

ArtExpress

All Around the Sites

Volume 6

Issue 3

November 2001



Classroom Activities

Shannon Kellogg (Northwestern ECE Program, Good Hope, Illinois) and the children in her classroom began this year with a blast! They learned about “Moons & Stars, Rockets & Mars.” Children built a rocket from a refrigerator box. They covered it with large pieces of silver foil wrapping paper. Then the children decorated their rocket with flags made on a computer program with a flag maker option.

Many story books about stars and rockets were made available. A favorite was called *A Trip to Mars* by Ruth Young. This is a story about a young girl who plans a trip to Mars. Children made their own individual rockets out of paper towel tubes and pringle cans. They also made “cosmic collages” with buttons, sequins, and foam planets on star shaped paper.

Children made “milky way play dough” by adding tiny star confetti to their favorite play dough recipe. Star and moon shapes were cut out and hung from the ceiling around the room. They used star, moon, and planet stamps to create a mural for the entry way to their classroom. “Rocket” snacks were made by cutting cheese triangles and square crackers. Ms. Shannon says she loves to share ideas and feel free to contact her at <skellogg@roe26.k12.il.us> any time.



Sue Craig (Avon CUSD #176 Blended Pre-K, Avon, Illinois) reported that “Fall” was

the focus in her classroom. The children collected leaves, branches, acorns, and pine cones. They sorted them, traced around them, and crunched them to glue onto collages they created.

Children started sketching the tree outside their classroom at the beginning of the school year. Sue documented children’s comments about the changes in the leaves throughout the fall. They took large pieces of paper outside to do rubbings of the tree trunk and other items that interested them such as the sidewalk, the wall of the school building, the slide, and wooden play equipment.



Paper cut in the shape of a tree was placed on the easel. Some children decided to use it as a tree and painted the top green by dabbing on the paint with sponges. Others decided to sponge paint all over the shape using red, green, and yellow paint.

Apples were cut to show the star inside. The seeds were saved and placed on the science table. Whole apples were added to the science table for children to cut with plastic knives so they could find their own star. Children sampled red, green, and yellow apples during snack. A graph was made to show which ones were the children’s favorite. One of the favorite ways the children found to fix and eat apples was to fry them. Sue says, “If you haven’t had fried apples, they are

delicious.” Here is the recipe: Slice the apples, add white and brown sugar along with some cinnamon. Place in a skillet and heat until the apples are soft.

Welcome Aboard

Teachers, program assistants, and the administrator from Champaign, Illinois are attending Expressive Arts Outreach Training. We welcome them as ArtExpress sites. Those attending the first workshop include: **Pat Wilson, Jeannie Rasmussen, Sara Cain, Judy Rutan, Ann Erickson, Ja'Net Cross, Nilda Perez, Patricia Roberts, Judy Hilton, Martha Betenia, Chantel Stratton, Norsidah Saabia, Judy Collins and Maggie Rodriguez Nieto** from the Marquette School ECE Program; **Maggie Beckett, Karen Rohrer, Terra Mace, Karen Lipe, and Carolyn Newman** from the Garden Hills School ECE Program; **LeVette Harmon, LaShorage Shaffer, Diana Snyder, and Noelle Pierson** from the Stratton School ECE Program; and **Kathy Harshbarger and Kelly Dively** from the Savoy School ECE Program.

Technology Support

Mark your calendar. You are invited. The Expressive Arts staff has scheduled a technology support day from 1 PM to 4:30 PM in our computer lab (HH 37B) on **Friday, November 16, 2001** and **Friday, December 14, 2001**. EAO staff will be available to answer technology questions to meet your individual needs such as scanners, digital camers, video importing, slide shows using Kid Pix, iMovies, or HyperStudio, and peripherals. Expressive arts software will be available for preview. Contact Judy, Carol, or Merriam (1-309-298-1634) if you plan to attend and let us know what your technology support needs might be.

- Judy Potter, ex 302 or JD-Potter@wiu.edu
- Carol Schneider, ex 256 or CL-Schneider@wiu.edu
- Merriam Guzman, ex 255 or MB-Guzman@wiu.edu

Other technology support days will be scheduled throughout the year.

Child Data

Thank you to Susan Docherty and Mary Teresa Kessler from Macomb, IL; Sue Craig from Avon, IL; Ann Erickson, Jeannie Rasmussen, Nilda Perez, Sara Cain,

Judy Hough, LeVette Harmon, Maggie Beckett, and Tarra Mace from Champaign, IL for returning the fall child data forms to the Expressive Arts Outreach Project. Those of you who have not yet returned the forms, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks.

Painty String Drop Activity

Materials: Pieces of yarn or string about 6"-12" in length, shallow containers of various colors of tempera paint, large sheet of paper taped to the floor or table, and tweezers, optional

Process: Cut pieces of string or yarn into any variety of lengths, not exceeding 12." Fill a shallow containers with tempera paint, one container for each color. Drape and soak a string in each container, leaving the end hanging over the edge as a finger-hold. Place a large sheet of paper on the floor or table. Tape the corners so the paper stays in place. Take a strand of string from one of the dishes, let some of the paint drip against the lip of the container. Dangle and drop the string on to the paper, allowing the string to loop or curve naturally in any design as it lands on the paper. Remove the string with tweezers or fingers. Return the string to the container of paint. Continue dropping pieces of paint-soaked string in any variety of colors on the paper, making natural designs.



Up-Coming Events

November 15, 2001—Carol Schneider and Rose Rivera will present *Documenting Learning through Technology* and *Integrating Technology into Head Start Programs* at the National Head Start Association Technology Conference in Washington, DC.

December 3, 2001—Judy Potter and Carol Schneider will present *Document Children's Learning Through Technology* and Carol Schneider will present *Assistive Technology Considerations: Who, What, When, and Where* at the DEC Early Childhood Conference on Children with Special Needs in Boston, Massachusetts.