

Facilitating Parental Engagement through Family Fun Time Activities: Projects and SMART Objectives Fall 2022



Background

- Research makes it clear that parental engagement is essential for children's cognitive development, social competence, and academic success.
- Community needs assessment research conducted 2016 and 2017 indicated parents desired opportunities to facilitate their children's educational success.
- However, the needs assessment data also revealed:
 - Parents are very busy and often feel they do not have enough time to spend with their children;
 - Many parents lack knowledge about child development
- The solution: Family Fun Time Kits



Background

- Family Fun Time kits are designed to:
 - Stimulate fun parent-child engagement
 - Contribute to children's physical, social, cognitive, and/or emotional development
 - Be completed within 30 minutes
 - Be age appropriate for preschoolers ages 3-5
 - Be inexpensive
 - Meet clearly defined SMART Objectives
- Between 2018-2021, 187 children enrolled in Head Start in the local area have received a kit.



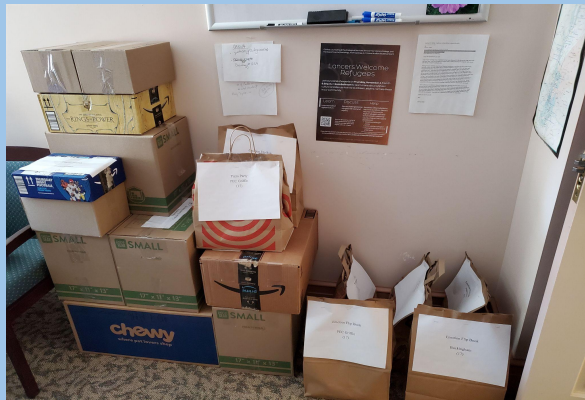
THIS SEMESTER

- Students in SOCL 306 worked in teams of 5 students to create Family Fun Time kits for 99 children enrolled in area Head Start Preschool Programs and the Andy Taylor Center for Early Childhood Development.
 - Prince Edward County Layne St Location=28
 - Prince Edward County Griffin Blvd Location=17
 - Appomattox County=16
 - Buckingham County=17
 - Andy Taylor Center=21



This Semester

- Children were sent home with a different activity kit each day during the week of October 17-21.
- Kits contained all necessary supplies and instructions.
- A survey assessing SMART objectives and parental satisfaction with activities was sent home with the last activity, along with a children's book to thank parents for their participation and to encourage them to return the survey.
- Funding for project materials and children's books was generously provided by the a Faculty Development and Research Grant.





Cupcake Flower Activity

Cupcake Flower Activity

The cupcake flower activity was a project that parents and their children worked on in order to get the parents more involved in their child's life and for children to practice using their fine motor skills.

Materials Provided:

- 3 popsicle sticks
- 1 pair of scissors
- 3 cupcake liners
- 3 pipe cleaners (1 pre-rolled)
- 1 glue stick
- 6 leaves
- 1 set of instructions



Smart Objectives

- Upon completion of this activity, the child will be able to successfully cut out the leaves from the construction paper
- Upon completion of this activity, the child will be able to successfully glue on the components

Photos:

Cupcake Flower Instructions!

It's time to have fun making a flower that will last a lifetime! You and your child will have the creative freedom to design the flower of your dreams. Make sure you have space to make your beautiful flower. Get ready to make your own cupcake flower!!

In your brown paper bag, you will find: 3 Cupcake liners, 1 pair of safety scissors, 1 glue stick, 3 craft sticks, 3 pipe cleaners, and green paper.

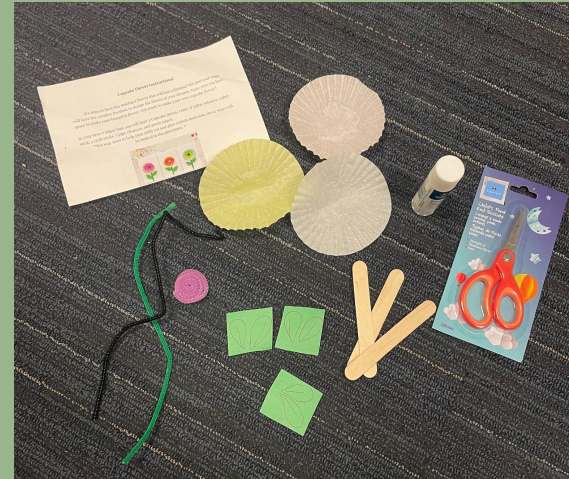
*You may need to help your child cut and glue certain materials; these steps will be bolded in the directions. *



- 1) Take all of the materials out of the brown paper bag and lay them out on a table.
- 2) Grab the cupcake liner of choice and turn the cupcake liner inside out.
- 3) Decorate the liner to your liking:
 - a) Pipe cleaner: you can either use the pre-rolled pipe cleaner provided OR you can let your child practice using their fine motor skills by allowing them to roll one of the extra pipe cleaners around itself into a tight spiral (it should look like the one in the bag once rolled; **some assistance may be required**).
 - b) Glue this at the center of the flower. Wait for the glue to dry for a couple of minutes.



- 4) After the **glue** has dried some, choose one of the craft sticks provided and glue it to the back of the flower (there are different craft sticks so your child has a little bit of creative freedom; they can choose whichever color they want).
- 5) Next, take the green paper and scissors to cut out the leaves. There should be an outline on the green paper to guide your child while cutting. Allow your child to use the safety scissors to cut out two leaves (**you may need to assist with this step**).
- 6) Finally, take the now-cut leaves and glue them to the craft stick to complete the stem of the flower. You're done; you should have a completed cupcake flower! You can repeat these steps with your leftover materials if you want to make a bouquet.



A vibrant blue background features a white, stylized cloud shape in the center. Behind the cloud, a purple protractor is positioned on the left, and a fan of colorful pencils (blue, green, red, purple, yellow, orange, pink, and grey) is fanned out on the right. The text "Finger Friends Activity" is written in a black serif font across the middle of the cloud.

Finger Friends Activity

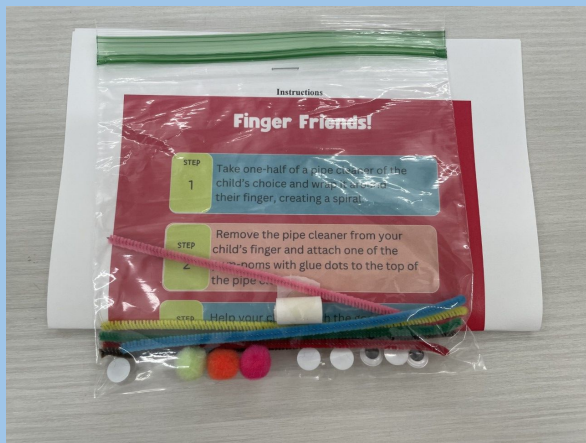
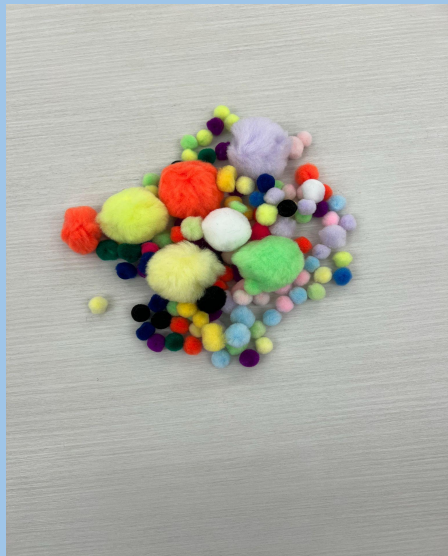
Finger Friends Activity

Our family engagement activity was finger friends. This activity was designed to facilitate positive parental involvement by engaging the parent and child in an activity together. This activity aims to enhance children's fine motor skills; recognition of colors, shapes, textures; and problem-solving skills.



Smart Objectives

- Upon completion of this activity, children will be able to create their own unique “Finger Friends”.
- Upon completion of this activity, children will be able to identify the different colors, shapes, and textures of items used for the “Finger Friends”.



Obstacle Course Adventure

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Goals

- Engage multiple levels of development (gross/fine motor, social/emotional, self-help, cognition, and language)
- Wide range use
 - Target age as well as parents, friends, and siblings of other ages and abilities
- Exposure to a variety of skin tones and disabilities

SMART Objectives

1. Upon completion of this activity children will follow instructions to complete the obstacle course.
2. Upon completion of this activity children will perform at least two of the skills showcased on the cards.



**THROW A
BALL**

Break



SING

Break



ZIG ZAG

Action



TIP TOE

Action



HAPPY FACE



ANGRY FACE

Break

Smell the flower



Blow the pinwheel



**BELLY
BREATHS**

Break



CLAP

Break



**MAKE A
WISH**

Break



STOMP

Action



**ONE-FOOT
JUMP**

Action



**TREE
POSE**

Break



**BUILD A
TOWER**

Break

Materials

- Brown Paper Bags
- Chalk
- Foam Blocks
- Plastic Ball
- 12 Cards
 - Printed front/back on Cardstock
- Instructions
 - Printed front/back on Cardstock
 - Includes Extra Obstacle Ideas

A decorative border of colorful handprints in red, blue, yellow, and green, arranged in a repeating pattern around the edges of the page.

How to Play Obstacle Adventures

1. Place cards about 3-4 ft apart "Break" activity side up
 - a. You can use any number of cards, wherever you have space!
2. Add extra items at necessary obstacles
 - a. Ex: Put the blocks by the "Build a tower" card, use the chalk outside to add extra games, etc
3. Stand at the first card and complete the "Break" activity
4. Flip the card over and use the action listed to get to the next card!
5. Play until tired!

This activity is designed to be completely adaptable to you and your child's abilities, time, and space. Add or subtract, play inside or outside, play together or take turns! Enjoy these Obstacle Adventures!

A decorative border of colorful handprints in red, blue, yellow, and green, arranged in a repeating pattern around the edges of the page.

Extra Ideas!

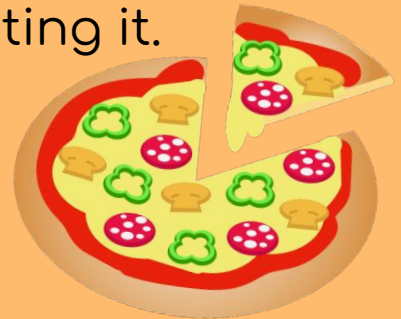
- Make more emotion faces! Include sadness, fear, or disgust.
- Use cushions or pillows as stepping stones to the next obstacle.
- Play the floor is lava and balance on various items throughout the space.
- Roll to the next obstacle.
- Make animal sounds together.
- Use the chalk to connect obstacles outside or add your own.
- Climb under or over chairs.
- Throw balls into a basket or box.
- Practice taking off and putting on a jacket or mittens.
- Pretend a carpet or rug is water and have your student "swim" through it.
- Use ribbon, twine, or streamers to make a laser course.
- Throw a blanket or sheet across two chairs to make a tunnel.

PIZZA PARTY ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This activity is called Pizza Party: Make Your Own Pizza. It will contribute to pre-school child development and parental engagement by identifying shapes and communicating favorite pizza toppings.

The goal is to enhance the child's ability to identify shapes and to be creative with their family. With creative engagement, this activity will learn how to describe their favorite toppings and communicate that with their families while demonstrating it.

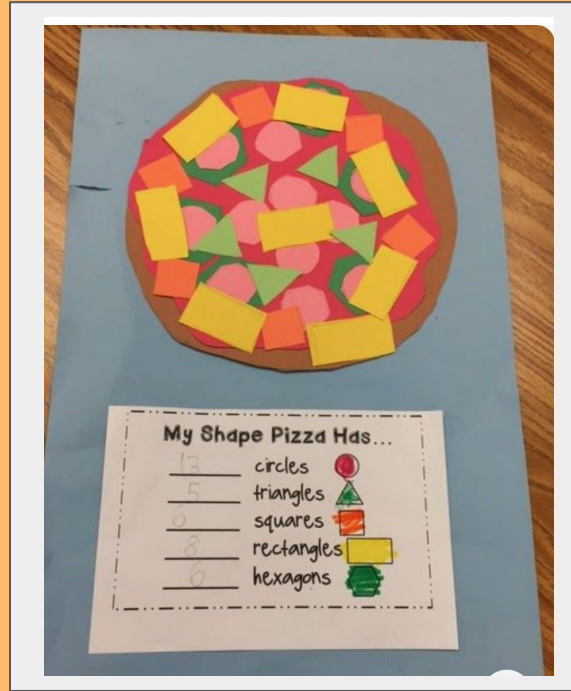


S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

1. Upon completion of this activity your child will be able to identify five different shapes.
2. Upon completion of this activity parents and children will have talked with each other about foods and flavors that they like and dislike.

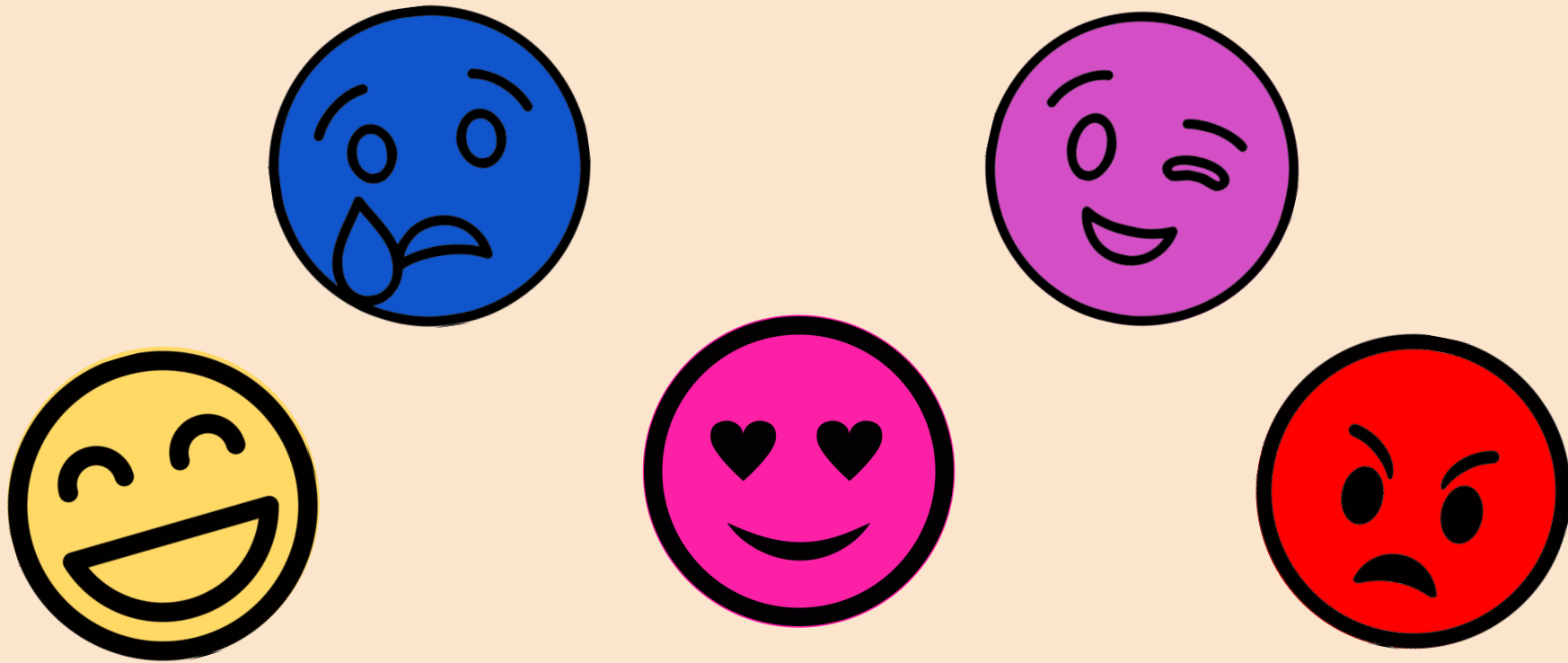


PHOTOS



Materials used:

Glue sticks, plain construction paper, construction paper of pre cut shapes, paper instructions, and plastic baggies



Emotion Flip Book Activity

Activity Description



The *overall goal* for our activity, was for children to **begin to be able to recognize and identify emotions.** Along with having the ability to understand **the ways the different emotions make a person, like themselves, feel.**

During this activity the child and parents/guardians were instructed to go through a booklet we created with six different emotion facial expressions, and then **talk through each emotion together**, while also then physically tracing the faces with the materials given.

S.M.A.R.T. Objectives

1. **Emotional skills:** Upon completion of this activity, your child will be able to identify six basic emotions (Happy, Sad, Scared, Love, Mad, Sleepy).
2. **Communication skills:** Upon completion of this activity, your child will be able to communicate basic emotions using sentences like, “Today I feel...” and “I feel _____ when...”



Materials

- Dry Erase Marker
- Paper Towel
- Laminated Flip Book
- Paper Instructions



EMOTIONS FLIP-BOOK

Step-by-Step Instructions
A Way Children Learn About Emotions

Steps 1-2:

1. Take the Booklet and dry erase marker out of the Ziploc bag and lay them out on a flat surface.
2. Open the booklet with your child, flip through each page, and read out the different emotions with your child before beginning to use the dry erase marker.

Steps 3-4:

3. Take the pages off of the binder ring and lay them all out in front of your child.
4. Do one page at a time, front and back, and let your child trace the dotted lines

Step 5:

5. When the face is traced, talk your child through each emotion that's written/shown on the page. Then have them repeat the name of the emotion/feeling after you.

Steps 6-8:

6. After identifying the emotion, talk through the color that is associated with that emotion and ask your child what makes them feel that emotion and/or feeling.
7. The booklet is complete when all of the faces are traced.
8. After the faces are traced, the booklet is complete.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Samples + Example Questions

Questions for Happy

- "What makes you happy?"
- "Tell me something that happened today that made you smile?"
- "What face do you make that shows you're happy?"

Questions for Sad

- "What makes you sad?"
- "When you're sad do you cry?"
- "Tell me something that is happening when you feel sad."
- "What face do you make when you're sad?"

Questions for Love

- "What do you love?"
- "Who do you love?"
- "Do you like to do something a lot?"

Questions for Mad

- "What makes you mad?"
- "What happens when you get mad?"
- "What face do you make when you're mad?"

Questions for Scared

- "What makes you scared?"
- "Is there something at home that makes you scared?"
- "What face do you make when you're scared?"

Questions for Sleepy

- "What makes you so sleepy and tired?"
- "Are you okay with having a naptime?"
- "What face do you make when you're sleepy?"

