

Objective: for children to develop a variety of skills and knowledge while sewing/weaving

Materials

Pieces of hessian, different shapes can be cut for interest. (plain and coloured hessian can be purchased or if you prefer to recycle, many fruit shops will give hessian potato bags away for free, they will need a wash but children can help do this or throw them in a washing machine.)
Blunt end metal or plastic threading needles.
Different types of threads and fibre (wool, raffia, string, plastic tubing, ribbon, long pieces of grass will also work!)
Collage materials (buttons, pasta, beads, items that can be hole punched)

Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes*

Outcome 1: Children

- develop confidence and knowledge through sewing and discussing learning experience.

Outcome 2: Children show

- respect for the environment through their choices of appropriate and non appropriate threading items.
- awareness of cultural diversity through traditional craft.

Outcome 3: Children

- become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing through interactions with others and personal success.
- are responsible for physical wellbeing through fine motor development

Outcome 4: Children develop

- creativity, persistence and imagination, making decisions about materials to use, completing to their satisfaction.
- a range of skills and knowledge such as problem solving, experimentation, investigation, classification and manipulation of materials.
- ability to resource their learning through natural and processed materials.

Outcome 5: Children

- interact verbally and non-verbally for a range of purposes.
- make meaning using a range of media: threading materials
- begin to understand how pattern systems work.

Extension Ideas

If the children made a specific pattern see if they can say it out loud. Make a threading with matching pattern.
Sew outdoors with only natural materials. (Many grasses will sew/weave, leaves can have holes punched, use raffia etc)
Make string weaving between sticks for children who's are more skilled.
Research traditional needle craft of different cultures.

Instructions

Make different lengths and types of thread and fibre available for children. Thread on to needles. (needle threaders make children feel more independent and are very in expensive)
Place on table near collage trolley/materials and make hole punch available. Discuss appropriate and inappropriate materials to put holes in and sew.
Let children sew/weave freely.

Key Learning Area (Skills and Knowledge)

Pre-Numeracy (Mathematics)

Patterning and sequencing— a one element pattern (the same item over and over) or a 2, 3, 4 element pattern. Observe if children can repeat patterns, do they self correct?

Number (Counting and Addition) "one more" and "how many stiches altogether?" "add another leaf".
One to One Correspondence (counting skill)
Positional Language— before, after, next, through.

Literacy/Vocabulary (English)

Colours, thread, weave, sew, before, after, through, next, add, more, altogether, art, hessian.
Discuss materials used.

Health and Physical Education

Fine Motor Skills— Threading, sewing, weaving and manipulating objects.

Science

Collecting, grouping, classifying- things with holes, things without, items from nature, processes materials. Different colours, different shapes. Let children think of classifications

Studies of Society and the Environment

Weaving and sewing are major parts of most cultures and traditions around the world. Sewing is a basic process to all societies, underlying a variety of textile arts and crafts, including embroidery, tapestry, quilting, appliqué and patchwork. In many Eastern European countries such as Romania needlework still a main occupation. In Hungarian villages three types of traditional needlework with blue, black, and red threads are popular. Weaving is a traditional skill Maori, Polynesian cultures & most Aboriginal cultures.

Global Kids Oz Linked Resources

New Zealand Piupiu and Korowai Cloak, Siapo Mats
European Geo Puzzle and Maps