

Opposite Stamps

Materials variety of stamps (old and new)

- What to do**
1. Preparation: Collect a variety of stamps from all over the world. Perhaps a post office will be willing to donate stamps for this worthy educational cause.
 2. Place the stamps in a box or container in the post office learning center.
 3. Let the children explore the stamps. Stay in the center to guide the children. Ask probing questions such as:
 - "Can you find stamps that look like they came from a hot place?" (For example, a desert might be represented by a palm tree.) "What would be the opposite of a hot place? If it's not hot, it's ____."
 - "Can you find stamps that look like they came from a cold place?"
 - "Can you find a picture of a woman?" "What would be the opposite of a woman?" "If you're not a woman or girl, you're a ____ or ____."
 - "Can you find pictures of men?"
 - "Can you find a stamp that looks like nighttime?" "What would be the opposite of nighttime? If it's not night, it's ____."
 4. If desired, encourage the children to work independently to make pairs of opposite representations with the stamps. (This will depend on the skill level of the group.)

Related books *Clifford's Opposites* by Norman Bridwell
The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters by Allan Ahlberg
Olivia's Opposites by Ian Falconer

 Kate Ross, Middlesex, VT

Post Office

Materials

junk mail
 envelopes
 pads of paper
 pretend stamps
 handheld tools (such as hole punch, stapler, and calculators)
 large metal rubber stamp
 ink pad
 mailboxes
 cardboard shoe dividers (for mail sorting)
 mailbag
 mail carrier coat and hat
 markers
 pretend money
 cash register

What to do

1. It is fun for children to pretend to be mail carriers. Set up an area of the room to be a post office. Add the materials from the list above.
2. Write each child's name on the cardboard shoe divider. Encourage them to write letters to each other and "mail" them. It is fun to mail and receive letters.
3. Ask your local post office for a donation of coat and hats from mail carrier uniforms.

 Sue Myhre, Bremerton, WA

Postman, Postman!

Materials

books on postal workers
 mail carrier hats
 mail bags
 pretend letters (junk mail)
 envelopes
 postcards
 small pretend mailboxes
 shoeboxes
 pens and pencils
 paper