Supercharge Learning & Playing at Home.

week 01/12

Activity sheets for 5-8yr olds
Activity 1
No-Look Drawing

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Activity 3
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Activity 4
Guess the Meaning

Activity 5
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No-Look Drawing
~60 minute activity

A great project to help knock down creative barriers and get kids into an experimental state of mind through drawing an object or face without looking at their drawing paper.

How it works:

1. Sit down at the table and place the object you are going to draw in front of you or you could try drawing each other’s faces!

2. Fix your eyes on the outline of the object (or focus on the details of the other person’s face). The trick here is to look at everything as lines. At the same time as you are tracing the contours of the object (or face) with your eyes, start tracing the lines slowly with the pencil on the paper. For example, if you’re drawing a face, look at the eyelids, see the way they curve then draw that. Repeat the same process with the bottom of the eye and so on.

3. Don’t worry if you make mistakes at first and most importantly don’t worry about perfection, the objective here is to let your creativity roam free and see what it comes up with.

Tips & Tricks: If your child is older, you can do the activity only by asking them to draw without raising their pencil.

If you are busy or your kid is an only child, this is a great activity for them to do over video-call with grandparents or friends!
Digital tree detective

~120 minute activity

One of the best ways to learn about something is to see and experience it, often reading and seeing pictures of something is less effective for long term memory. When out in the park it’s always a good opportunity to learn the names of trees and how to identify them, but without that opportunity, we have a project that is almost as good! This is a great challenge you can set for your child to find real trees using the internet!

The challenge is to find every tree from the list in Google Street View! Use the internet to find out how to recognise the tree, the areas they might be located, and go hunting!

How it works:

1. Print or write out the list of trees. You can pick any you like from anywhere in the world, here are some suggestions: Oak Tree, Sycamore, Redwood, Baobab, Cactus, London Plane, Maple Tree, Cherry Blossom.

2. Start researching!

• To use google street view, open maps.google.com and drag the little yellow man onto a street, then use the mouse to look around, you can zoom in on views as well!

• Use the document to keep track of all the links used for researching where to find the trees and the locations! (if copying the full URL in street view it will save the position as well)

3. Present the results. Make sure to include what was easy, what was hard, and how you were able to find them!

Tips & Tricks:

• Older children can complete this activity independently. Younger children will need a little parental support.

• This is not an easy thing to do! If you’re finding it frustrating, try pretending you’re a detective trying to crack a really difficult case.

• It can be much easier to identify the tree if you draw or write down exactly what you’re looking for. Keeping a physical reference as well as a digital one is really helpful!

• This is an exercise in how to find things online. If you are thinking about doing coding in the future, this is probably the best skill you will need!

• For a deeper dive into the earth’s fauna and history, we recommend checking Google Earth’s Voyager function where you can find curated virtual trips around the world on themes such as Earth’s Keynote Species, Natural Wonders and more!

You'll need:
A computer
Word processor (Google Doc, Microsoft Word)
Internet access
Chlorophyll Photography
~60 minute activity

Want to learn more about the science behind how leaves decay and why chlorophyll is so important to plants? Then this awesome science & art activity is perfect for you!

This activity combines photography with biology to help kids develop their creativity while learning more about chlorophyll.

Learn about the science of how leaves decay by using it to make art! You’ll need a sheet of acetate, and a permanent marker (or a printer that can print on acetate) or even better an image negative!

How it works:

1. Take one of your acetate sheets and put it over your leaf of choice. Take the scissors and cut around the outline of the sheet. This is to ensure that your drawing will not be bigger than the leaf

2. Take one of your acetate sheets and your black sharpie and choose something to draw that you’d like to have imprinted on the leaf. It can be your favourite animal, a flower, the sun or anything else. Make sure your drawing fits on the leaf!

3. Once you are done drawing, place the acetate sheet over the leaf. Take out the glass sheets from the photo frames (don’t worry, we’ll put them back later!) and place the leaf with the acetate sheet between them. Make sure they are really pressed together to ensure better exposure and a crisper image!

4. Put in direct sunlight for 24 hours after which you can check back to see if the image has imprinted on the leaf. You can also experiment with different intensities of sunlight - how does the image look when sunlight is more or less intense?

You'll need:
A couple of leaves - the bigger & broader the better (e.g.: spinach, maple or oak)!
Acetate Sheets - you can find them on Amazon for super cheap - or a piece of paper that is very thin and transparent.
Black Sharpie
Scissors
Tape or 2 photo frames
Sunlight

TL;DR: Chlorophyll makes plants green. It’s basically a group of green pigments used by organisms that convert sunlight into energy via photosynthesis - like plants. Plants use chlorophyll to trap energy from the sun. Without this energy, plants would be unable to initiate the process of photosynthesis, which converts water and carbon dioxide into starches that plants can use for food.

Tips & Tricks: If you don’t have photo frames around the house, tape works too! Place the leaf with the acetate sheet on top on a board or plate and then tape them securely together using clear tape. This will ensure they are tightly pressed together for better exposure.
Guess the meaning

~60 minute activity

This is a fun activity to do with the whole family on game night that also helps children develop their vocabulary and creativity.

How it works

1. Give some papers and a pencil for each player. If you want to keep score when playing this game, start a scorecard on one of the pieces of paper or in a notebook.

2. Decide each turn which player will be the ‘Word Master’. The ‘Word Master’ will be the one that chooses the word for the turn.

3. Each round, the Word Master chooses an obscure word from the dictionary. The chosen word should be one that the Word Master expects no other player to know. If a word has more than one definition, the Word Master chooses which one to use and specifies it. For example, if you chose the word “Crane”, you could say: “Another definition of the word “Crane”, when it doesn’t mean a bird.

4. Each player has to write a creative and credible definition of the word, write their initials and give their piece of paper to the Word Master.

5. The Word Master has to shuffle all the definitions, including their own, which is the correct one.

6. Once all definitions have been handed in, the Word Master reads them aloud, once. On the second reading, each player votes for the definition they believe is correct. Because the Word Master selected the word and knows the definition, they do not vote.

7. Players earn one point for voting the correct definition and one point for each vote given to the definition they wrote (regardless of whether it is correct). The Word Master earns three points if nobody guesses the correct definition.

Tips & Tricks: This is a great game to play with the whole family and can even be done over video conference. However, if you are playing with young kids, try and go for easier words to help the child develop their vocabulary and increase difficulty with time. The purpose of this game is to help them grow their vocabulary & develop their creativity.

You can also team an adult up with the child to help guide them through the gameplay & answer any questions they have.

You'll need:
- Pencils
- Pieces of paper
- A dictionary (both physical and digital will work)
Categories Game

~60 minute activity

The name might be confusing, but this easy to play game can be enjoyed by both the kids and the adults of the family with the added bonus of teaching kids geography, developing their vocabulary and math skills.

How it works:

1. Before you start, prepare your papers for the game. Each letter in the name of the game is the initial of one of the categories: Countries, Towns, Mountains, Waters, Plants, Animals, Names, Total. Your paper should look something like the table below (add another row to your table for each round):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Towns</th>
<th>Mountains</th>
<th>Waters</th>
<th>Plants</th>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Each round requires the players to write a country/town/mountain etc. that start with the same letter. To choose the letter, one player recites the alphabet and the others shout “stop” at a random point. The letter they shout “stop” on is the letter you use for the round. Encourage children to stop on a mix of letters.

3. To play the round, each player has to fill in their grid with a country/town/mountain etc. that starts with the chosen letter. If you can’t think of anything that matches the category and starts with the chosen letter you can skip it.

4. Wait until everyone is finished and add up the scores.

5. If you can’t think of anything that matches the category and starts with the chosen letter you can skip it.

6. The scoring works like this: if you don’t write anything you get 0; if you’re the only one to write something you get 15; if you all write something different you get 10; if you write the same as someone else you get 5. Use the Total column to put in your score (remember to help out the little ones with adding their score up if they need to).

7. Play for as many rounds as you want after which add up the total score and see who the winner is!

Tips & Tricks:

- Don’t worry if your child doesn’t know a lot of answers for the categories at the start. The trick here is to play the game often in order to encourage repetition. After a couple of games, you will notice the child being more and more capable to fill in the answers for themselves.

- You can sneak in more learning to the game by adding in facts about the different categories’ answers at the end of a round.

- You can also add categories or let the children choose the categories to make the game easier or harder to play! Plus, you can also enjoy this as a game to play over a video conference with friends & family.

You’ll need:

- Paper to write on for each player
- Pencil
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