**Story Retelling/Order the Events**

Description of experience:
Early language and literacy skills are important to master in order to create a strong foundation to build on. This activity focuses on story retelling. Retelling a story is when you share the important story parts in the right order.

Materials needed:
* *Book*  
* *Craft sticks*  
* *Glue*  
* *Construction paper*  
* *Scissors*

Instructions:
1. Begin by explaining to the child he/she will learn more about the elements of a fiction story (characters, setting, problem, etc.) and will retell a story using these elements.
2. As you read aloud, stop during parts of the text and point out specific story elements and details—such as the setting, characters, problem, beginning, middle, end, and the solution.
3. After reading the book, help the child to create a puppet related to the story using the materials provided.
4. The child will then retell the story, using the puppet he/she created. Tell the child, “Now you will practice retelling the story, using the puppet(s) you made. Start from the beginning, then go to the middle, and then the end, making sure you share all the important details.”

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Description of experience:
Pre-reading skills are important to master to create a strong literacy foundation. This activity focuses on introducing a text/book before reading. Introducing a text before reading gives the child background knowledge and builds comprehension, especially if the information or topic is new to the child.

Materials needed:
* Book

Instructions:
1. Begin by inviting the child over to look at a book. Read the title and name of the author. Explain what the role of the author is.
2. Give a brief introduction to the story in 3-5 sentences…
   - The main character is ______.
   - He/she will ______.
3. Make a prediction with the child…
   - What do you think will happen to ______?
   - What do you think will happen next?
   - Why do you think that?

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Identify and Describe Shapes

Description of experience:
The ability to identify and describe shapes are early geometry skills. Through an understanding of sides and angles, children are able to distinguish geometric objects.

Materials needed:
* Colored foam shapes  * Glue  * Construction paper  * Book (optional)

Instructions:
1. Begin by inviting the child over to play a game. Provide the child with colored foam shapes and ask him to place the foam shapes on the floor or table.
2. Discuss the colors, shapes, and sizes of the foam shapes with the child.
3. Ask him/her to sort the foam shapes by features like color, shape and size.
4. After reading a story, assist the child with creating a character or scene from the book using the foam shapes and a piece of construction paper (optional).
5. Ask the child to identify the positions of the different shapes by using words like: beside, next to, above, below, under (Example: “The blue circle is next to the yellow square.”).
Identify and Make Patterns

Description of experience:
The ability to recognize, identify and create patterns supports early numeracy/math skills. Through an understanding of patterns, children are able to make predictions about what comes next.

Materials needed:
* Colored foam shapes

Instructions:
1. Begin by inviting the child over to play a game. Use the foam shapes to create a pattern with two attributes (red triangle, blue triangle).
2. Ask the child to describe what he sees (identify the pattern).
3. Ask the child to copy the pattern.
4. Direct the child to create a new pattern.
5. You copy the child’s pattern.
6. Repeat the patterning activities and extend the number of features used in the pattern. (Example: large yellow circle, small green triangle).

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