



Finger Play

Requirements

1. Listen to a story about hands
2. Say three things you learned about hands.
3. Say a poem and use your hand to act it out.
4. Make a craft that uses your hands as part of the project. (i.e., finger-paint, trace hands)
5. Complete an activity using your fingers. (i.e., build something with blocks, knead bread.)

Updated in: Unknown / Grade 4

Supporting Answers

1. There are many different tactics/purposes that you can use this requirement for. If your goal is to applaud handwashing, for example, you could use the storyjumper.com online book story (<http://www.storyjumper.com/book/index/6307852/Hand-Washing>) or use your favorite search engine to find “kids hand washing story.”

A discussion about hands could take place just before or even while the children make a craft (#4). Discuss with the children about what their hands are doing (coloring, painting, fingers moving, fingers touching, hand grabbing etc.). Ask them what other things hands help them do (clap, wave, play piano, hug etc.) You can also use this opportunity to help the children count their fingers, observe how there are hard nails, soft skin, and strong muscles in their hands. They can also compare their hands with those of another child or of an adult (smaller, bigger, lighter, darker, long fingers, short fingers etc.)

2. Give each adult a card with one fact about fingers and hands on it. Have children “walk run” from one adult to another (the adults are sitting/kneeling in different parts of the room) and “collect” the facts about fingers and hands. Each time they can tell a different adult something they learned they get a “high five” (adult and child each use a hand to touch the others hand, palms facing. It is much like a clap).

Some simple finger facts:

We have four fingers and an opposable (say op-oh-zab-el) thumb. Opposable means that it can move towards the fingers and help them to do their work.

Each finger has 3 bones and the thumb has two bones

There are 27 bones in the hand

Doctors call fingers digits or phalanges

There are 2 main sets of muscles and tendons. Flexor muscles bend the fingers and thumb, and extensors straighten them out again.

3. Finger Play is an often-used early childhood education method to help kids memorize poems, Bible verses, and songs. It works so well because they are

learning not only with their voices, but also with their bodies. Books published on finger plays include Free Kindle books and inexpensive print books. Search “finger plays nursery kindergarten children” for options. The Adventist Gracelink curriculum using finger play for helping children learn memory verses.

Teaching Idea: Hand Play

There are a lot of poems, verses, and stories that have hand motions. Here is a simple one about hands (also helps with requirement #2)

Hands

Hands are for loving, (fingers draw heart in the air)

Hands are for sharing, (hands pretend to give something to someone else)

Hands are for working (right hand fist closed bangs on left hand, fist closed, like a hammer on a nail)

And hands are for caring. (hands clapping to applaud someone)

Hands can protect

And hands can defend. (hands and arms create shield in front of child)

Reach out your hand (extend a hand towards another person)

And make a friend (shake hands)

4. There are thousands of crafts that children can do. Be sure that the idea you do is simple enough for 4-year old's, yet one they will enjoy.

Teaching Idea: Mice Prints

Materials: Paper; markers; ink pads

Procedure: Show the children how to ink a fingertip (press child's thumb directly onto an inkpad) and press the thumb onto the paper. The thumb print forms the body portion of the small mouse. Then show them how to add ears, whiskers and a tail to create a mouse out of their fingerprints. Let them fill up a sheet of paper with mice.

5. Hands can be used in so many ways!

Teaching Idea: Service

Ahead of time: Alert adults ahead of time to have each child bring one or more non-perishable cans or boxes from home (to give to the poor or an area food bank). Have the children help stack the cans and boxes in unique shapes, walls, or towers (but be careful that they don't drop cans on themselves). Have some extra boxes and cans in case some forget to bring items.



Teaching Idea: Blocks

Materials: wooden blocks of different shapes and sizes

Procedure: Bring a large supply of blocks to the meeting. Spread them on the ground in the “activity center.” Challenge children to make the tallest, longest, or item that uses the most blocks. If the blocks have numbers or letters, you could also start working on the Numbers award.

Teaching Idea: Planting

Materials: shallow dishes or trays filled with potting soil or other DRY dirt.

Seed packets (corn, beans, other large seeds); spoons.

Procedure: Fill several shallow tubs or boxes with potting soil. Give the children a variety of dried beans to “plant”. Other fun things to plant are twigs (trees), rocks, radishes, baby carrots, and small potatoes. The children can plant and harvest over and over. Spoons work well for shovel