

The Houses of the Three Little Pigs

Materials

Three old twin-size sheets • red, yellow, brown, and black paint • large paintbrushes • pink and brown construction paper • scissors • markers • string • hole punch

What to do

1. This is a great activity for a fairy tale unit. After reading the story of the three little pigs, tell the children they will work in teams to create the pigs' houses for the Dramatic Play area.
2. Pair the children into teams.
3. Lay a sheet on each table and assign a team to each table to paint a house (one of straw, one of sticks, and one of bricks).
4. Pass out paints and brushes. Let the children decide which house they want to make. When they are done painting, let the sheets dry. Sheets take about one to two days to dry.
5. The next step is to make pig masks and wolf mask. Beforehand, cut out pig masks and wolf masks using the patterns (pages 522-523). Give each child a mask pattern to color with markers.
6. Help them cut out the eyes, punch holes in each side, and tie string through the holes.
7. When the sheets are dry, hang them from the ceiling, side by side, or in a grouping in your dramatic play area.
8. Show the children how they can put on their masks and act out the story of the three little pigs as they move from house to house. Explain that they can act out their own version of the story and have more than one pig living in each house.

Tip: Extend the activity by reading more than one version of the fairy tale. It is interesting to observe the children and see which version of the story they act out.

★ Joy M. Tuttle, London, OH

A Variety of Three Little Pigs

Materials

Several versions of the *Three Little Pigs* • Post-it notes

What to do

1. This is a great activity to help children learn to compare and contrast stories, and also to help them learn to re-tell stories in proper sequence. It can be done in a similar way with any folk tale that has more than one re-telling available.
2. First, find several different versions of the *Three Little Pigs*, including those that are more non-traditional such as *The Three Little Javelinas* and *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*.
3. As you read the stories, compare how they are alike and how they are different. This is a chance to do some graphing, too. At the end of the week, after you have read several versions, put out all the versions.
4. Give each child a Post-it note with his name on it. Encourage the children to “vote” for their favorite version by placing their Post-it on that book.
5. Discuss what they liked best about their favorite, or make a language experience chart to show what each child said. This really gets the children using some higher-level critical thinking skills. They never get bored with a good story!
6. Extend the activity by putting out puppets to dramatize the story, put plastic figures and materials for house building in the Block Center, and costumes in Dramatic Play for acting out the story.

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