

It's a Shoe-in!

Materials

variety of footwear (such as boots, high-heeled shoes, sneakers, cleats, sandals, swim shoes, slippers, men's dress shoes, and so on)
 table
 shoehorns
 cash register
 play money
 shopping bags
 full-length mirror
 several small chairs
 dot stickers
 markers

What to do

1. Take a field trip to a local shoe store. Let the children look at all the different types of shoes. Talk about why people need different types of footwear.
2. If possible, invite a shoe store employee to visit the classroom. Ask him or her to bring along the instrument used to measure customers' feet and use it to measure each child's foot. Make a note of each child's shoe size.
3. Make a shoe size graph. Make a line graph that shows the children's shoe sizes from smallest to largest.
4. Set up a shoe store in the classroom. Put a variety of shoes on low shelves and place a table near the shoes. Place the shoehorn, cash register, and the shopping bags on the table. Put a full-length mirror near the shoes.
5. Give each child some play money.
6. Encourage the children to use the materials freely. They can take turns playing customers and shoe store clerks.
7. Ask the children how much each pair of shoes should cost. Let them use dot stickers to make small price tags for each pair of shoes.
8. Children can try on a variety of shoes and choose a pair to "purchase." The "customers" take their shoes to the register and pay for them. The "clerk" rings up the sale, takes money, makes change, and puts the shoes in a shopping bag.

More to do

Dramatic Play: Set up a shoeshine stand. Put empty polish containers, shoeshine cloths, and polishing brushes in a bucket. Encourage the children to use the materials to pretend to shine their new shoes.

Math: Measure each child's foot with a ruler and graph the information.

Shoe Store

Related books *Father's Rubber Shoes* by Yumi Yeo
The Growing-Up Feet by Beverly Cleary
My Best Shoes by Marilee Robin Burton
New Shoes for Silvia by Johanna Hurwitz
New Shoes, Red Shoes by Susan Rollings
Red Dancing Shoes by Denise Lewis Patrick
Shoes, Shoes, Shoes by Ann Morris
Sounds My Feet Make by Arlene Blanchard
Whose Shoes? by Brian Wildsmith

 Virginia Jean Herrod, Columbia, SC


Missing Shoes From the Shoe Store!

Materials assortment of real shoes or cardboard shapes of shoes
ruler

What to do

1. Before the children arrive, place one of each pair of shoes in the shoe store center. Hide the matching shoes in other areas of the room.
2. Invite a couple of children to take turns working in the shoe store. Their job is to use a ruler to measure the children's feet ("customers") and give each customer a shoe of her choice. The children do not need to put the shoes on.
3. When children have the correct size shoe of their choice, they leave the shoe store to search for the matching shoe hidden in the classroom.

Related book *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst

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