Motor: Fine

Plaster Leaf Print

Try this:

1. Gather leaves outside.
2. Put grease on paper plates. (Not needed if using milk cartons.)
3. Mix water in plaster of Paris to pouring consistency. Pour into mold.
4. After it hardens a little, press a leaf on it firmly and remove.
5. Insert hairpin for hanger.
6. When dry, remove and paint.

You need:

Leaves, small fluted paper plates or milk cartons cut off an inch from the bottom, plaster of Paris, water, container to mix it in, petroleum jelly, hairpin, paints.

Numbers

Nature's Numbers

Try this:

Give the student a can with a specific number of objects in it (using the numbers that you are working with). Example: one leaf, two twigs, three flowers, etc. Hold up the beaded number card without telling the child what the number is. The child looks into the can to find the number of objects indicated. Do this until you have completed all of the numbers that you want the child to know. Reward the child for success by verbal praise.

You need:

Leaves, grass, tree twigs, sticks, flowers, open-top can

Hint:

The class should go on a walk prior to this activity, identifying and collecting things we see in nature: trees, leaves, grass, flowers, etc. The teacher needs a medium size, open-top can, beaded number cards.

Awareness

The Nose Knows

Try this:

1. Go outside and smell the air after it rains.
2. Smell grass, flowers, dirt.
3. Does this thing have a smell? (rock, flower, grass)
4. Is the smell good or bad?
5. Compare smell of flowers to perfume.

You need:

Perfume

Motor

Pea and Toothpick Building

Try this:

Soak a package of dried peas for at least six hours. Be sure they are covered by water. Get a box or two of round toothpicks. Stick the toothpicks into the peas; they will serve as connectors. Build houses, buildings, shapes. As the peas dry, they will make a strong joint. Houses may be covered with tissue paper.

You need:

Dried peas
Round toothpicks
Large bowl
Water

Hints:

Soak peas overnight or at least 6-7 hours. Be sure they are covered by at least an inch of water.

Motor: Fine

Plants and Paste

Try this:
1. Take the children outdoors and ask them to pick up small natural objects such as rocks, twigs, leaves, seeds, pods, etc., and to put them into a bag.
2. Return to the classroom and gather around a table.
3. Give each a sheet of heavy paper. Each child is to choose several of the found objects and glue them on his/her paper.

More:
The natural objects may be glued on in designs or patterns.

You need:
Bag, heavy paper for each child, glue

Hints:
Survey the area to be sure there is a diverse array of small natural objects to be found.

Numbers Colors

Try this:

1. Give students a color card (ex. green). Have them take the card with and find something the same color as their card (grass, leaves).

2. Show students a green card for a few seconds.

3. Tell students to find something green.

You need:

Color cards, paint chips

Hints:

Be sure there are materials outside that match the colors you want the students to find.

Awareness

Show Me

In this

1. Show the children a picture of a tree, flower, etc.

2. Ask them to point to one like it in the outdoor environment.

You need:

Pictures of objects the teacher knows will be in the area in which the activity will take place.

Awareness: Visual

Lucky Clovers

Try this:

Go outside and hunt for four-leaf clovers.

Hints:

Locate an area with clover.

Science: Plant Growth Terrarium for the Classroom

Try this:

1. Gather plants with leaf mold, moss, small pieces of wood, rocks.
2. Put pieces of moss on bottom of container upsidedown. Add rocks, peat moss and plants. Put a few pieces of charcoal on the moss.
3. Pour in water. Add small, ceramic animals.
4. Seal with plastic wrap and put in a cool window.

You need:

Glass jar, fish bowl, or aquarium, plants with leaf mold, mosses, bird gravel or rocks, peat moss, a few pieces of charcoal, plastic wrap, long handled spoon, container for water.

Science

Seeds

Try this:

Children will visit an outdoor area and find three or four different kinds of seeds. Example: pine cones, milkweed pods. Classify them according to how they travel--air, hitch-hikers, pop from plants.

You need:

Assorted seeds

Awareness

Some Like Water When It's Hot

Try this:

Demonstrate effect of water on plants.

1. Place two plants in same window sill.
2. Water only one plant.
3. Record on calendar.
4. Observe differences in two plants as time passes.

You need:

Two small plants

Awareness

Peanut Butter Snack for the Birds

Try this:

1. Mix peanut butter with cornmeal or oats.
2. Use a knife to spread it on pine cones.
3. Tie a string around each cone.
4. Go for a walk and tie the pine cones to bushes and low tree limbs.
5. Watch for birds.

You need:

Pine cones, peanut butter, oats or cornmeal, knife, string.

Science Geography and Exploration — Make a Diorama

Try this:

Take an empty tissue box with the [illegible]ow intact on the top. Cut around three sides of the bottom o[illegible]e box. Fold down--this will be the back of the scene. Choose seasonal pictures from cards and magazines. Mount in box. Cover opening with plastic. Close back of box.

You need:

[illegible]
Cards
Magazines
Crayons or paint
Rocks, shells, etc.

Hints:

Discuss type of diorama.

Discuss scale of pictures.

Experiment while building.

Motor [illegible]　　　　Pussy Willow Rabbits

[illegible]

1. Find pussy willow branches or bring them from home

2. [illegible] trace rabbit pattern on oak tag. Pupils or teachers [illegible] rabbits.

3. [illegible] off each catkin from branch.

4. Spread white glue on rabbit.

5. [illegible] into glue.

[illegible]

[illegible] willow [illegible], oak tag, rabbit pattern, white glue

Awareness

Weather

Try this:

Use flannel board to illustrate clothes for warm and cold weather. Help students differentiate between warm and cold by putting their hands out the window, placing their hand on a radiator, feeling the warmth from the sun or feeling warm and cold water from bathroom faucets.

You need:

Flannel board
Two figures--one dressed for cold and one for hot weather

Awareness

Dress Up

Try this:

Either use large cut-out dolls with cut-out clothes or use pictures of clothes. Have the children decide what to wear in various kinds of weather. If you have the dolls, have the children put the clothes on them or have them select the picture of what clothes are appropriate.

Example: If it's cold, have them select a warm coat, mittens, a hat, etc.

You need:

Pictures of clothes (seasonal clothes) or
Cut-out dolls with seasonal clothes

Awareness

Falling Leaves

Try this:

Rake piles of leaves, kick, tumble, bury one another, feel, smell, listen to the noise the leaves make.

You need:

Leaves

Hints:

Locate safe area where there is no dangerous litter or debris.

Awareness

Seasonal Sort

Try this:

A table game to help the pupil identify the characteristics of each season.

Print name of season at top of each large card.

Glue seasonal pictures on small cards.

File in a large manila envelope.

You need:

Four cardboard cards 6 x 8
Sixteen cardboard cards 3 x 4
Seasonal pictures - cards
Wildlife stamps, magazines

Awareness

Weatherperson

Try this:

Use the daily weather to teach the children about the weather. Make up a calendar with large spaces for each day. Cover it with clear contact paper.

Make weather symbols. Example: a sun with a smiley face for a sunny day, a cloud with raindrops for a rainy day, etc.

Each day have the children notice the weather. Discuss it. Assign one child each day to be the "weatherperson." Select the weather symbol which fits the day. Then help place it on the calendar on the proper day.

You need:

Calendar covered with contact paper
Weather symbols backed with tape

Science Winter

Try this:

Collect snow and frozen soil, let children feel the cold. Melt it. Observe soil becoming moist and then softening. After melting, feel textures of soil and melting snow.

You need:

Snow and frozen soil

Science

Spring Bloomers

Try this:

Bring in branches from early-blooming plants. Place the stems in water in a warm place to force the leaves and blossoms (pussy willow, forsythia, flowering crab). Keep a record of the number of days that pass before they bloom.

You need:

Branches, jar and water

Motor: Fine Skills

Weed Seed Art

Try this:

Go outside and gather dry weeds (some with roots), seeds, and leaves for a picture.

Let pupils pick favorite color for background. Glue seeds, plants, and leaves on paper. Dot open areas with glue and sprinkle on bits of colored tissue paper. Cover with plastic wrap and staple on a black paper frame.

You need:

Dry weeds, seeds, and leaves, construction paper, tissue paper, stapler.

Hints:

Survey area for dry weeds and leaves. Cut black construction paper frames.

Science

Watching Trees

Try this:

Select a tree for the class to observe during the school year (at least four times). Visit or observe tree. Draw a picture as a record of seasonal changes.

You need:

Tree, crayon, drawing paper

Awareness: Spring

Egg Shell Pictures

Try this:

Students place egg shells on the window sills and watch the warm sunlight dry them out during the day. After the shells have dried out, use water colors to paint them in a variety of pastel shades. Glue the pieces of painted egg shells to make pictures that have been outlined on construction paper.

You n[illegible]

E[illegible]s, water colors, paint brushes, glue, pictures outlined on [illegible]tructure paper

Hints:

Teacher and pupils bring egg shells from home. The teacher outlines pictures on construction paper.

Numbers

Sand Numbers

Try this:

The class needs to go on a walk to fill medium size containers with dry sand. Use cardboard squares size 9 in. by 11 in. to write the numbers from 1 to 10, using a separate card for each number. Use any type of commercial glue to trace over the numbers that have been written in pencil. Before the glue dries, sprinkle the sand over the numbers, shaking off any excess. Allow all of the numbers to dry. The finished product of this activity will be hard, raised numbers made of sand, which serves for good tactile experiences in learning to read numbers understandably.

You need:

Sand, commercial type glue, size 9 in. by 12 in. paper, pencils

Hints:

The teacher should be sure that an area is available for obtaining sand.

Awareness: Tactile

Sand Play

Try this:

Sit around a sand pile. Let the children sift through the sand with fingers and toes. They can pour sand into containers or from container to container.

More:

Wet the sand and build a castle.

You need:

Bucket of water
Empty containers
Small hand shovel