Stanislaus County
Office of
Education

Child/Family Services

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Learning with "Fast Food" Throw-Aways

Resource & Referral Handout

PUPPET POP-UPS

Materials: Large fry holder, straw, styrofoam ball or other small ball. (You could even use a large radish or a crushed piece of tinfoil.)

Procedure: Make a small hole in the bottom of the holder to stick a straw up through. Place a ball on the top of the straw for a head.

Activity: Children raise and lower the straw to make their person "appear" and "disappear".

TERRARIUM

Materials: Ice cream sundae cup with a lid, dirt, moss or small seedlings, some small figures or pieces of bark or rocks. (I just use small weeds from my flower beds.)

Activity: Help your children spoon 3 to 4 tablespoons of dirt into the cup. Have them plant a few weeds or grass seeds. Decorate with a small figure or piece of wood if you have them available (not necessary). Next, have your children water their plants with one tablespoon of water and then place their lid on and secure it tightly. Voila! A Terrarium!
Have your children place their terrariums in a sunny spot and let them watch their plants grow. Children especially enjoy watching the terrarium rewater itself.

BAND PUPPET

Materials: Large fry holder, straw, black pen.

Procedure: Carefully open up a fry holder. Draw a face in the middle of the inside side. You can also draw on a bill and some pom poms on her hat. Next, fold down the shoulders and cut two slits sideways in the middle. Stick a straw up through the slits for a handle. (You could tape the straw on the back if you prefer.)

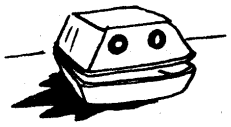
Activity: Children could hold up the puppets as they march around the room.

COUNTING FRIES

Materials: Large fry holder, yellow sponge, knife.
Procedure: Cut a clean yellow sponge into long, skinny, rectangles.

Activity: Let your children count how many french fries will fit into the holder. Children could also use this as a creative dramatics prop – playing restaurant worker.

BIG MOUTH PUPPET

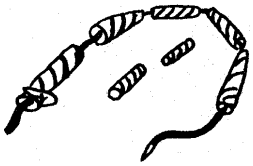


Materials: Styrofoam hamburger holder, black pen.

Procedure: Cut off the fastener tabs and draw on some eyes and a mouth with a black marking pen.

Activity: Children place the two halves together and then hold them together by clamping their fingers on the back of the holder. By opening and closing their fingers, your children can make the "Big Mouth" puppet talk.

STRINGING STRAWS



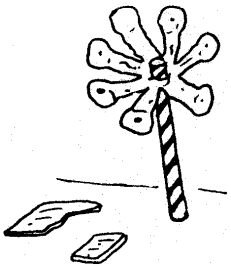
Materials: Straws, scissors, yarn and tape.

Procedure: Help your child cut the straw into 5 or 6 sections. Wrap a small piece of tape onto the end of a 14" length of yarn. Tie a section of straw on the other end or else clamp it with a clothespin.

Activity: Using the taped end of the yarn for a needle, have your children string the straw sections onto the yarn.

Procedure: When your child is finished stringing, tie the two ends of the yarn together, making a necklace.

STYROFOAM FLOWERS



Materials: One-half of a styrofoam hamburger holder, straw and scissors.

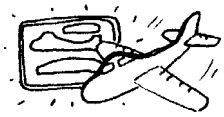
Procedure: Cut apart the two halves of a hamburger holder.

Activity: Have your children cut from the outside of the holder in towards the center.
(Have them stop about ¼" from the center.) Have them cut in – all the way around the holder – making 8 to 12 petals.

Procedure: Place the cut holders on a cookie sheet and set in preheated oven at 350 degrees.
Leave the door open for your children to watch. Be sure to have them stand back.
In a few seconds the sections will curl one way and then the other. Before they flatten out, pull them from the oven.
Poke a small hole in the center of the flower and insert a straw for a stem. You can slit the top end of the straw if you wish and then bend the cut sections back to resemble the center of a flower.

CAUTION: When heating plastic, be sure the area is well ventilated and that children stand far back from the heat source.
Children with severe respiratory or allergy disorders should avoid the area completely.

MODEL PLANES



Materials: Styrofoam lids from breakfast holders.

Procedure: Draw on and cut out the side view of an airplane and the top view of two wing sections (as shown). Cut two slits in the side of the airplane.

Activity: Have your children slide the wing sections into the plane. Planes can be flown outside or inside. Why not have a plane race with a friend?

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Ideas for the "Totline" Parent Flyers are taken from back issues of the "Totline" Activity Newsletter
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