

Build a Mouse

Curriculum Concepts:

Individual expression of ideas

Special Arrangement

Shape Recognition

Materials:

Pre-cut shapes (brown mouse, blue overalls, pink triangle nose, black whiskers, pocket)

Goggle eyes

Buttons

Crayons/Markers

Set up:

Divide table into 4 sections

Each child is given a mouse (the child or teacher can write the name on the back of the mouse)

Materials can be in small containers in the middle of the table for children to share

Activity:

Allow the children to dress their mouse as they please. It is okay if the mouse does not look like the picture in the book. Allow the children to experiment with the materials to create their own special mouse!

Divergent Questions:

Tell me about your mouse, what is it's name, where does he live...

If you were a mouse what would be your favorite food?

What does a mouse feel like?

Decorate a Cookie

Curriculum Concepts

Design

Texture

Balance

Pinching

Materials:

Large paper circle cut outs

Collage materials (sequins, buttons, crinkle paper, colored hole punches)

Crayons/markers

Glue (glue cups with paddles)

Set up:

Each child gets a large paper circle

Collage materials in small containers available in center of table

Activity:

Allow children to decorate or create their cookie. The children can "frost" their cookie with the markers/crayons then decorate with collage items.

Divergent Questions:

What does your cookie taste like?

Tell me about a time you baked cookies.

Describe your favorite cookie.

Family Portrait

Curriculum Concepts

Expression of ideas and emotions

Small motor development (holding writing object)

Special arrangement

Materials:

Construction paper

Crayons/markers/pencils

Set up:

Materials on table available for children

Activity:

Encourage the children to draw a family picture. Engage the children in conversations about their drawings, take dictation to post next to their portrait.

Divergent Questions:

What are your favorite activities to do with your family?

Tell me about your pets.

Drawing and Dictation

Curriculum Concepts:

Language development

Expression of oneself

Expression of feelings

Materials:

Construction paper with an area to take dictation

Markers/crayons

Pen for teacher to take dictation

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie book for reference

Set up:

Invite child to tell you a story and draw a picture

Activity:

Ask the child a question (see divergent questions), write their response exactly as they said it and encourage them to draw a picture to represent their words.

Divergent Questions:

What is your favorite part of the story?

Tell me about your favorite food.

How do you think the little boy in the story felt like?

Would you want a mouse as a pet? Why/why not?

Cookie Jar Math

Curriculum Concepts:

Rote counting

Numeral recognition

One to one correspondence

Materials:

Laminated cookie jar cut outs labeled with a numeral

Laminated paper cookies

Plastic trays/work area

4 Small containers to hold cookies

Set up:

Place cookie jars on tray/work area

Each work area has a container holding the cookies

Activity:

Encourage the children to place the correct number of cookies in the jar.

Begin with a low number and increase according to child's individual development.

Divergent Questions:

How many cookies do you think will fit in the jar?

If you could create a cookie, what would it taste like?

Cookie Tasting Graph

Curriculum Concepts:

Classification

Sensory channels

Noticing similarities and differences

Materials:

Different cookies to taste (animal crackers, chocolate chip, oreo, fortune gingerbread...)

Cookies can be cut into pieces for tasting

Chart with columns for each cookie.

Paper cookie with each child's name on it to place in the column to identify favorite cookie

Napkins/paper plates

Set up:

Each child will be given a piece of each cookie (pieces can be handed out one at a time by the teacher)

Activity:

Allow the children to taste each piece, talk about what they taste/flavors.

After the children try all the cookies, ask the children to identify their favorite. Place their paper cookie in the corresponding column on the graph.

Count the cookies to determine the overall favorite.

Divergent Questions:

Which one is your favorite and why?

What flavors/textures are you tasting right now? Sweet, crunchy, soft...

Broken Cookie Puzzle

Curriculum Questions:

Problem Solving

Common relationships

Whole part relationships

Materials:

Homemade puzzles cut into 3, 4, 5 pieces (can challenge with more pieces depending on the child's development)

Folder to store pieces with easy access for children

Set up:

This activity can be teacher or child directed.

Activity:

Allow the children to put the pieces back together. Be available to scaffold development when necessary. Help the children to notice similarities in the pieces to complete the puzzle. Talk about the corners and edges of the puzzle as a guide to completing it.

Divergent Questions:

How did you know that the piece went there?

Describe what you see now that you have completed the puzzle.

Cookie Patterns

Curriculum Concepts:

Ordering

Noticing similarities and differences

Prediction

Materials:

Pattern Cards

Individual pieces of the pattern

Set up:

Each child has a pattern card. Individual pieces are available of children to complete the pattern.

Activity:

As a teacher directed activity, repeat the pattern verbally with the child then allow them to determine the next piece of the pattern.

Divergent Questions:

How did you know what the next piece would be?

What do you notice are the same/different on your pattern card?

Cookie Estimating

Curriculum Concepts:

Observation

Prediction

Quantity

Materials:

Clear jar/container filled with cookies

Chart with each child's name and a column for their guess

Marker

Set up:

Place jar in center of table.

Activity:

Have the children guess how many cookies are in the jar. Write their response on the chart. Open the jar and count the cookies out loud. Eat the cookies for snack.

Divergent Questions:

If the jar was bigger how many cookies would you have to put in it? More or less?

Where do you keep your cookies at home?

Chocolate Chip Match

Curriculum Concepts:

Matching

Numeral recognition

One to one correspondence

Materials:

Paper plates

Black/brown buttons

Numeral cards

Set up:

Divide the paper plate in half by drawing a line. Glue buttons on half (place as many as you think the children can count). Make several of these with varying difficulty. Place loose buttons on table with numeral cards for children to use.

Activity:

Have the children count the number of "chocolate chips" on the side of their plate with the buttons. Have them either place the corresponding amount of buttons or numeral card on the blank side.

Divergent Questions:

How many chocolate chips do you think you can fit on your "cookie."
Describe to me your favorite cookie.

Scent Jars

Curriculum concepts:

Sensory development (smell)

Hypothesizing

Predicting

Concluding

Materials:

Old film canisters (can be picked up for free at film developing locations)

Cotton balls

Scents (vanilla extract, cinnamon, orange extract, piece of bar soap...)

Chart for guessing

Poster of the 5 senses

Set up:

Poke a small hole in the lid and label the film canister with a number. Also, label the bottom of each canister with the name of the scent so that you will know if the child is guessing correctly. Soak cotton ball with extract scent or fill the canister with spice/other scents. Write each child's name on the chart with columns for each canister.

Activity:

Have the children sniff one canister at a time and make a prediction. Record their response on the chart. Reveal the correct scent once everyone has had a chance to guess.

Divergent questions:

What does that scent remind you of?

Have you ever tasted that before?

Baking Cookies

Curriculum concepts:

Sensory development

Measurement

Temporal ordering (sequence by time with recipe cards)

Materials:

2 sets of ingredients depending on the type of cookie you choose to bake

Large bowl

Measuring cups

Large wood spoon

Recipe cards

Set up:

The night before the activity, bake a batch of the cookies you plan on making with the children. Create the recipe cards for the children to follow.

Activity:

Present the recipe cards to the children. Have the children take turns measuring and adding the ingredients. Pass the bowl around and allow children to stir. Tell them that you have to bake the cookies but present them with the ones you made the night before to taste.

Divergent questions:

What happens when you put the cookies in the oven?

How do the cookies feel when you take them out of the oven?

Tell me about a time you helped your family with cooking/baking?

Feely Box

Curriculum Concepts:

Identifying

Sensory channels (touch)

Vocabulary development

Materials:

Feely box (box with a place for a child to reach in without seeing what is inside)

Items from the story (crayon, straw, sponge, piece of jean material, pen, plastic cookie...)

Chart for predictions and answers

Set up:

Place items in the box. Display chart.

Activity:

Have each child take a turn reaching into the box to feel for an object. Before they pull it out, have them guess what it is. Record their answer then have the child reveal the item. Record what the item is next to their guess.

Divergent Questions:

Why did you think it was the _____?

What other things feel like that?

Tell me about the part of the story the _____ was used in.

Sink or Float

Curriculum Concepts:

Problem solving techniques

Cause and effect

Identification

Materials:

Tub with water

Items from the story (crayon, straw, sponge, piece of jean material, pen, plastic cookie...)

Towel

Chart to record predictions and results

Set up:

Place tub with water in the middle of the group. Each child will have an item to place in the tub. Keep a towel near by for drying and display the chart.

Activity:

Allow each child to place an item in the water. Before they put it in the water, ask the child if it will sink or float. Record their response. You can ask the group if they agree/disagree. Record the results. Repeat the activity if the children desire.

Divergent Questions:

Why is _____ floating/sinking?

What would happen if you were in the water?

