

# DISCOVERY ZONE: SUMMER

## Study Investigation:

## Cultivating Creativity



Infant Edition



# STUDY EXPLANATION

## *Cultivating Creativity*

Prepare to get creative and revel in all things imaginative! Throughout this study, infants will be introduced to different aspects of creativity related to art, music, and building. Children will explore different mediums as they engage in activities designed to start igniting creative interests.. Cultivating creativity with infants will promote the curiosity and joyful discovery needed to mark the pathway for expressing individuality, building self-esteem, and appreciating creative processes!





## Inquiry Questions:

I wonder how I can support infants to explore creativity?

I wonder how I can add music and sensory into creative experiences?

I wonder how I can engage infants in creative processes?

# Building Connections

## Activity One

Title of Activity: Goop Exploration

Skill(s) focus: Connections/Sensorial Exploration/Motor Skill Development

Objectives: Children will explore the sensorial attributes of goop while joyfully engaging with their peers.

Materials:

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Infant sensory tools:
  - Funnels, large spoons, paint brushes, etc.
- Sensory bin or tuff tray
- Sensory tube or empty plastic bottle

Process:

- Prior to the activity, prepare the goop mixture using equal parts of cornstarch and water.
- Support infants to explore the goop mixture together, providing them with the infant appropriate tools to make some preliminary stirs and scoops!
- Narrate their actions, and describe the attributes of the goop to the children.
- Take notice of infants' attempts to communicate with each other and reinforce their interactions by narrating what their behaviour cues are telling you.
- Provide opportunities for infants to use different tools, narrating the kindness of sharing.
  - "Would you like to use the spoon? I will give it to you, it is so kind to share!"

Younger Infant Variation:

- Pour cornstarch and water into a sensory tube or empty plastic bottle and secure tightly.
- Present the tube to younger infants, helping them to hand over hand move the mixture inside.
- Describe your actions, stating "Look at the tube! I am shaking the tube! Shake, shake shake!"

# Building Connections

## Activity Two

Title of Activity: Mural Art

Skills Focus: Connections/Peer Interaction/Joyful Expression/Fine Motor Skills

Objectives: Children will work together to create a colouring mural showcasing the mark making of each infant.

Materials:

- Large piece of paper
- Tape
- Chunky crayons

Process:

- Lay out the paper and tape it to the floor so that it is more stable as the children work.
- Place some crayons across the paper and enthusiastically encourage infants to come to the paper and explore.
- As infants pick up a chunky crayon, identify the colour and support infants to hand over hand make some marks on the paper.
- Narrate you own actions as you role model more mark making. Use phrases such as: "Look, i have the colour red and I am making a circle!".
- Narrate other colours throughout the room, or bring different materials that match the colour to showcase the similarity.

Young Infant Variation:

- Lay the young infant close to the activity allowing for tummy time and watching the activity.
- Place a chunky crayon in close site of the infant, encouraging the infant to attempt to reach for it or look at it.
- Narrate the colour of each.
- Support the little ones to hold it, and describe its shape and colour.

# Learning Discovery

## Activity One

Title of Activity: Evaporation Painting

Skills Focus: Joyful Discovery/Creative Expression/Understanding Cause and Effect

Objectives: Children will paint a box with water, observe the changes in the colour and texture of the box as it becomes wet and then observe it as it dries.

Materials:

- Cardboard box
- Chunky paint brushes
- Small paint cups of water

Process:

- Place a box in an open, accessible space for infants, and lay out chunky paintbrushes and pots with small amounts of water.
- Support infants to dip their brushes into the water and paint the box, narrating the actions of the infants.
- Describe the attribute changes of the box by stating phrases like, "Look, you painted it with water and now it is darker!".
- Support younger infants to paint using hand over hand, helping them to understand the process and engage joyfully.
- Continue to describe the changes to the box as it changes from wet to dry.
- Leave the box in the classroom referring to it throughout the day.

Young Infant Variation:

- Bring younger infants closer to the box, and hold them as you are painting the box, being sure to narrate your actions and call attention to the attribute changes.

## Activity Two

Title of Activity: Colourful Whisks

Skills Focus: Joyful Discovery/Language Development/Cause and Effect

Objectives: Children will attempt to pull out colourful scarves tucked into a whisk.

Materials:

- Large silicone whisks
- Colourful chiffon scarves or fabric strips

Process:

- Position lightweight scarves into a whisk, wrapping the material through the prongs. If using fabric scraps, ensure their length meets the safety parameters for your region.
- Support infants to pull out the scarves, narrating their actions and describing the colours by using statements like, "Oh, look, you are pulling out the purple scarf!".
- Support younger infants by holding them, and hand over hand helping them to pull out the scarves.
- As an added layer, place the scarves on the different body parts of infants and narrate the actions.



# Expressive Language

## Activity One

Title of Activity: Puppet Song and Rhyme Time

Skill(s) Focus: Language Development/Creative Expression/Joyful Engagement

Objectives: Children will engage in fingerplays, songs, and dances using puppets as props.

Materials:

- Favourite puppets
- Felt board/pieces

Process:

- Using the puppet, excitedly invite the children to gather near for songs and fingerplays!
- Say hello to each child by name, encouraging them to respond and engage.
- Begin to sing a favourite nursery rhyme, song or fingerplay, using the puppets as animated, enthusiastic props.
- Change your voice to capture the attention of your audience throughout the songs, adding in the names of the children instead of the character names.
- Showcase the actions embedded in the songs by making dramatic physical movements, encouraging the children to copy.
- Switch out the puppets for different songs and fingerplays!
- Get up and dance, moving around the space to joyfully engage the children!

## Activity Two

Title of Activity: What's in the Box?

Skill(s) Focus: Language Development/Joyful Discovery/Curiosity

Objectives: Educators will promote children's excitement by pulling mystery objects out of a box, providing clues and supporting infants to make preliminary associations.

Materials:

- Treasure box/bag
- Assorted chunky loose parts/materials

Process:

- Support infants to group around you on a carpet.
- Bring out a very special treasure box, and ask children if they would like to know what is inside of it.
- Shake the box, and hold it close to your ear, asking infants if they heard the sound. State, "I wonder what it is, can you guess?"
- Provide clues to the infants to help them associate your clues with what could be inside.
- For instance, state "This grows in a garden and smells so nice!" Pull out a infant safe flower from your treasure box.

# Physical Literacy

## Activity One

Title of Activity: Squishy Sensory Path

Skill(s) Focus: Gross Motor Skills/Physical Well-being/Curiosity/Joyful Discovery

Objectives: Infants will walk or crawl down a sensory path to feel different sensory materials.

Materials:

- Ziploc bags
- Sensory inserts:
  - Paint, fabric scraps, clean feathers, bubble wrap, etc.
- Tape

Process:

- Fill a series of bags with assorted sensory materials, removing the excess air and tape shut.
- Tape the bags onto the floor and support infants to walk over them in bare feet.
- Describe the attributes of the materials, supporting infants to make the connections as they walk.
- Younger infants can crawl, or can be placed on their tummies on the sensory path to explore up close.

## Activity Two

Title of Activity: Fabric Box Texture Exploration

Skill(s) Focus: Gross and Fine Motor Skills/Joyful Discovery/Curiosity

Objectives: Children will explore the textures of different fabrics glued onto a box while being encouraged to move in and out of the box.

Materials:

- Large cardboard box
- Child safe fabric pieces:
  - Corduroy, denim, cotton, velvet, etc.
- Glue

Process:

- Glue on a variety of different fabric pieces onto the sides of a cardboard box.
  - Try to source out fabrics with distinct textures such as corduroy, denim, wool, and velvet.
  - Inspect the fabric to ensure there are no loose fibers that infants can ingest.
- As children feel the material, describe the colours and textures by stating phrases such as "That feels smooth" or "That feels bumpy!".
- Invite children to move in and out of the box, narrating their actions.



# Educator Reflections: *optional*

**I wonder if I successfully observed and responded to the cues of the children to lead further investigations?**

**I wonder how I could improve upon my teaching practices in the future?**

**I wonder what support I may need to better foster child inquiry in my learning environment?**

**I wonder what went well, and what could be improved upon regarding child-led learning?**

# Investigation Materials

## *Building Connections*

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Infant sensory tools:
  - Funnels, large spoons, paint brushes, etc.
- Sensory bin or tuff tray
- Sensory tube or empty plastic bottle
- Chunky crayons
- Large paper
- Tape

## *Learning Discovery*

- Cardboard box
- Chunky paint brushes
- Small paint cups of water
- Large silicone whisks
- Colourful chiffon scarves or fabric strips

## *Expressive Language*

- Favourite puppets
- Felt board/pieces
- Treasure box/bag
- Assorted chunky loose parts/materials
- Tape

## *Physical Literacy*

- Ziploc bags
- Sensory inserts:
  - Paint, fabric scraps, clean feathers, bubble wrap, etc.
- Tape
- Large cardboard box
- Child safe fabric pieces:
  - Corduroy, denim, cotton, velvet, etc.
- Glue