

into four sections with a ruler and pen. This time the children can paint seasonal colors in each section, for example, white and gray or blue for winter; pink and green or pastels for spring; orange, yellow and brown for autumn; and yellow and gold for summer.

Seasons

More to do

Field trip: Explore the seasons more by traveling to your local library to find music, books and stories that illustrate each season.

■ Penni L. Smith, Riverside, CA

4+

Spring Photo Shoot

Science skills

This activity encourages children to think about seasonal changes and organize their thoughts about the seasons.

Materials

Clipboard with paper and pencil
Camera, preferably Polaroid

What to do

1. Inside the classroom have a discussion on the changes we see in spring.
2. Now go on a walk to discover and observe the changes outdoors.
3. Let each child take his own photo of a spring change.
4. Be sure to note what each child is photographing.
5. Hang the developed photographs along with children's descriptions to make a mural in the classroom.

■ Sherri Scott, Hermitage, TN

Senses

Tasting Crystals

3+

Science skills

Children discover three different tastes.

Materials

3 soft drink caps per child
Salt
Lemonade drink mix

One small paper plate per child
Sugar

What to do

1. For each child, prepare a paper plate with a half teaspoon (2.5 ml) of salt in one cap, a half teaspoon of sugar in another cap and a half teaspoon of lemonade mix in the third cap.
2. During circle time, discuss the tongue and the sense of taste. Note that human tongues taste four basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty and bitter. If you have been growing crystals in class, also note that salt and sugar are crystals, while lemonade mix is a combination of various ingredients (check your label).
3. Explain that the children are going to try to identify which cap is salt, which is sugar and which is lemonade mix. Encourage them to use the terms salty, sweet and sour.
4. Present the paper plates to the children and demonstrate the fun tasting procedure of licking a finger and dipping it into the crystal, then licking it again to taste and identify.

More to do

More science: Make a graph on chart paper of each child's preferred taste—sweet, sour or salty.

■ Nancy M. Lotzer, Farmers Branch, TX

Bubble Wrap Fun

3+

Science skills

Children use their bodies and their sense of hearing to make observations and draw conclusions, and they practice gross and fine motor skills.

Materials

Lengths of packing bubble wrap
Toy hammers

Tape
Plastic sewing needles