

Low cost teaching materials

for language development



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This booklet is created to demonstrate some ideas about how to work on language development in early childhood education, using low cost teaching materials. This booklet is the result of an assignment, given by VVOB.

We started with observation at the KTC College in Kitwe. We saw that they divide language development in 4 stages and therefore we made some materials for each stage.

We hope that this booklet can help you with class management, playing games with the children, but most of all, help them in stimulating their language development.

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LISTENING

Storytelling with puppets

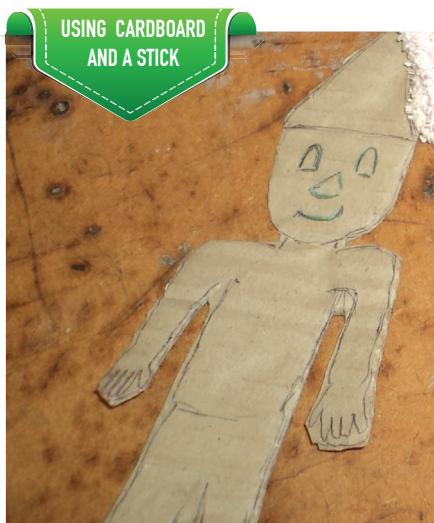
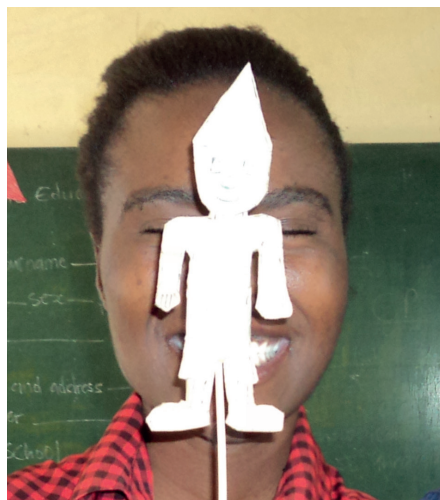
What is it?

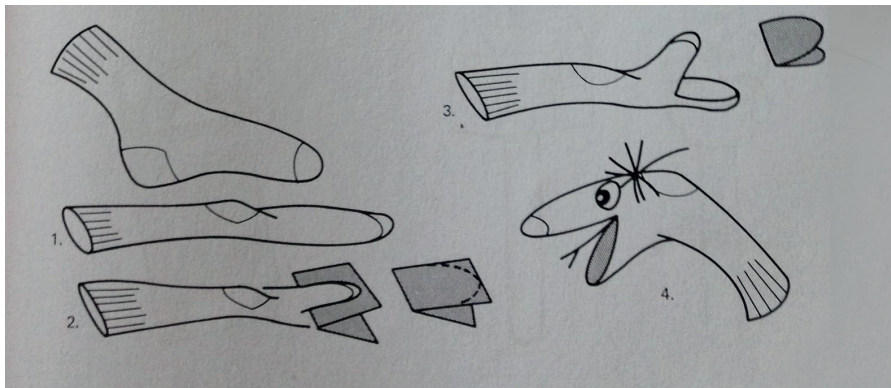
Using puppets to tell a story instead of using pictures or a book. You can do this with or without a decor. With one puppet, or more.

What is the purpose?

- The children develop listening skills.
- It is a fun way and different way of storytelling.
- It is something that you can easily use when you make your own stories.
- It is something new for you as a teacher as well.

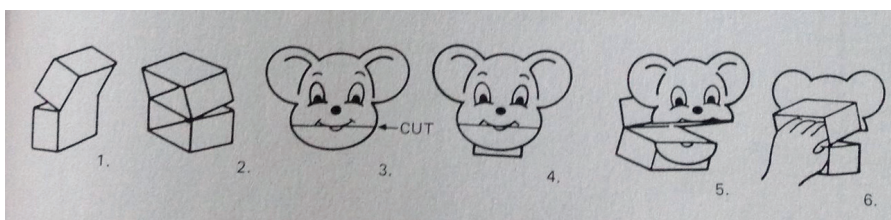
How can you make it?







USING A
SMALL BOX



USING A
PLASTIC BOTTLE

Storytelling with a television (Kamishibai)

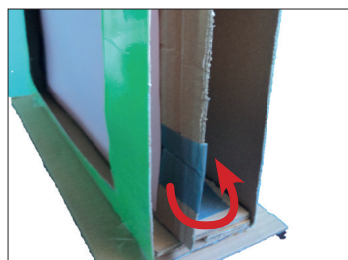
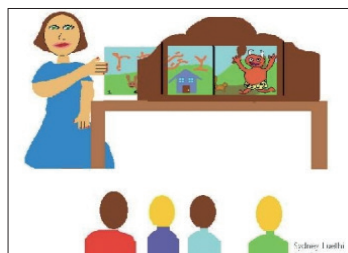


What is it?

Kamishibai, (kah-mee-she-bye) or “paper-theatre,” is a type of storytelling originated in Japan. It is part of a long tradition of picture storytelling, beginning as early as the 9th or 10th century.

How to use it?

You put the drawings from your story in the TV. Then you show the first drawing to the children and tell the beginning of the story. When you want to continue the story, you slide in the second drawing. At the same moment you take the first drawing out and move it to the back of the TV.



What is the purpose?

- The children develop listening skills.
- It is a fun way and different way of storytelling.
- It is something you can easily use when you make your own stories.
- It is something new for you as a teacher as well.

How can you make it?

Step 1:

You take a big box (it has to be bigger than A4 paper size). Then you cut out a rectangular hole in the box.

IMPORTANT: the shape of the rectangle has to be smaller than A4 paper size!

Otherwise your drawings will fall out of the box!

(In this picture this picture you see that we drew two types of rectangles. The thin line is A4 size. The thick line, where we will cut a piece out of the box, is a smaller rectangle. This can give you an idea of how much smaller you have to make the rectangle compared to A4 paper size.)



Step 2:

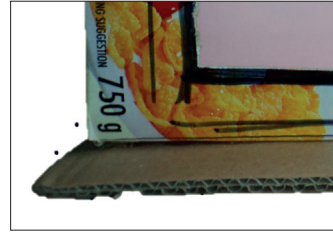
You want to raise the bottom of the box. So if you put a paper in it, it will stand a bit higher. This way, the paper will be completely visible through the rectangular hole of the box.



You might have to add more (or fewer pieces) of cardboard at the bottom, depending on the height of the box and the position of your hole.

Step 3:

You cut out a strong piece of cardboard which is bigger than the bottom of the box. This makes it easier for the box to stand.



Step 4:

You divide the box in two parts. You can do this by putting a piece of cardboard in the middle of the box. You make the part in front of the box smaller than the back of the box. (The front of the box is the side with the hole in.)



If you measure the shape of the cardboard right, the cardboard will fit nicely. In order to keep the middle piece of cardboard in place, you can tape it at the bottom and top, as shown in the image. This way, the cardboard will not move.

Step 5:

The last step is decorating the TV. We used green paper to glue on the TV. But you can also paint it. We also put tape on the edge so it's stronger and looks shiny, but that's optional of course. Make sure that you make it basic don't decorate it too much. Because otherwise it will distract the children.



SPEAKING

Once upon a time envelope

What is it?

An envelope you can use to let the children tell a story.

There are 6 drawings inside the envelope. First you discuss with the children what is on the picture: where you can find it, what kind of thing it is, You can even try to move like the pictures. For example the elephant: move like an elephant. Take big steps and sweep with your arms like the trunk of the elephant.

After that, you put the pictures on the dice. Make sure that you put some tape around the dice (the dice has to be plasticized), this makes it a lot easier to recycle or re-use the dice.

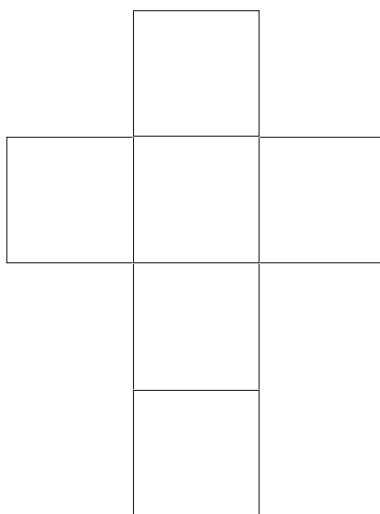
At the start of the activity, you let one of the kids throw the dice. The picture that faces the top, is the one with which the story begins. You can help them if necessary.



What is the purpose?

- The children use their imagination to create a story.
- The children try to make correct long sentences.
- The children learn new vocabulary.
- The children learn to talk to each other in a correct way.
- The children practice their social skills.

How can you make it?



Draw the shape of a cross on a big piece of cardboard. Do this by drawing squares. Make sure they all have the same size. Then cut out the cross. Then you fold the cross on the lines. Tape the sides together so it becomes a dice.

You can also cut 6 big squares and just tape them together. Make sure you tape also the inner side, so that it remains strong. We also put an extra piece of cardboard on the inside to increase durability. See picture below.



PRE-READING

Attendance chart (also helps you in class management)

What is it?

The attendance chart is something which can be used every morning in class. We say good morning to each child. The children say good morning to the teacher also. Then they take their symbol and put it on the wall to show that they are present. The symbols that remain are the ones from the children who are absent that day.

Example:

Teacher: good morning Ester.

Ester: good morning teacher.

Ester takes her symbol and puts it on the wall.

What is the purpose?

- The children can read who is absent or present that day.
- The children practice greeting every morning.
- The children learn their symbol. (You can use those symbols for a lot of other things in class management and pre-reading)



How can you make it?

You will use the attendance chart every day and for many years. So, if possible make the shape of the wall out of wood. This is a very strong material that will remain strong for many years to come. You then put nails in the wood on which the children can hang their symbols.

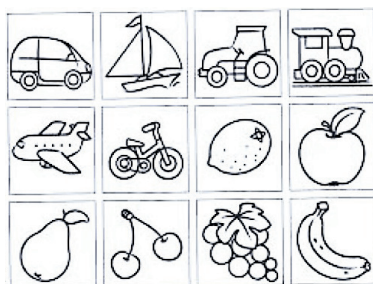
You can also just paint a shape on the wall of the classroom. Hammer the nails into the wall. If nails and wood are difficult to find, you can make the chart from cardboard. If you cover it with tape, it will last longer. Instead of nails, you can use sticky stuff.

You can make the symbols by drawing them on plain paper. Colour them so they look nice and attractive to the children. Please take symbols that the children know. If you think they are not familiar with the object or the animal, then do not use it as a symbol.

After drawing the symbols, cut them out. Cut out a light piece of cardboard (e.g. from a cereal box) in the same shape as the symbol and glue it together with the symbol. This makes the paper stronger. Use clear tape (scotch tape) to cover the symbol cards if you want them to last longer. Additionally you make a hole in the symbol cards to hang them on the nails.

Here are some examples of symbols you could use.
You can also make your own.





Task chart

(also helps you in class management)

What is it?

A wall that shows the tasks the children can help the teacher with. You divide the wall into three columns. In the first one you put a picture that shows the tasks.

In the second and third one you put the symbols of the children who will help you with the task in that week. After a week you change the symbols. First you give a task to the children who didn't have a task last week. If you want, you choose the tasks yourself or you can let the children decide.

You can freely choose which tasks you want to give to a child. (e.g. open and close the door). It's possible to give one task to two children. But then you have to explain that, for example, one of them opens and the other one closes the door.

You choose whatever you feel most comfortable with.

What is the purpose?

- The children can read which task they can help with.
- The children won't fight with each other to do a job. They know that they will have their turn coming.
- The children learn different helping skills.
- This way you make sure each of the children gets a turn.
- The children learn their symbol. (You can use those symbols for a lot of other things in class management and pre-reading)



How can you make it?

You will use the task chart every day and for many years. So it is best you make the shape of the chart in wood. Wood is a very strong material that remains strong for many years. You put a nail in the wood where the children can hang their symbols. And you can hang the tasks. You can paint the wood if you want to but it is not necessary.

You can also just paint a shape on the wall of the class. Add the nails directly to the wall. If nails and wood are difficult to find, you can make the chart from cardboard. If you cover it with tape, it will last longer. Instead of nails, you can use sticky stuff.

You make the symbols for each child similar to the ones from the attendance chart, the pictures of the tasks are made the same way.

Here you have some examples:

Bag: means that the children have to put the bags neatly.

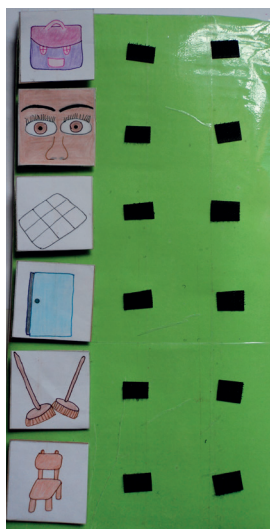
Eyes: means that the children have to make sure that all the toys are back at the right place.

Carpet: means that the children put the carpet on the ground before eating or storytelling.

Door: means that the children open or close the door.

Brooms: means that the children can help you sweep.

Chair: means that the children help you with putting the chairs right.



Activity chart

(also helps you in class management)



What is it?

A wall that shows who can play what, where, when and using which material.

You can divide the children in groups easily by using the symbols or by using the same coloured bracelet.

You can divide them in groups or you show the activity colour panel to the kids, indicating how many are allowed per activity, and let them decide where they want to play.

What is the purpose?

- It helps you to divide the children in smaller groups.
- The children read which activities they can do.
- The children learn to make choices.
- The children learn to play at one place at a time.
- The children are more focused while playing.

How can you make it?

Take a wooden board that is big enough to show the activities and to divide the different groups. Give each group a different colour. When making activity cards, you make a little hole in them, and you put some nails in the activity chart. This way, you can change the activities and you can hang them on a different colour. The choice is yours whether you want to use nails or bracelets. (bracelets are a safer option though).

Weather calendar (also teaches them about science)

What is it?

This is something we use every morning in class. You simply go outside the class and you look at the weather outside. You can do this with the whole class. You can pretend to put on glasses, the children love it! Then you go inside the class again and discuss the weather they just saw. You look which card fits best, and let one of the children put it on the wall.



What is the purpose?

- The children can read which weather it is today.
- The children learn about different types of weather.
- This is a fun way to teach them science.
- Children learn how to behave in a group discussion.

How can you make it?

You will use the weather wall every day and for many years. So, if possible make the wall in wood. If you don't have a wooden board lying around, you can use the seating of an old chair or something alike.

You put a nail in the wood where the children can hang the card of today's weather.

If nails and wood are difficult to find, you can make the chart from cardboard. If you cover it with tape, it will last longer. Instead of nails, you can use sticky stuff.



If you want to decorate the board, you could paint it and/or draw the class on it.

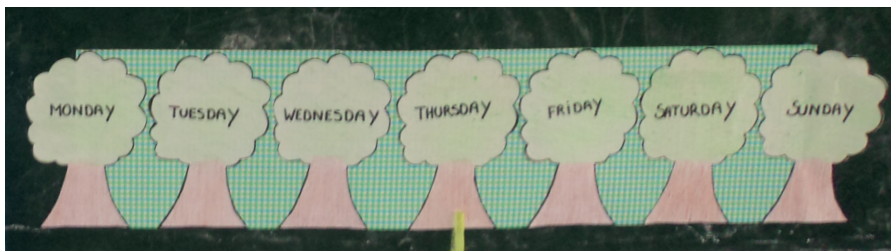
You make the cards by drawing the pictures on plain paper. You cut the drawing and glue it onto thin cardboard. For example: the one of a cereal box.

After this you put a hole in the card so it can be put on a nail.

Days of the week calendar

What is it?

You use a song to learn the days of the week, together with the calendar. While you are singing you point at the calendar in reading direction. After singing the song you move the clothes peg to the correct day.



The songs u can use:

“Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday
Friday Saturday
And Sunday
In a week are 7 day’s
7 day’s in a week.
Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday
Friday Saturday
And Sunday “

“Sunday, Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday,
Saturday.
Sunday, Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday,
Saturday.
There are seven days,
There are seven days,
There are seven days,
in a week.
There are seven days,
in a week.
There are seven days,
in a week.”

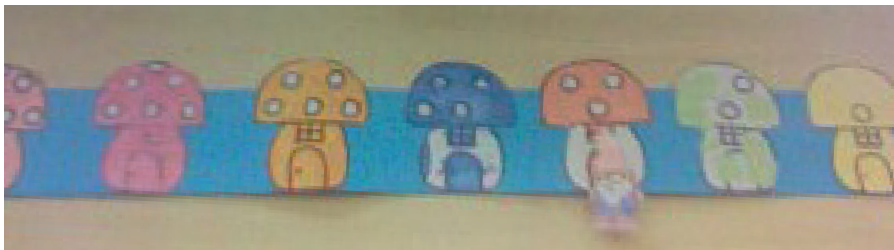
What is the purpose?

- The children visually learn that a week has 7 days.
- The children learn that the days follow in a specific order.
- The children learn the reading direction.

How can you make it?

Draw the trees on plain paper and cut them out. Write the names of the days on the trees. Decorate three plain papers and tape them together. Then you glue the trees on the papers in the correct order of the song you want to use!

You can also use other things than trees.
Below another example.



Music game

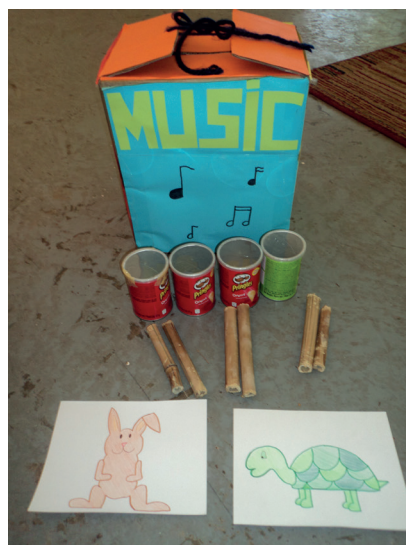
What is it?

It is a game where the children read how they have to play music. They read the music score. But instead of using music notes, we use pictures.

There are different types of pictures: we use different sizes of size to show which volume the children play at that moment. We also have two animals showing the speed to play the instruments.

In the picture, shown on the left, we use two different animals, a tortoise and a rabbit. The tortoise is a slow animal indicating that the children should play slowly. The rabbit is a fast animal, the children must play fast.

The bigger the picture (of the tortoise or rabbit) the louder the children must play. The smaller the picture the more quietly the children must play the instrument.



You can also add a blank page so that means that the children can't play at that moment, so they have to keep quiet.

At the beginning of the activity, you should start with just 2 pictures allowing the children to practice. When they start getting better, you can slowly add more pictures so they have to play louder or more

quietly. When they are familiar with the game, you can use the blank page, and all other pictures.

What is the purpose?

- The children learn the reading direction.
- The children like to read the pictures.
- It creates interest in reading for future life.

How can you make it?

You decorate a cardboard box so that it looks nice, and it attracts the children. Then you make shakers and drum sticks. You can make the shakers from bottles that you fill with seeds, corn or small rocks. The drumsticks are just two pieces of bamboo. Make sure they are not too short or too long so the children can easily use them.

PRE-WRITING:

Dancing ribbons

What is it?

With the dancing ribbons, you can represent a story by making all kinds of gestures with the arms and hands, using ribbons that the children can hold in both hands.

You can do a drawing together with the children. You describe that you draw the sun, by making a circular motion with your arms. Then you draw the grass. First very long grass, but then ... when daddy cuts it ... what happens? Yes, it is short! This is a question you ask the children and then you draw short grass. And so the story continues. You can draw trees, flowers, clouds, ...

You can do this activity outside, if there is not too much wind.



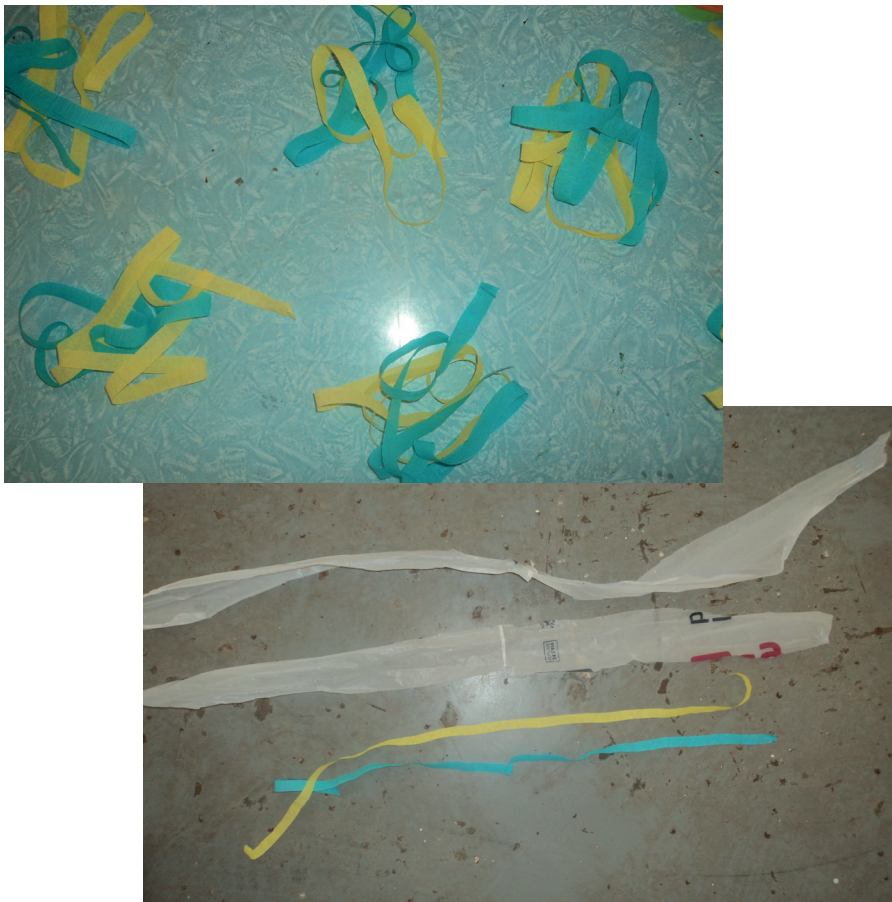
You can also use the big dice and practice the pre-writing lines. But make sure you attach the pictures well because otherwise the pictures will loosen up by the wind and friction with the ground. We had this problem as you can see on the picture.

What is the purpose?

- They stimulate the wrist in pre-writing.
- The children generally enjoy this activity.
- You can describe different shapes, after which they copy your gestures, so they learn the meaning of each shape.
- When you draw things in nature they learn science.

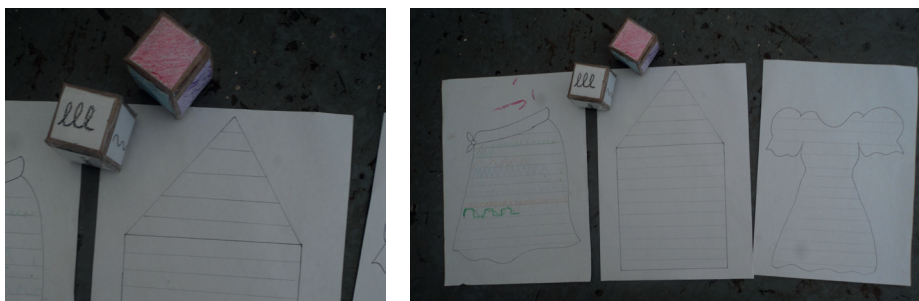
How can you make it?

You can make the ribbons out of plastic bags or out of party left over decoration ribbons.

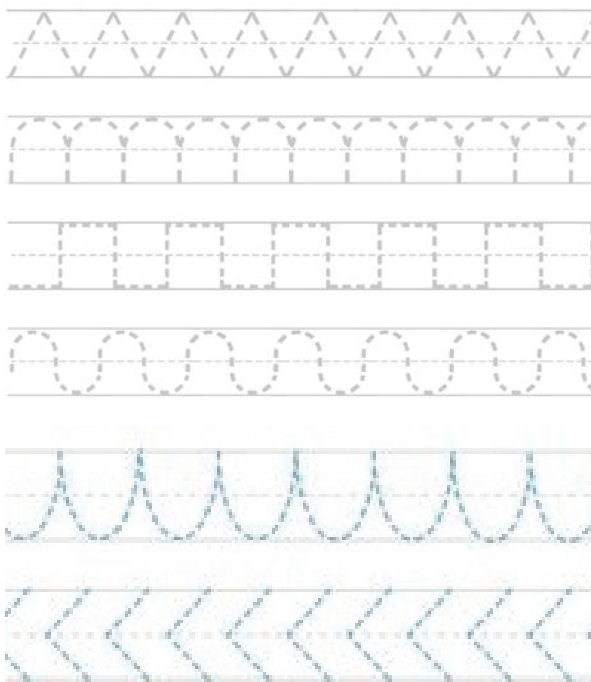


Pre-writing dice:

What is it?



Two dice: one with colours and one with pre-writing lines. On the picture below you will find some examples of pre-writing lines.



So the game goes like this: the child gets one picture to decorate. He throws with the dice with pre-writing lines on. Now the child knows which line he must draw. Then he throws with the colour dice. Now the child knows which colour he must use to draw the line.

What is the purpose?

- Practice the fine motor skills.
- The children don't have the feeling that they are working/learning because this is like a game.

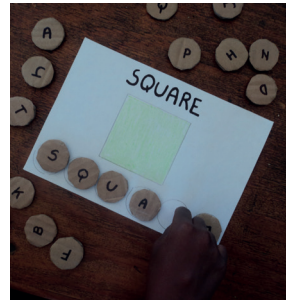
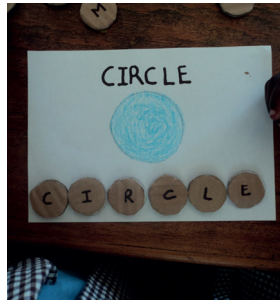
How can you make it?

You make a small dice (see page 10 on how to make one). You will need 2 dice: one dice with colours on the sides and one with pre-writing lines.

The younger the child the bigger the space between the lines and the less lines you use. If the child is older and is already familiar with this game you can make the space between the lines smaller and add more lines.

Pre-writing coins

What is it?



In the first picture you see that the children are putting the letters in the correct place and order of the alphabet. This is actually like a puzzle: the letters are written down in the circle.

The second and the third pictures are word cards. The card has a word at the top of the paper followed by a drawing of the same word underneath it. And on the bottom of the card you will find circles. There are no letters in these circles. The children have to look on top of the card to rewrite the word with coins. This is something that they have to do in the writing direction. (correct order)

What is the purpose?

- The children have the feeling that they can read and write.
- The children like to do the activity because it stimulates interest in reading and writing.
- The children learn the writing direction.

How can you make it?

Draw circles of the same size on cardboard and write the letters in the circles. Then you cut them out. In order to make the puzzle paper,

you will need one paper on which you draw circles of the same size (make 4 columns and 7 rows) . Then you put one letter of the alphabet in each circle, until you used up all 26 letters (from A to Z).

To make word cards, use a half plain paper and write the desired word at the top. (e.g. square, triangle, circle, ...). Draw the image underneath the written word. Then put as many circles as there are letters in the word.

You don't write the letters down in the circles now.

Bibliography:

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denk. doe. word.