. Encourage children to pick up leaves, twigs, shells, rocks, and other natural items. Provide glue and cardboard, paint, markers, etc. and let the children make their own "nature collage",

Nature Art

3D EARTH CAKES

Read Frank Asch's book "*Sandcakes*".

This project would be a great outside art project. If done inside, cover the table with newspaper. Provide a tub of sand, dirt, gravel, salt. Also provide small pitchers of water, margarine tubs or other containers and spoons. Encourage the children to concoct an Earth Cake by choosing some of the materials from the tubs, mixing them in a bowl with water. Let the children collect items like twigs, grass, stones, and leaves to decorate their earth cake. Let the earth cakes dry, then turn out and display.

EARTH PAINTS

Read the book *All the Colors of the Earth* by Sheila Hamanaka

Materials:

Red cabbage
Celery tops
Spinach
Beets
Carrot tops
Vinegar

Simmer each vegetable in water, drain, being sure to save the liquid. Mix one tablespoon vinegar into each liquid and let cool. Let the children use the natural colors and brushes to paint a large piece of muslin or cotton fabric (old cotton sheet would work). Let dry and display with the book *All the Colors of the Earth*.

MUD PAINTING

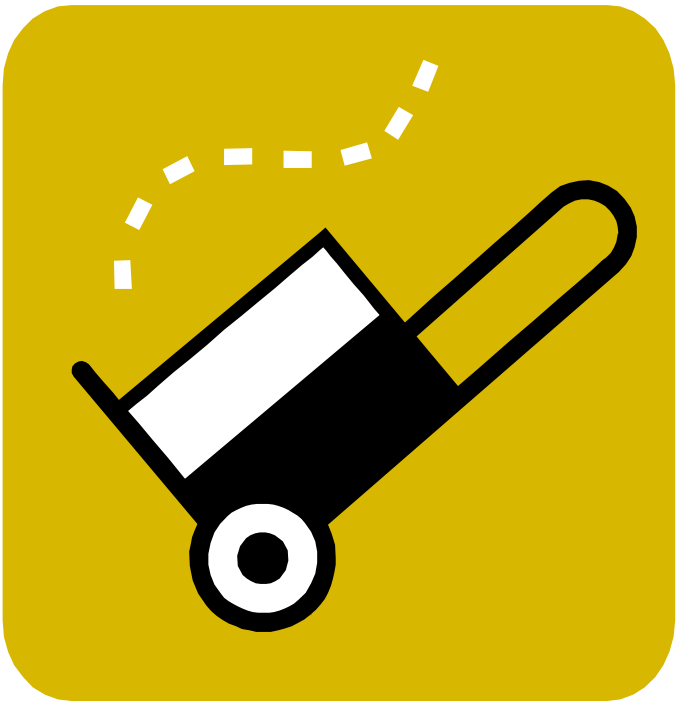
Encourage children to mix dirt and water and use to finger paint on cardboard, table, outside on concrete, or top of table. If the children mud paint on an outside surface take pictures of their work to display.

Mix different types of soil with water. Put each type of soil mixture into a different muffin tin section. Provide paint brushes and paper. Let children experiment with the painting with the different soils and make observations as to color, texture, etc.

Art Resource

LOOSE PARTS

Keep a box of "junk" handy to the art center. Paper towel tubes, ribbon, left over scraps from construction paper projects, straws, cupcake paper, etc. can be in the box. Trash becomes treasure in the Loose Parts box. The little 2" strip of tin foil left at the end of the roll won't help you in the kitchen, but it is a delight to a 3 year old who needs to make some pirate treasure! Don't let the box get too full. Remind the children it is available. If it gets too full, bring it out for a LOOSE PARTS ART morning. It's a great rainy morning project. Just encourage the children to make anything they want from the Loose Parts box.



Remind children the Loose Parts box is also available for the things they need in dramatic play, block and other centers. Paper towel tubes become "toodle oo's" with a little decoration and imagination in music center. In dramatic play they become anything from binoculars to pirate spy glasses to a stick to fly an airplane. In block center they are towers with Rapunzel trapped at the top. Loose parts add to the children's creativity and imagination!

Language Arts

Benchmarks: Language 5.6 Uses words to communicate ideas and feelings
WSS: Domain: Language and Literacy: Component: A. Listening and B. Speaking Performance Indicators: 2. Uses expanded vocabulary and language for a variety of purposes.

WHY CORN HUSK DOLLS HAVE NO FACE

To make this story more interesting, create a cornhusk doll (see art section) while telling the story, or have one available for the children to look at. Invite local Native Americans to come to your program and tell the children about their customs and demonstrate Native American crafts. The following story was taken from: Multicultural Education through Miniatures at: http://www.coedu.usf.edu/culture/Story/Story_Illinois.htm

"My name is Emma, and I live in Illinois. We have lots of corn fields in this state, and lots of milk cows too. Last summer I visited my grandmother on the farm, and she showed me how to make a corn husk doll. First we soaked the corn husks in water until they got soft. Then, we shaped the husks into a doll's head and body. Finally, we decorated the doll with pins, seeds, and cloth.

When my doll was ready, I asked Grandma what I could use to make the face. She said, "Oh no, corn husk dolls don't have faces." I couldn't believe it. "Why don't they have faces? How can they see?" I asked. "Listen carefully" said Grandma, "I'll tell you the Native American Indian legend about the corn husk dolls."

Many years ago, the Creator made Three Sisters (Corn, Beans, and Squash) to feed the people. Corn wanted to give the people a gift, so she asked the Creator to make a person out of her husks to play with the children. The Creator made a corn husk doll with a beautiful face. At first the doll played nicely and helped to take care of the children.

Then, one day, the corn husk doll looked into a pond of water and saw her face. She saw that she was very beautiful. After that the corn husk doll changed. All she thought about was her pretty face. She stopped playing with the children and spent all of her time looking in mirrors.

The Creator was not happy and warned her to be good. The corn husk doll promised to be humble, but she was not. All she could think about was her beauty. Finally, the Creator decided to punish her and take away her face. Since then, corn husk dolls do not have faces.

"You see," Grandma said, "The corn husk doll had to stop thinking about herself and learn to help others."

Language Arts

To add interest as you tell the story "Why Corn Husk Dolls Have No Face", considering making felt or flannel board figures of:

The corn
Beans and Squash
Corn husk doll with a face
Corn husk doll without a face
Several children
A pond

Think about crafts you learned as a child. Did you knit, sew, embroider, crochet, do macramé, string art or other types of art? Are there any you could share with the children you care for? Do you have examples of things you made as a child? Before teaching them to the children, tell them a story about how you learned to do what you're showing them. Ask what their mom and dad have taught them to make. Invite parents to come in and demonstrate skills they learned as children.

MAKE DO PUPPETS

Puppets will make any story lively and more fun for everyone, no matter if it is you telling it or the children. Puppets do not have to be fancy or cost a lot of money as you will see:

EASY TO CREATE PUPPETS

Materials:

- *Stuffed animals*
- *Thread*
- *Scissors*

Carefully cut away at the seam at the bottom of the stuffed animal. Remove some of the stuffing and sew the edges over smooth. Put your hand inside the slit and wiggle it into the arms, head etc. of the stuffed animal. Now you've created a puppet!

SOCK PUPPETS

Materials:

- *Old sox*
- *Yarn needle*
- *Yarn*
- *Big buttons*
- *Scraps of fabric*
- *Markers*

Encourage children to make sock puppets to illustrate their favorite stories.

STICK PUPPETS

Materials:

- *Craft sticks*
- *Glue*
- *Magazines*
- *Cardstock or cardboard*
- *Laminate*

Cut out figures from magazines, old books, etc. Glue to cardstock or light cardboard and laminate. Glue to craft stick to create stick puppets.

Sing, Song, Sway

Benchmarks: Language 5.5 participates in songs, finger plays, rhyming activities, and games
WSS: II Language and Literacy Component: Listening Performance Indicator: Demonstrates phonological awareness

TEN LITTLE CANDLES

Ten little candles on an Earth Day cake.
"Wh! Wh!" Now there are eight.

Eight little candles on a candlestick.
"Wh! Wh!" Now there are six.

Six little candles, and not one more.
"Wh Wh!" Now there are four.

Four little candles, red, white, and blue.
"Wh Wh!" Now there are two.

Two little candles standing in the sun.
"Wh Wh!" Now there are none.

STAMP POLLUTION OUT

Give a hoot *(make loud hooting sound)*
Give a shout *(shout)*
Look all around *(move head back and forth)*
And stamp pollution out! *(stamp feet)*

Sing, Song, Sway

RECYCLING IN MY HOME

(Tune: Wheels On The Bus)

Recycling in my home goes round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
Recycling in my home goes round and round,
All through the day.

Tie up the papers and take them back,
Take them back, take them back.
Tie up the papers and take them back,
All through the day.

Crush the cans and take them back.....

Rinse the milk bottles and take them back....

Save the glass and take it back.....

THIS OLD EARTH

(Tune: This Old Man)

This old earth
Needs our help
To stay fresh and clean and green
With a pick it up; pitch it in; and throw it in the can—
This old earth needs a helping hand!

THIS LAND

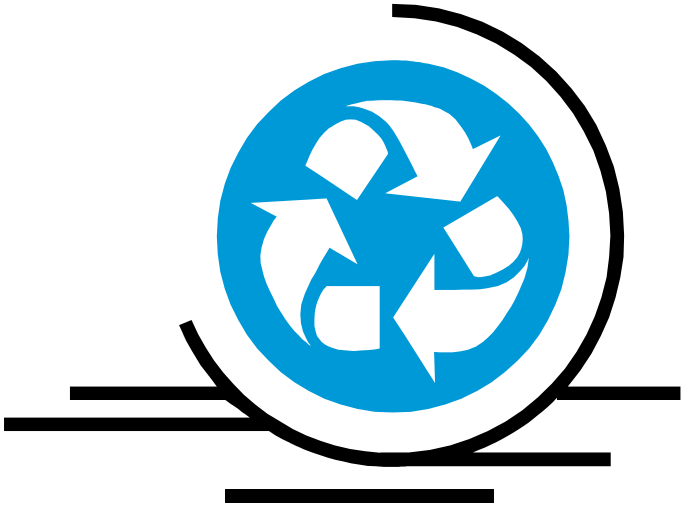
(Tune: This Land Is Your Land)

This land is your land
This land is my land,
Let's work together
To make it better
From tall green forests to clear blue waters
This land depends on you and me!

CLEAN UP

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Twinkle twinkle little star
Time to clean up where you are.
Put litter back in its' place,
Keep a smile upon your face.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
Time to clean up where you are



Sing, Song, Sway

HAPPY EARTH DAY

(Tune: Happy Birthday)

by Evie Boss

Happy Earth Day to you,
Happy Earth Day to you,
Happy Earth Day..... Mother Nature...
Happy Earth Day to you.

Today we honor you,
For all that you do.
Thank you for everything,
We're glad that its spring.

What can we do for you?
What can we do for you?
We can use our two hands,
To clean-up your land.

HELP, HELP, HELP THE EARTH

(Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

By Evie Boss

Help, help, help the earth, what can we do?
Plant a tree for you and me and recycle too.

Save, save, save the earth, don't throw it all away.
Recycle plastic, paper and cans.... each and every day.

Earth Day was started April 22, 1970.

Sing, Song, Sway

ARE YOU RECYCLING?

(Tune: Are You Sleeping?)

By Evie Boss

Are you recycling? Are you recycling?
Yes, I am. Yes, I am.
Aluminum and bottles? Newspapers and cardboard?
In the bin, in the bin.

Are you reusing, are you reusing?
Yes, I am. Yes, I am.
I use cloth bags and I use dish rags,
not paper, not paper.

Can you make a difference? Can you make a difference?
Yes I can. Yes, I can.
I do not litter, makes the earth prettier.
Good for me and good for you.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

(Tune: Itsy Bitsy Spider)

Reduce, reuse recycle- words that we all know
We have to save our planet so we can live and grow
We might be only children but we will try you see
And we can save this planet –it starts with you and me!

RECYCLE

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

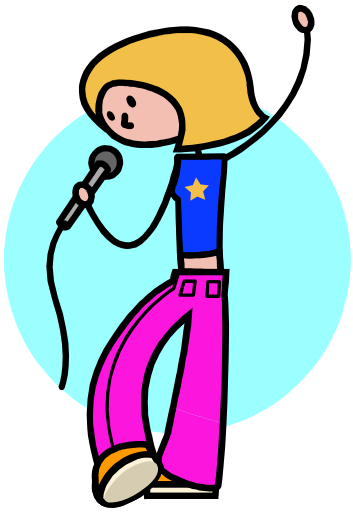
We recycle what we use
Separate things and you should too.
Glass and paper, plastic and tin
Go in your recycling bin.
We start now, it can't wait
QUICK, or it'll be too late!

Sing, Song, Sway

SING A SONG OF MUD

(Tune: Sing a Song of Sixpence)

Sing a song for mud pie,
It's my favorite brand.
Mix it 'til it's mushy,
Squeeze it with your hand,
Put it in a tin pan,
Leave it in the sun.
Wait about an hour,
Then you know it will be done!



MUD, MUD, MUD IS FUN

(Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Mud, mud, mud is fun
Watch us stir it up
Round and round and round and round
Mud is fun to make.

Mud, mud, mud is fun
Listen to it squish
Through our fingers, round our toes
Squish is how it goes.

EARTHWORM

(Tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie?)

Did you ever see an earthworm,
An earthworm, an earthworm
Did you ever see an earthworm
Move this way and that?

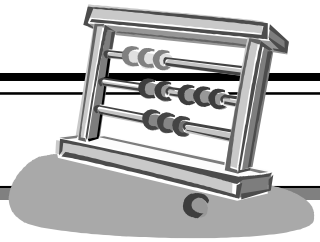
Move this way and that way
Move this way and that way
Did you ever see an
earthworm
Move this way and that?

(Encourage children to move like an earthworm while singing this song, or use their fingers as earthworms wiggling.)

WORMS

By Jackie Silberg

Worms, worms,
Worms crawling on the ground.
Worms, worms,
Worms crawling all around.
Fat worms, thin worms,
Wiggling, wiggling.
Short worms, long worms,
Squiggling, squiggling.
Worms, worms,
Worms crawling in the ground.
Worms, worms,
Worms crawling all around.
If I was a wiggle, wiggle worm
I would wiggle like this! [*Wiggle like a worm*]



Math and Manipulatives

Benchmarks: 3:15 Demonstrates understanding of number (how many) and numeral (3 is a numeral) relationship (numeration)
WSS: Mathematical Thinking Component: Numbers and Operations Performance Indicator: 2 Participates in measuring activities

GRAPHING PIES

Read the story *Mud Pies* by Judith Grey. Have the children list their favorite pie. Make paper circles. Cut each into 6 or 8 pieces. Give each child a piece of pie and have them color it. Create a graph of favorite pies.

Using fabric or large sheet of paper, make a grid large enough to accommodate the pie shapes.

As a follow up, have the children create their own mud pies. To make a soft batch of mud, mix garden soil with water in a bucket. Provide each child with a small foil cupcake liner. Fill each cupcake liner with mud and let it dry over the next week. Spray with acrylic and use as a paperweight.

WRAPPING PAPER FILE FOLDER GAME

Use scraps of left over or used gift wrap. Look for wraps with recurring patterns. Cut out one set of the patterns from the gift wrap and mount in file folder. Cut out a second set of pictures identical to the first set, mount on cardstock, laminate and cut out for the children to match.

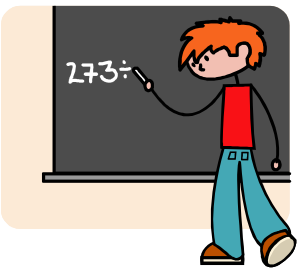
NATURE RECYCLERS MEMORY MATCH GAME

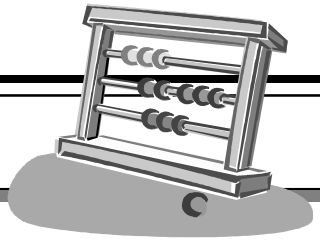
Materials:

Index cards

Use magazines, nature magazines, clip art or hand draw pictures of animals such as worms, vultures, opossums, who are nature's recyclers. Make two identical sets of cards. Play Memory type game with the cards. As you turn up the various animals, discuss with the children how that animal is used to recycle.

Put books with information about these animals in your science area.





Math and Manipulatives

COUNTING FUN

Fill a small jar such as a baby food jar or peanut butter jar with rocks. Ask the children to estimate how many rocks are in the jar. Write down the estimates. Count the rocks and find out who made the best estimate.

Lay a pile of rocks on the table and ask the children to estimate how many in the pile. Write down estimate and then count.

Use all kinds of bottle caps for counting, stacking, nesting, comparing size, teaching color recognition. Warning: Be careful about the size of the bottle caps.

MEASURE

Provide rules, yardsticks, tape measures in the math area along with several different lengths of sticks, straws, etc. Encourage children to measure the different items and record their findings. If children are too small to read the numbers accurately on the measuring tools, brain storm other ways to measure, such as lining up straws beside the sticks to see how many straws it takes to equal the length of the stick.

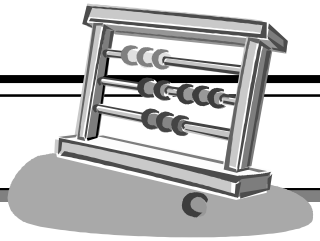
COUNT THE HOUSE

Materials:

Tablets or clip boards
Paper
Pencils

Walk around your home and count the things you see. Show children how to make "tally" marks for each door, window, etc. they see.

You could make a chart with pictures of a door, window, vent, etc. Ask children to make a mark in the squares representing various items.



Math and Manipulatives

OUTSIDE

Count clouds, shadows, rocks, sticks, leaves, trees, bushes, etc.

Measure shadows. Record the length of a shadow early in the morning, at lunch time and again before the children go home. Compare the shadow's length. Was the length different? What caused the change?

Books: Robert Louis Stevenson's poem *"My Shadow"* *"Footprints and Shadows"* by Anne Wescott Dodd

Count how many steps it is from the door to the play yard or another goal. Count how many times each child can hop. Record your results.

ORDINAL NUMBERS

While you are going to the play yard or any time you are moving the children talk about who is "first" "second" etc.

When the children are in learning centers, talk about which toy is first, which toy they played with second, etc.

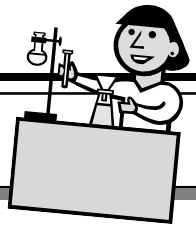
SERIATION

Encourage children to line sticks, stones, leaves, etc. up according to size.

Help the children line up according to height and take a picture to show "The Long and Short of It" each month. Children love to see themselves growing.

Measure the children. You can use tape measure, yard stick, etc. You can also ask the children to build block or Lego towers the height of their friends, then measure the tower.

Recycling or using junk gives lots of Math opportunities!!



Science

Benchmark: Social Studies: 3.32 Cares for the environment
WSS: Domain: Social Studies: Indicator 2 Shows awareness of the Environment
Benchmarks: Science 3:20 uses senses to learn about the characteristics of the environment and to collect data (scientific process: observing) WSS: Scientific Thinking: A:Inquiry 1. Asks questions and uses senses to observe and explore materials and natural phenomena 2. Uses simple tools and equipment for investigation

NEST YARN

Scraps of yarn can be left on fences, on top of outside toys, etc. for the birds to use in nesting. Then children can observe the nests looking for the yarn!

ROPE PIECES

We recently discovered by watching a squirrel in our yard that squirrels like using rope in their nests. This squirrel was chewing off bits of the knot on our tire swing rope and carrying them to her nest! So if you have bits of rope lying around, leave them for the squirrels! Fun to experiment by leaving various items to see what the animals will use for nesting. Be sure all items are non-toxic. Make a graph showing which items were accepted and which were rejected.

Read stories about birds and squirrels nesting habits together.

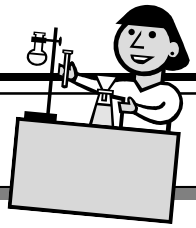
EARTH JARS

Materials: *4 Jars with lids* *Spoons*
Dirt, sand, salt, gravel and a large pitcher of warm water

Have children pour the same amount of water into each of the jars. Add one earth element to each jar. Write down their predictions as to what will happen when they shake each jar. Shake them one at a time, recording the results. What happens with each jar? Which of the elements dissolves in water? Which sink to the bottom? Encourage children to bring in other types of elements or nature items to continue the experiment.

WORM FARM

Ask a local restaurant to donate a gallon glass jar. Place layers of dirt in the jar. Place left over food on top of dirt. You can go to a bait shop and either purchase earthworms or red worms inexpensively. Before placing worms in jar, thoroughly wet the soil. Do not make it so wet that water stands, but it should be wet. Place the worms in the jar, use rubber bands and a small piece of screening to cover the top. Wrap black construction paper or fabric around the outside of the jar and leave in place. Leave the jar in your science area. After about a week, open the black construction paper. Write down the children's observations.



Science

GROWING LAB

Many of the foods considered garbage in the kitchen can be used in the science center. The top of a fresh pineapple can be placed in a container of water and will root in a few days. It can be planted and will blossom.

Carrot tops can also be placed in clear cups or jars of water. Children can watch them root and begin to grow. They can be planted in containers such as bleach bottles or plastic gallon jars and will grow.

Celery can be put into glasses with water and food coloring to demonstrate how plants drink.

Daisies can also be used for this. Ask your local florist to donate some day old daisies.

SEED SORT

Apple and orange, cantaloupe, pumpkin, and watermelon seeds can be washed and placed in science for seed sorting. The seeds can be planted with a small craft stick indicating which seed was planted and observed to see which will germinate.

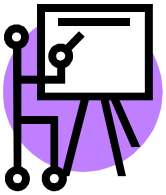
NUT SORT

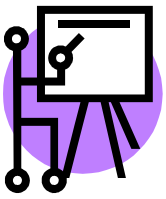
In Arkansas we are blessed with many native trees which bear nuts. As the children pick these nuts up from the play yard, place them in science center along with a picture or chart which identifies nuts. Let children match the nuts to the picture of the nuts to determine which nut they have found.

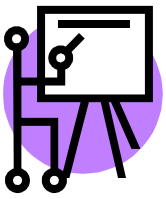
LEAF SORT

Children love to collect leaves. You can obtain free posters displaying leaves from your local forest service. Leaves make great science and art projects. Children can lay a piece of paper on top of a leaf and use the side of a crayon to lightly create an impression of the leaf. Leaves can be used to create leaf people.

Place pictures of leaves in science area and ask children to match leaves to the pictures.







Fine Motor

Benchmarks: Fine Motor
4.7 Uses small muscles for self-help skills 4.8 Coordinates eye and hand movements to complete tasks
WSS: Domain: Physical development and Health Component: Fine Motor Performance Indicators:
Uses strength and control to perform simple tasks 2. Uses eye-hand coordination to perform tasks

ROCKS

Take a walk and gather lots of different sizes and colors of rocks. Be sure to be aware of choking hazards.

Place rocks in a chip and dip bowl (the kind with several different depressions for different chips and dip) or muffin tin. Children can sort the rocks.

Place rocks in the science center, provide tweezers for the children to pick up the rocks and move them around. Provide a rocker balance for the children to experiment with weights.

Place three mats in the science area labeled: SMALL MEDIUM AND LARGE Draw or glue a rock of the appropriate size to each of the three mats. Ask children to sort rocks according to size.

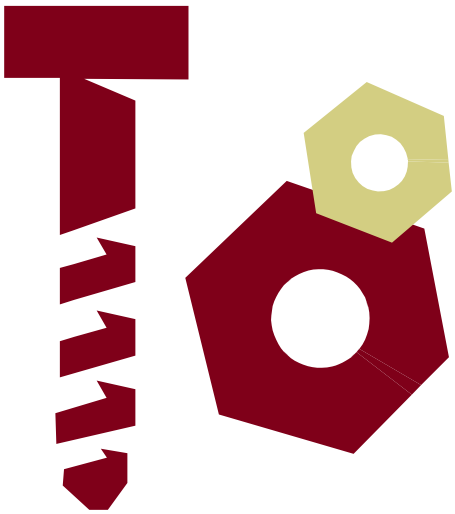
BUTTON, ZIP, SNAP

Provide old clothing with fasteners which are in good repair for the children to practice buttoning, zipping, snapping and Velcro closures.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Materials: Nut, bolts

Provide an assortment of nuts and bolts and let children screw the nuts on to the matching bolt.



Fine Motor

PUZZLES

Tip: draw the puzzle shapes on the back of the cardboard before cutting out for a smoother looking puzzle.

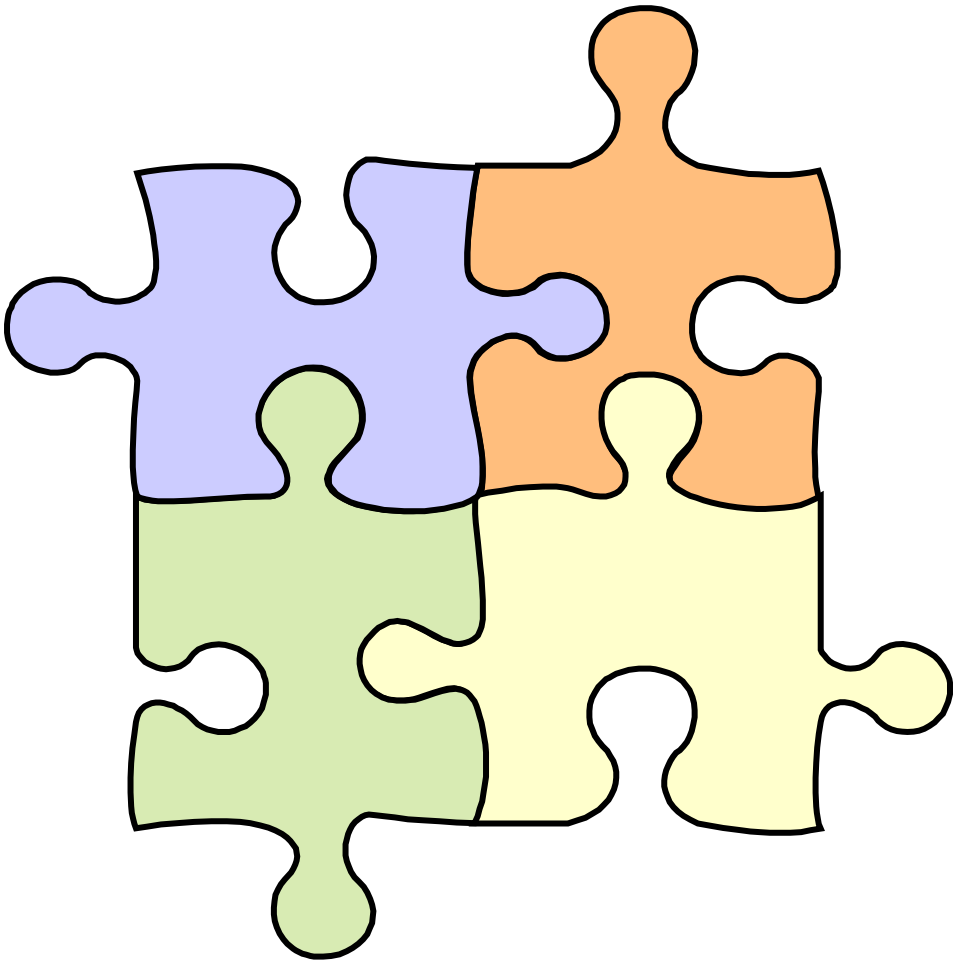
Materials:

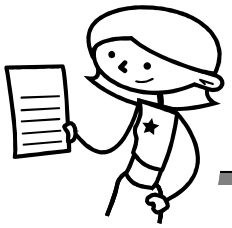
Two identical boxes

(cereal boxes, macaroni boxes, cake boxes--boxes with "environmental print")

Cut out the front of one box and mount on cardboard to reinforce. Laminate if possible, cut into puzzles pieces. Place pieces in a Ziploc bag and then inside the second box. Children can place the puzzle pieces on the picture on the box to create the puzzle.

More environmental print puzzles:
Use napkins, menus or other materials with fast food chain logos imprinted. The fast food chains will give them to you for the asking. Mount on cardboard, laminate and cut out for puzzles.





Fine Motor

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Drums

Materials:

Oatmeal boxes, coffee cans, popcorn cans, --anything round and hollow.

Give each child a box or can to decorate as a drum. Provide 3/4" wooden dowels as drum sticks or teach children to play drums with the palms of their hands.

Tambourine

Materials:

For each child you will need:

2 large paper plates
Beans
Art supplies
Glue, Stapler

Children can decorate their tambourine. Then glue all the edges except the very top and staple for added strength. Pour beans into the top of the paper plates and seal. Shake when dry!

Maracas

Materials:

For each maraca you will need:

1 20 oz. soda bottle with lid
Materials that will make noise when shaken such as sand, salt, small screws, coffee, small rocks, jingle bells
Markers and art supplies
Super glue (for adult use only)
Funnel

Soak soda bottle and remove the label. Let children choose which material they want to pour into the bottle. Let them fill the bottles about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup full. Place a few drops of super glue around the rim of the bottle cap and then screw cap on and let sit a few minutes to set up.

Gross Motor

Benchmarks: Gross Motor 4.9 Freely participates in gross motor activities
WSS: VII: Physical Development and Health Component: Gross Motor Development Performance Indicators: 1. Moves with balance and control 2. Coordinates movements to perform simple tasks

Recently the children in our group were sitting in circle time. I was tied up on the phone. I crushed a piece of paper intending to toss it into the trash -- but instead I threw it at the children. The war was on! Lots of giggles, lot of movement, and no damage made a 'dead' transition time into a wonderful time of laughter, practicing the skill of throwing and catching, and fun!

Other fun "throwing toys": bath nets, crushed junk mail (you can tape it to make it more compact, but I prefer it just crushed as it is softer), or pair of socks rolled up together make wonderful balls. These items are all soft, so children are less afraid of being hurt so they practice catching and throwing skills more easily.

TOSS GAME VERSION 1

Materials: *Boxes* *Old panty hose or sox*

Cut holes in sides of cardboard box such as cereal box, etc. You may need to put sand or rocks in the bottom to weight it so that it will not fall over when children throw at it. Roll up panty or knee hi hose or old sox to create three balls. Give children opportunity to throw into the holes. For smaller toddlers use open boxes instead of cutting holes in a box.

TOSS GAME VERSION 2

Materials: *Peanut butter or other plastic jar*
String or yarn
*Ping pong ball or yarn pom pom**

Tie the ping pong ball to the string, tie around the neck of the peanut butter jar. Children toss and try to get the ball into the jar.
*Yarn pom pom: Cut a piece of cardboard 2-3" wide. Lay a 6" piece of yarn at the top of the cardboard. Now wrap the yarn around and around the cardboard until it is at least 1/2 to 1" thick. Cut at the side opposite the 6" lengh of yarn. Tie the 6" piece of yarn very tightly. Now, hold the top (where you just tied it off) and fluff. Next, use scissors to cut ends off the yarn to create a pom pom. You will be cutting it very short to create a fluffy pompom. Tie the pom pom to the jar with a 12" length of yarn for the children to capture in the jar.

Gross Motor

BEAN BAG GAME

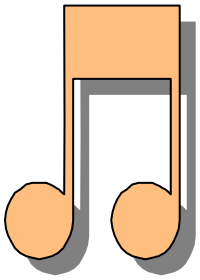
This outside game will give lots of fun movement.

Materials:

Bean bags, old socks rolled up, or other substitute for bean bags
Hoola hoops

Pretend hoola hoops are the recycling bin.
Tell children we are pretending the bags are beer or soda cans and the recycle bin is a hoola hoop.

Sing this song while playing:
CAN IN THE BIN
Played to the music of Ten in the Bed



There's a can in the bin and another goes in
Recycle ! Recycle!
So ___ (child's name) recycled and threw in a can.
There's 2 cans in the bin etc.

Continue the song until all children have had their names called to throw a bean bag. Great for large motor and counting and math.

BOTTLE CAP RACE

Materials:

Bottles with lids (2 of each kind of bottle) …peanut butter jars with the lids, laundry soap with the lids, bleach bottles, film canisters, salad dressing jars with the lids, etc.. Collect at least 10 different types of bottles with the lids.

AVOID GLASS BOTTLES for safety issues and be sure to use boiling water to cleanse any detergent bottles.

You can put out the containers with their lids and let children find the lids and place them back on the correct bottles. Good fine motor.

You can also divide the children into two teams. Put a set of the bottles a few feet from the teams. At your "go" the first child will race down, find the lids to the correct bottle and get it on the bottle. First team to get all their lids on gets to help unscrew the lids for the next set of children.

Gross Motor

BLEACH BOTTLE BOUNCE

Cut away the part of the bleach bottle opposite the handle to form a scoop. This can be used to catch balls (yarn, panty hose, sox, whatever type of ball you would like to make).

You can also use yarn to attach a pom pom to the handle. Children try to flip the pom pom up and catch it in the Bleach Bottle Bounce scoop.

NOODLE BALL

Materials:

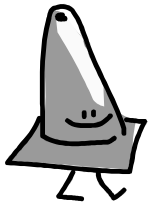
Swim noodle
Huge ball (the ones you can purchase at department stores for about $2.50)
Something to mark bases

This is a fun version of softball. Children ages 18 months to 80 can play this game. For added fun soak the swim noodle in a small wading pool before each turn at bat.

Batter uses the swim noodle as a bat (if the bat is too long for the size of the child, it can be cut in half). Pitcher rolls the ball to the batter. If batter connects with the ball, batter runs to first base. The other players are outfielders. If they catch the ball they must run and tap the batter with the ball for an "out". Adults or older children can help the littler children hit the ball, but usually even the small toddlers can hit a ball this size! It may not roll far, but it is counted as a hit. Pitch hitters to help toddlers run the bases are also allowed. We play anyone who makes it to home plate is a winner. We don't usually have enough people to play teams so we just take turns in the outfield and at bat.

CONES

In our program we used to want cones for various uses. We discovered filling a two liter soda bottle with colored water works just as well as any purchased pylon. We also surround our flower beds or other "off-limit" areas in our play yard with the two liter bottles of colored water. Red water tells children "Stop…don't drive your tricycle over the flowers!" They work well, although they do tend to fall over on uneven ground. We lay them end to end around the flower beds.



Cooking and Children Mix Well

Cooking for children does not have to be expensive to be tasty. It does not have to be bologna sandwiches every day, either.

SNACK: MUD!!

Ingredients:

Instant pudding
Whipped cream
Milk
Vanilla
Chocolate sandwich cookies

Follow directions on the box for a pie. Add whipped cream until you get the consistency you want. Crush cookies and mix in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the package with chocolate. Put in child's play pail and sprinkle with remaining cookies on top. Garnish with silk flowers and serve immediately.

SPINACH AND TOMATO SALAD

Before you turn your nose up, the children at our program absolutely love this. Our book says it is because "children don't taste with their tongues, they taste with their eyes" so if it is presented in an attractive way, children will taste it. We've proven her theory here, now you try it.

Ingredients:

Fresh spinach
Fresh tomatoes

Wash spinach thoroughly. Ask children to wash their hands thoroughly. Provide a brightly colored dish (we use a bright yellow one). Show children how to tear the spinach into bite sized pieces. After the children have the spinach torn up, line the edges of the bowl with the spinach. Cut the tomatoes into wedges and place in center of the bowl, surrounded by the bright green spinach. Serve with favorite dressing.

APPLE AND PEANUT BUTTER

(be cautious about peanut butter allergies)

Cut apples into slices. Provide peanut butter. Encourage children to dip the apple into their peanut butter.

Cooking and Children Mix Well

MEATLOAF MEN

Instead of a loaf pan, use a muffin pan for these cute little men.

Mix your favorite meatloaf recipe. Fill muffin tins with meatloaf. Place green bean for his mouth, cut up carrots for his eyes, cheddar cheese for the hair. Bake and serve, serving the remaining green beans and carrots with the meatloaf.

BICEP BEANS

Ingredients:

Pork and beans or any other bean

Our cook serves pork and beans and any other bean as "bicep beans". Little boys who have never put a bean in their mouths before ate the beans because she convinced them the "bicep beans" would make them stronger.

PEC PEAS

Regular canned peas with a very small amount of margarine melted in them are "pectoral peas" for developing "pectoral" muscles. The children become aware different muscles have different names as we offer these different dishes, too.

MUSCLE MEATS

You got it…same deal only with meats, and it works! Our cook presents these meats with a big grin and a hearty "Here you go…muscle meat to help you grow strong muscles" and they eat it.

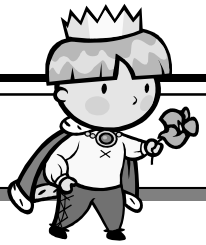
EGG POSIES

Ingredients (for each child):

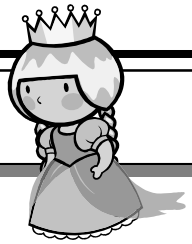
$\frac{1}{2}$ piece toast

1 boiled egg

Slice the egg and arrange the slices into a circular flower shape. Cut a rectangle shape out of the center of the toast and use as the stem to the flower. Use the remaining two pieces of toast as the leaves.



Dramatic Play



Benchmarks: Creative/Aesthetic Learning 2.1 Shows creativity and imagination in play with materials and props. 2.2 Participates in dramatic play themes that become more involved and complex 2.3 Assumes various roles in dramatic play situations
WSS: Domain: VI. The Arts: Expression and representation Indicators2 Participates in creative movement, dance and drama

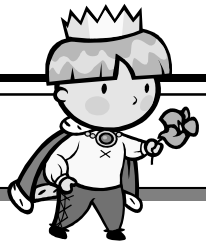
~There are many items useful in dramatic play from trash~

If you can't afford a kitchen stove/refrigerator set, locate two large boxes and spray paint them to resemble a stove and refrigerator. Use a primer coat to cover at first and then apply a second coat of paint.

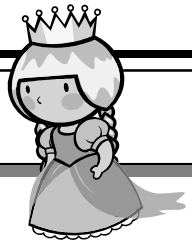
Shelving for dishes etc. can be made from boxes, milk crates, scrap lumber or gutter shelves. Plastic rain gutters make terrific shelves. They are very inexpensive, take very little space, and are easy to clean. Go to your hardware store and buy a length of plastic rain gutter and several brackets to hang the shelving, also long wood screws. Do not buy the type of screws that normally are used to hang these brackets. They are larger diameter and will leave a bigger hole in the walls. The smaller diameter long wood screws will anchor the brackets sufficiently. We use rain gutter shelves for many of our centers. The shelves will hold an amazing amount of weight without falling.

We use a small zig zag saw to cut the rain gutters to the desired length. Heavy duty kitchen shears also work, but require more effort. After cutting the rain gutter to the needed length, use a level to hold the rain gutter straight and mark where the brackets will need to be mounted. Mount the brackets and pop in the rain gutter and immediately you have a great shelf. (See resources section for more information on gutter shelves)
Rain gutter shelves enable you to display books, dishes, etc. with the covers facing out so children can make selections more easily.

Bleach bottles make wonderful bowls, crowns, hats, scoops, etc.
To create crowns: cut the top and bottom from a bleach bottle, then cut small triangles around the resulting band, spray paint gold and let the children glue "gems" from the craft department or construction paper or aluminum foil jewels on the crown.



Dramatic Play



Food boxes and empty cans are great dramatic play items. Children enjoy using "real" food items. If using cans, open them from the bottom so that when they are put on the shelves they appear full cans. Be sure there are no sharp edges for children to be hurt on.

Carefully clean empty dish liquid, liquid laundry soap and other containers for dramatic play. A small basket and a laundry soap bottle will send little ones to the pretend Laundromat or laundry room with doll clothing. Two cardboard boxes can become a washer and dryer. For extra fun and fine motor, hang a line either inside or outside and supply clothes pins for the clothes to dry.

Children love old school books…ask your local public school to donate some used books

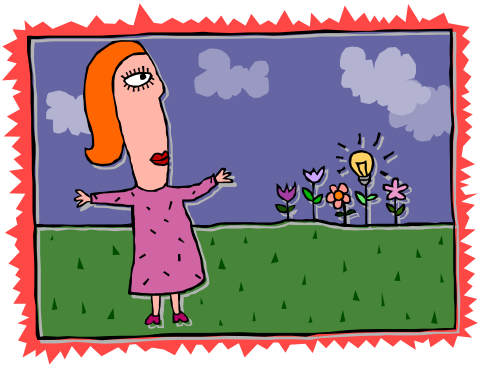
Backpacks—fill the backpack with books, paper, pencils, etc.

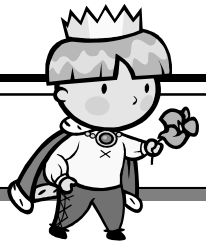
Baby blankets, baby clothing for dressing and wrapping dolls Ask parents to donate outgrown baby clothing and blankets or check local garage sales. These items usually are available for under fifty cents.

Shoes, purses, clothes are for dramatic play dress up

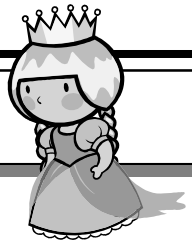
Alarm clocks, timers, CD players, remote controls, cell and other phones are all great dramatic play materials

Provide boxes so the children can create their own washer/dryer, TV, etc. Be sure to include art supplies in or near your dramatic play area so children will be able to create their own props. If you are concerned about messes on your flooring, carry the supplies and boxes outside.





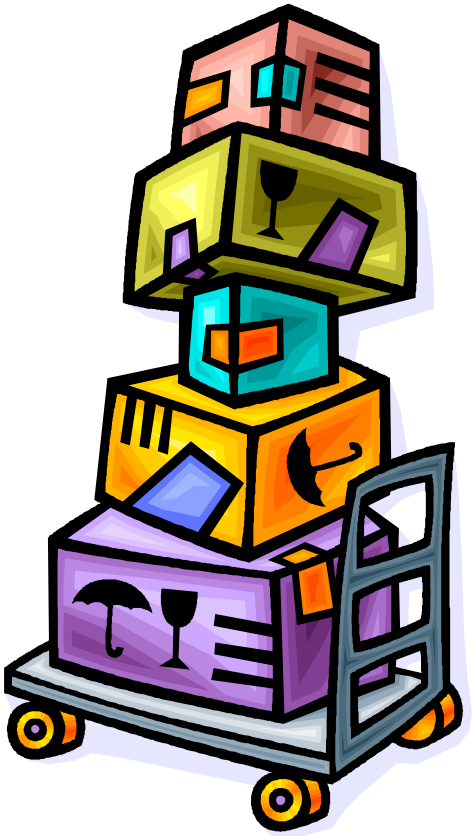
Dramatic Play

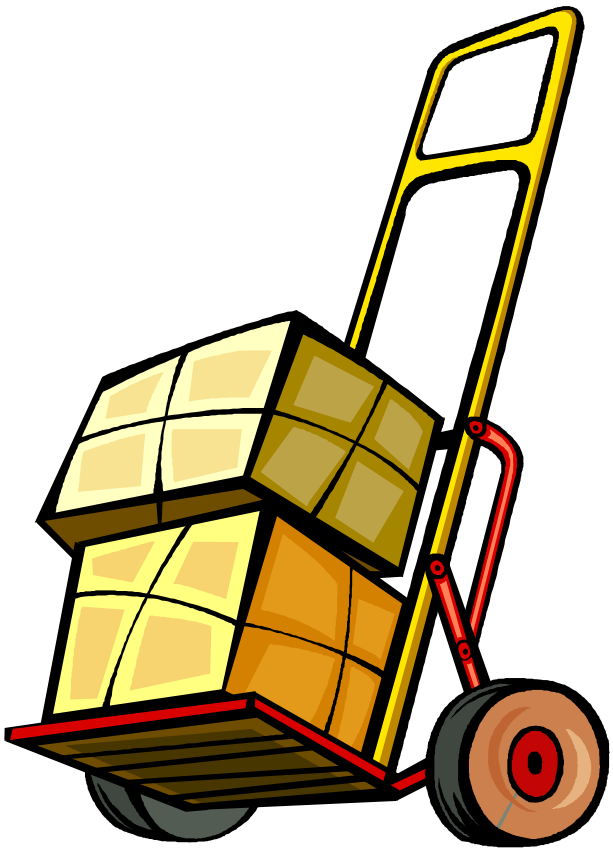


A few years ago we moved to a different building. The result was over 100 boxes piled in our car port –and a summer of fun for the children in our program. Each morning they carried the boxes into the play yard. They built forts, homes, nests, kitchens, cars, airplanes, club houses and many, many other things from those boxes. They worked in math, science, gross motor, fine motor, dramatic play, blocks, and social/emotional development just playing with that huge collection of boxes. They learned science cause and effect one night when they didn't put the boxes back in the car port and a sudden rain changed the composition of those boxes.

As the summer progressed the boxes became weaker and began to lie flat most of the time. It didn't change the children's fascination with the boxes. They stood them up like tents, they piled them on top of other play yard structures to create homes, they found out they could slide on them if they took off their shoes and slid in their socks. In short…they played with those boxes for months until finally the last box was reduced to pieces. They learned something from every developmental domain.

They had a terrific fun filled informative summer and IT DIDN'T COST OUR PROGRAM A PENNY.





Sand and Water

Found treasures are so easy for sand and water. Put river rocks in the bottom of your water table and in your sand. Here are some items for both tables:

- Bleach bottle funnels
- Pop bottle funnels
- Laundry soap lids
- Strawberry boxes
- Spoons from carry out dinners
- Any time of plastic jar
- Bleach bottle rain maker (punch small holes through the bottom of the bleach bottle for a rain effect in the water table)
- Put sticks in the water table to see if they float, put sticks in the sand table. The children will find a hundred inventive things to do with the sticks.
- Large corks
- Old pots, pans, dishes, spoons,

CLEAN MUD

Tear up pieces of brown paper towels (or toilet paper) and put in a large Rubbermaid container. Add shavings of Ivory soap and water until desired consistency. Mix, squish and squeeze. Make patties, pancakes and pies! Skills developed: Creative, motor skills, sense of sight and touch.

Five Little Pigs - Poem and Pigsty Play

Five little pigs rolled in the mud.
Squish, squash, squish, it sure felt good.
The farmer took a pig out, and cleaned him up nice.

Four little pigs rolled in the mud.
Squish, squash, squish, it sure felt good.
The farmer took a pig out, and cleaned him up nice.

Two little pigs rolled in the mud.
Squish, squash, squish, it sure felt good.
The farmer took a pig out, and cleaned him up nice.

One little pig rolled in the mud.
Squish, squash, squish, it sure felt good.
The farmer took a pig out, and cleaned him up nice.

No little pigs rolled in the mud.
They all looked nice and clean.
The farmer turned his back and what do you know! —> All those little pigs jumped back in the mud.

Block Center

Benchmarks: 1.19 Works cooperatively with others on completing a task
WSS: Domain: Personal and Social Development Component: Interaction with Others Performance Indicators: 1: Interacts easily with one or more children 2. Participates in the group life of the class

Here are some suggestions for trash for the block center:
Scrap lumber, boxes, liquid laundry soap lids, Pringles cans and other containers.
Collect lids from aerosol cans and plastic jars of different sizes and use as stacking and nesting toys. Stack them into towers and then nest them back inside themselves. These can also be used in pretend baking sets, for use in the

CITY SCAPE

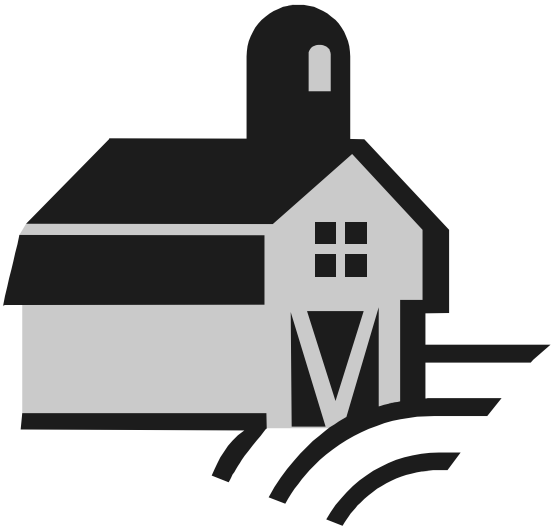
Materials:

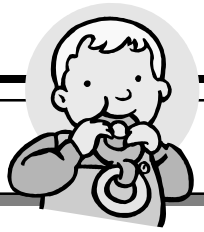
Toy cars, trucks
Art materials, lots of cardboard boxes, large piece of flattened cardboard

Flatten a large piece of cardboard box. Let the children create a city by drawing streets, gluing on boxes for houses, salt boxes for a water tower, etc. etc. They may want popsicle sticks for a railroad track. Provide lots of materials and watch the learning explode!

FARM

Let children finger-paint with green, browns, etc. on flat piece of cardboard to create a farm scene. Provide toy animals and plenty of boxes and art materials to create fences, barn, houses, nests, etc.





Infant and Toddler

BOTTLE TOPS

Materials: Collection of laundry soap lids, etc.

Use for nesting, stacking, building, teaching the concept of "circle", colors, use in water and sand play for the little ones

SCARVES

A collection of bright silky scarves is fun for infants and toddlers. Scarves are often available at garage sales for ten cents. Drape a scarf over baby's face and slowly pull it away. You can say "boo" when you see baby's eyes or "there you are". Recently I heard of another game:

Cover baby's head with the scarf and sing
Where oh where oh where is (child's name)?
Where oh where oh where is (child's name)?
Where oh where oh where is (child's name)?
Where is (child's name) hiding? (pull off scarf)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Small children love to bang on pots, pans and other things. Provide old pots and pans and wooden spoons for infants and toddlers to practice their pounding skills.

MUDDY FUN

Let toddlers walk through wet mud or sand.

THE MUD BOX

Mix top soil and water (do not use potting soil as there are chemicals added to it which may not be safe for children). Provide utensils and pots and let children play in the mud. Be sure to keep a mud pie and dry for them to take home.

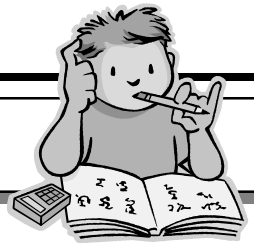
MUD BOX LINES

Provide sticks and show the little ones how to draw lines in the mud box. Next make a wiggly line and encourage the toddler to copy your lines. Drive a toy car through the mud. What happens to the car? Why?

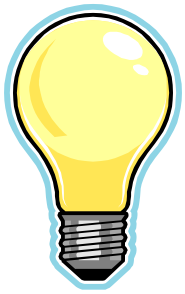
Books Worth Reading

Benchmarks: 1.19 Works cooperatively with others on completing a task
WSS: Domain: Personal and Social Development Component: Interaction with Others Performance Indicators: 1: Interacts easily with one or more children. 2: Participates in the group life of the class

TITLE	AUTHOR
Let's Go Rock Collecting	Roma Gans
Everybody Needs a Rock	Byrd Baylor
Planet Earth Inside and Out	Gail Gibbons
Footprints and Shadows	Anne Wescott Dodd
Earthdance	Joanne Ryder
My World	
Taking Care of the Earth	Billy Goodman
A book about Planets	Reigot
What a Wonderful World	Weiss
Earth Dance	Norman Gorbaty
The Earth & Sky	First Discover Book – Scholastic
The World in a Supermarket	Rozanne Wiliams
The Red Book	B. Lehman
He Got The Whole World	Kadir Nelson
Recycle A Handbook for Kids	Gail Gibbons
Let's Celebrate Earth Day	Peter Roop
The Earth and I	Frank Asch
Earth Day Activities	Pamela Freidman and Teacher Created Materials
I Love Our Earth	Bill Martin, Jr.; Michael Sampson, Dan Lipow
Let's Get Ready for Earth Day	Lloyd C. Douglas
50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth	The Earthworks Group
Under the Earth	First Discovery Books – Scholastic
Outside My Window	Bernice Rapopart
A Forest Tree House	Sheryl Reda
Worm	Jonathan London
Diary of a Worm	Doreen Cronin



Special Announcement



Lights on Afterschool
Is coming
October 18th!

Please join the **Arkansas Out of School Network** and the **Afterschool Alliance** in a special **Technical Assistance call** on

August 14, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. CST

This technical assistance call is a "must attend" opportunity if you would like the chance to:

Learn more about what Lights On Afterschool is all about from a national perspective. Guest participants will include Ursula Helminski with the Afterschool Alliance and Janelle Cousino, after school consultant with FowlerHoffman, LLC.

Learn tips and strategies from past Lights On Afterschool event sponsors throughout the state of Arkansas.

Learn about resources that are available to you as you take the necessary steps to planning a successful Lights on Afterschool celebration!

To make your reservation to attend this phone call, please contact Paul Kelly with Arkansas For Advocates at (501) 371-9678 ext 102 or via e-mail at PKelly@aradvocates.org

To learn more about the Arkansas Out of School Network, visit www.aosn.org