LEARNING EXPERIENCE PLANNING SHEET (TEMPLATE)

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<tr>
<th>Student Name: Frances (Efrosini) Tsafatinos</th>
<th>Course Code: ECS 3030</th>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Experience: Child Directed Cognitive/Sensory Experience</td>
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<td>Age Group: Toddlers</td>
<td>Date: October 26, 2012</td>
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<td>Programming Purpose</td>
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Last week, Nida conducted a sensory activity with goop. The children really enjoyed this sensory experience and it ended up being all over them. Staying with this interest, I will introduce “CLOUD DOUGH” which is gluten-free flour and vegetable oil and I will add a pinch of cinnamon, creating an interesting texture to manipulate that is aromatic.

Objectives:
The children will:
1. The children will improve their fine motor skills as they manipulate the sand and toys within the sand.
2. The children will be encouraged in spontaneity in material usage by choose or combine their sand colors
3. The children will enhance their coordination skills while pilling the pails and shovels.

Setting the Stage

Materials:
- Flour, Cinnamon, Oil, Cups, Trays (used for each sensory activity), Smocks if needed

Set-Up:
Role of the Educator

Introduction:
I will introduce this activity during free play after outdoor time. I will set it up while they are outside and as they are settled I will bring the cars in and they will be invited to play.

Teaching Strategy #1:
Modelling: I will show the children how to use the new toys and roll them in order to hit the markers.

Teaching Strategy #2:
Sensory Engagement: The children will be able to enjoy the activity while feeling the sand as the experiment with the moon sand.

Teaching Strategy #3:
Questions: I will be constantly asking them questions to foster that helpfulness skills they have. I will ask them questions to foster their learning and understanding of basic concepts.
- How tall can you build a tower?
- What do you feel?
- What do you smell?

Positive Reinforcement Strategies:
I will acknowledge the children’s efforts by:
- Specifically encouraging their actions – whether they hit the trigger “hurray you hit the red one” or didn’t hit the marker “Try again, maybe try the green marker”
- I will ask the children to show me how to use it, as if they were teaching me while using words like:
  - Can you show me how you did this?
  - How did you do that?

Setting Limits:
- Toys must stay away from their mouth & away from water
- Children must wash their hands after the activity
Self-Evaluation

Evaluation of your objectives:

I believe that this learning experience was very successful, and supported all three of my objectives.

Constructive skills were fostered as many children tried to build castles out of it. Because the moon sand already had oil and four, which made it stick to the bucket if patted down, I quickly showed them that scooping and flipping and some children understood that concept. The children are really into sensory experiences and therefore they really took to my activity. At one point it became so crowded, I had to send some children away. The also enhanced their sharing and cooperation abilities when the shared the materials between the two buckets of sand.

Evaluation of your role:

The teaching strategies I chose were very successful. I was able to model to the children how to build a castle because it would stick to the container. Showing them step by step how to do it, made them understand the concept easier as well as help break down a task.

The sensory engagement played two roles. I initially thought that it would advance their fine motor skills while actively engaging in manipulating however, not only did it help them further their manipulation skills but also broadened their sense of smell. I used olive oil as well as baby oil and because of that it made the room smell heightening the children’s senses even more.

Future Planning:

The children were actively engaged in the activity for well over 30 minutes. They had so much fun with this activity that I actually had to clean up before they were done and get them reading for the rest of their activities.

I hope in a future activity I can incorporate some sort of colour into the sand to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Lastly, I learned that with toddlers less is more and I made too much moon sand, meaning that it was everywhere. For the next time, I will use less flour and oil to make this activity.