

ArtExpress

All Around the Sites

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Classroom Activities

Susan Docherty (MacArthur ECE Program, Macomb, Illinois) reports that after reading Eric Carle's *The Very Busy Spider*, she engaged the children in her classroom in making spider webs by gluing white yarn onto black paper.

When dry, the children rubbed their fingers over their webs to "feel" the web, like they did in the story. There is a giant construction paper spider on the bulletin board and the children hung their webs around it. Another suggestion from Susan is that the children created their own spiders and glued them onto their webs. Each child's web turned out unique, just as real spider's webs do.



Lori Waddill (George O. Barr ECE Program, Silvis, Illinois) gave the children in her classroom paper and any color of markers or crayons they wanted. She told the children they could draw anything they would like, but suggested ideas from classroom books and stories on fall leaves and pumpkins.

Lori put a basket of pumpkins and gourds on the art table and did not say anything. She observed what happened. The children wanted to put the pumpkins and gourds ON their paper and trace them rather than look at them and drawing them. *What do you make of that??* Lori wondered. She let the children do this. She then encouraged the children to turn their paper over to draw what they SAW on



the back. As a result, the drawings showed a *bunch of circles with stems, NOT BAD*, according to Lori. She said it was fun and a very interesting experience for her and the children. Lori is encouraged and said she is going to continue to try introducing more activities like this and using less "follow the direction" activities.

Mary Teresa Kessler (MacArthur ECE Program, Macomb, Illinois) told us that she and the children in her classroom made a spider piñata for their Halloween party. She blew up a large balloon and placed it into an empty round gallon ice cream container. The round container made the balloon stationery so it won't jiggle and move as the children applied gooey strips of the paper maché material to the balloon. When the paper maché dried, the children painted it black and added eyes. They also added eight dangly legs to their spider. Mary Teresa cut a small hole at the top and filled the paper maché spider with treats and confetti. Sounds like great fun. The children could also dance and move to Little Richard's "Itsy Bitsy Spider" (on *For Our Children*, [1991] Burbank, CA: Walt Disney) during their Halloween party.

Thank You

A big **Thank You** to all Expressive Arts site teachers who have returned your child and family data. So far we have received data from: Three MacArthur ECE Programs in Macomb, IL, Children's Development Center Home-Based Program in Rockford, IL, NOW Head Start Program in Silvis, Moline, East Moline, Atkinson, Aledo, and Kewanee, IL, and Avon ECE Program in Avon, IL. Hope more data from other site teachers will be turned in soon.

The Foot Book by Dr. Seuss

One of the many sessions at the Closing the Gap Conference in Minneapolis MN was called "Welcome to the Wacky Wonderful Ways with Dr. Seuss," presented by staff from Anne Carlsen Center for Children in Jamestown, North Dakota. This is a residential center for children with multiple and severe disabilities. They have a web site: www.annecenter.org. The energetic staff demonstrated activities they use in their classrooms centering around Dr. Seuss books, including *If I Ran the Zoo*, *The A.B.C.'s*, *Cat in the Hat*, *All the Places You Go*, *The Foot Book*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *1 Fish 2 Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*.

The following activities included in *The Foot Book* project are ones teachers might want to try. All were adapted for a wide range of disabilities:

- Sequencing and graphing children's shoes and feet (smallest to largest),
- Polishing toe nails (children chose their favorite shades),
- Creating a foot trail made with bath mat or other textured material (played like musical chairs; one child operated the music with a switch), numbering the textured foot prints (one child navigated on a scooter board);
- Having a "slipper day" - experiencing textures of fuzzy and smooth;
- Taking a foot bath - with bubbles (one child repeatedly signed "more." as he felt the water swirl around his feet. After the foot bath each child's feet was massaged with lotion;
- Using a foot massager adapted with a switch;
- Having a Sock Day - each child brought in extra socks. Children helped to laundry socks, sort and match them, and used pincher clothes pins to hang them to dry;
- Holding a Sock Hop - danced in their socks;
- Creating a shoe store - each child had their feet measured, props included old shoes, red shoes, blue shoes, all kinds of shoes, a cash register;
- Taking photos of activities and displaying them on bulletin boards; using digital camera
- Creating a collage of feet
- Creating a group experience book called "Feet are Neat!"

Coming Events

November 11, 2000—Judy Potter will present "Expressive Arts Foster Emergent Literacy" at the National AEYC Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

December 8, 2000—Carol Schneider will present a poster session called "Adaptive Literacy Activities for Young Children" at the D.E.C. Conference in

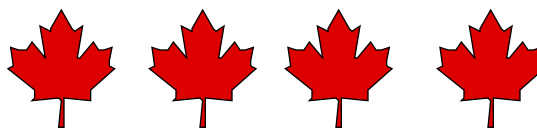
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

BioColor

What is BioColor? BioColor is a paint that won't crack or fade and is washable, non-toxic, and environmentally safe. BioColor comes in 11 different colors: black, blue, brown, green, magenta, orange, red, turquoise, violet, white, and yellow. A unique feature of this paint - the colors stay true when mixed together. It promotes learning through the process of creative play. It can be used on all surfaces: paper, cardboard, wood, metal, and plastic. With BioColor you can even make stickers, jewelry, washable sidewalk chalk, and putty which they call BioPutty. It can also be used on fabric.

Sample Expressive Art Activity: Read the story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Carle, 1969). After the story is read, take the children to the art center. With the children take a sheet of paper and fold a crease in the middle and open flat again. Have on hand, small plastic bottles filled with a variety of BioColor. Talk about how the caterpillar was very hungry. First place a small dot of red on the center crease. Talk about how the caterpillar went to the kitchen to eat an apple. Then place a green dot of BioColor on the center crease below the red dot. Talk about how the caterpillar went to the kitchen to find something green to eat. Continue placing different dots of color on the center crease and relate the colors to the caterpillar story. Once the dots have been placed on the crease, re-fold the paper along the original crease and drag the colors to the edges of the sheet. Open the sheet and the children will find a beautiful butterfly (The caterpillar then became a beautiful butterfly!). The children then can place their paper onto a window and rub briskly. Remove the sheet and unveil the butterfly on the window. They will have a butterfly in the classroom and one to take home.

BioColor is available from Discount School Supply, 1/800/627-2829, www.earlychildhood.com. A starter kit which includes: 11 - 16 oz. bottles of BioColor, 4 BioColor scrapers, one gold and silver jar of



metallic powder, 4 Plexiglas sheets, a 30 minute BioColor Video, 12 plastic paste brushes, 12 bottle

BioColor Fabric Medium, 24 plastic bottles, and one 16 oz. bottle BioPutty Solution for \$69.95. Gallon jars of BioColor cost \$19.97 and 16 oz. bottles cost \$2.69.