

Kid Activities

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Diversity Through Arts and Crafts

August 10, 2009 20:26 by Barbara Shelby

CHOOSE TOYS AND OFFER ACTIVITIES THAT REFLECT A VARIETY OF CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS!

- Include multi-racial dolls...
- Pretend play items and art supplies in true-to-life skin tones...
- Multicultural skin-colored crayons...
- Multi-Cultural dough...



ARTS AND CRAFTS

FRIENDSHIP BULLETIN BOARD

Materials: Paint, Paper

Give children in your program peach, white, brown, black, and orange paint (add soap to make it stain proof). Have them mix what they perceive their skin color is. Then have them paint a friend's hand and then put a print on a heart shaped piece of paper. You can put these on a bulletin board with the heading, "Friendship Comes in Many Colors!"

VISUAL ART – The Islamic religion forbids the use of images of living creatures in art. That's why much of Muslim graphic art consists of floral themes, geometric figures and Arabic script. See if your group can **DRAW A PICTURE USING GEOMETRIC FIGURES** and the shapes of letters in artistic ways.

If having a Multi-Cultural EVENT...DECORATE WITH MANY COLORS of White, Black and Brown...
Make the classic paper chains using black, white, tan, brown, beige, and yellow construction paper to represent the various skin tones found across our nation.

TWO IDEAS:

#1 Put some water color paints on a sheet of paper... Have children use water bottles to spray the sheet. Let them watch as all of the colors run and blend together to make something beautiful.

#2 Paint on wet paper. Get a big sheet of paper completely wet. Dip it right into water in the sink. Then smooth it out on a cookie sheet or plastic tabletop. Brush thick, wet watercolors on top. They blur and fuzz out on the wet paper, blending together and making wonderful shapes.

After using either method... talk to the children about how everyone is different but they all blend together in work and play to make the world wonderful.

DOVE OF UNITY HANDPRINT WREATH

This wreath symbolizes cultural unity. You can adjust the handprint colors for different occasions (for example, you may wish to use handprints in different shades of brown for Black History Month)

Materials:

Paint in various skin-tone colors. If you have brown, yellow, red and white you can mix your own colors.

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Children enjoy experimenting with mixing colors. Try these combinations:

- Small amount of red + small amount of yellow + white...
- Brown + white...
- Yellow + small amount of brown...
- Paper, Scissors, Glue

Instructions:

Make between 9 and 12 in various skin tone colors by dipping hand in paint and stamping it on the paper. Let it dry.

To make the DOVE: Trace hands with the thumb extended and 4 fingers close together onto the center of a piece of white paper.

- Glue on a beak from orange construction paper or draw one on with orange marker.
- Draw on a wing and an eye with black pencil crayon or marker.
- Cut out the skin tone hands and glue them together in a circle to form a wreath.
- Glue the dove onto the back of the wreath (so the wreath acts like a picture frame).
- Trim the edges of the paper the dove is on. Source: ditk-kids.com

BLACK AND WHITE COLLAGE

Each person will need one sheet of black construction paper, one sheet of white, one brightly colored sheet, and glue.

- Tear black and white sheets into small pieces (less than 1/2" square).
- Paste the black and white pieces on the brightly colored sheet to create a unique collage.
- Some people may choose to create identifiable objects. Others may create geometric designs or a patterned "quilt."

After all pieces are completed, have children to show their pictures and briefly describe. Note that NEITHER THE BLACK NOR THE WHITE ALONE WOULD HAVE CREATED AN INTERESTING PICTURE, yet the two could be combined into many interesting patterns. In short, they were more productive working as a team.

Discuss the need for teamwork, whether it is in the home, the classroom, the workplace or the community at large. What are some tasks that require group effort?

You might also PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PIECES... Point out that just as no two pieces are art are alike, no two people are alike. Each person has a unique purpose in life, and the home, church, community, and society as a whole are benefited when each person finds and fulfills his purpose in life instead of seeking to be "just like" another individual.

HELP CHILDREN SEE EACH OF US IS UNIQUE!

1. Use an inkpad to have each member make a thumbprint in the center of a piece of construction paper. Then, use a magnifying glass to examine the thumbprints. *How are they alike? How are they different?*
2. Next, have everyone use markers to add to and draw around the thumbprints to create unique thumbprint animals.
3. Discuss: Even though we're all people, (or part of the same family) our fingerprints are different. And, each of us probably thought of and drew a different thumbprint imaginary animal. We don't look alike or think alike.



HAPPY HANDSHAKE

- Two shades of skin toned construction paper
- Brass fastener
- Other colors of construction paper

Trace and cutout one handprint on the skin toned construction paper. Cut out rectangles long enough to make "cuffs" for the wrists of the hands - glue on. Place the two hands together in a "shake" fashion with one thumb behind the other.

Attach a brass fastener to the center!

HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP

1. Have children trace their hands on construction paper using black, white, red, yellow and brown paper to represent various skin tones found across our nation.

2. Cut them out. Attach all the hands together using a method that depends on where you are going to put them.

Example:

You can glue or staple hands together in a long chain or swag.

As you are working on the project, you can talk about each hand representing the diversity in our country/world--or if it is for MLK Day--how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. joined hands with people of all colors when he marched for freedom.

Menu for Diversity and Multi-Cultural Category

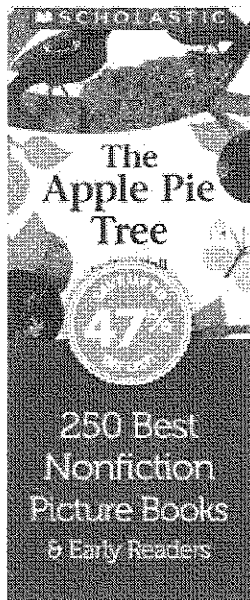
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- Entire Diversity & Multi Cultural Category (Excluding MLK)
- Diversity Using Arts & Crafts
- Diversity Through Foods and Other Activities
- Diversity through Language and Literacy
- Diversity with Games and School/Program Implemented Ideas
- List of Multi-Cultural Themed Books Listed by Age
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Book List for Black History & MLK
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