University of Mary Department of Education Lesson Plan (with ECE adjustments)

SOLAR

Age Level: Infant/Toddler (18 to 24 months)

Subject(s) Area: Sensory, Fine motor, and Language development

Materials Needed:

-Rice

-Food coloring

-Several small containers/buckets

-Plastic Farm animals

**Standards:**

Relationships with Other Children

Begins to recognize and respond to children’s feelings and emotions

Communicating and Speaking

Uses sounds, signs or words for a variety of purposes

Uses consistent sounds, gestures, and words to communicate

Exploration and Discovery

Uses senses to explore people, objects, and the environment

Attends to colors, shapes, patterns, or pictures

Memory

Searches for missing or hidden objects

**Objectives:**

Students will explore their sensory development while playing with the rice.

Students will recognize and say colors of the rice and possibly animals.

Students will recognize and identify the various animals and their noises.

**Learning Activities:**

1. I will place the buckets of rice at the table.
   1. Already have a few animals (or really any object you wanted) already placed and hidden in the bucket so that the students have to find them.
2. Invite the students, a few at a time, over to the table to play with the activity.
   1. Explain that there are several buckets and they should try to find the animals or objects in the buckets.
   2. Have students select a bucket to start with. (What color are you going to play in?)
3. Ask the children to dig and find the animals.
   1. You may have to model and show the children how to look for the objects.
   2. Dig and move the rice and then tell them to try.
4. Hold the animal and tell the children to identify the animal and ask them what sound the animals make.
5. Have the children help pick up the activity.
   1. Can you put the rice back in the bucket? (correct color)
   2. Either have them take out all the animals or hide them again for next time.

**Reflective Questions:**

What color is that?

What noise does that animal make?

Can you bury that animal?

Uh oh where did it go? Can you find the animal?

What does that feel like/Do you like that feeling?

**Vocabulary Words:**

**-**Rice

-Various animals (rooster, horse, cow, etc.)

-Dig

-Bury/hide

**Assessment:**

Observation and participation will be the main form of assessment. The teacher will need to monitor the student’s ability to respond to questions about the animal and the noises they make. Also being conscious of student’s ability to share and play with others.

**Reflection:**

This lesson taught me a lot and didn’t go quite as I had planned. My plan was to have a few of the children come over at a time, sort of like a rotation, but the children just came over as they wanted. Some of the students seemed very interested while others didn’t really want to play. The children did really well at answering and responding to the questions about identifying the animals, the sounds they make, and the colors of the rice. I thought this activity would be mainly about colors and animals but it turned into a social-emotional activity. I only had three buckets of rice with animals hidden in them. One issue I had right away was that each child wanted their own bucket to play in so there were a lot of issues with sharing, which turned into fighting, and then biting. Mrs. Bassingthwaite shared a great idea with me where you have a small bowl for each of the children to play in. I think this would’ve been really helpful and improved the activity. It was neat to see how much the students like to explore and discover with the rice. We had a few issues with keeping the rice in the bucket or on the table. I think I should have identified more rules and maybe directions about keeping the rice in the bucket. I think that doing any sensory activity is going to be a little messy, but I should have been more proactive about how the students would react. I also think I would want to consider what other toys they could use. For example a few of the students brought their spoons from their kitchen set over and they loved picking up the rice with it and dumping. I think incorporating additional materials would be really fun and allow them to explore. Overall I really liked the idea of this activity because you can incorporate many different objects and materials so there are a lot of options. I think the children really enjoyed the activity and like that it was hands on. If I did this again I would want to be more aware of how my students would be able to handle the activity and maybe work on other activities that incorporate sharing and taking turns before this activity. This activity didn’t go exactly as I planned because I overlooked the set up, so next time I would definitely consider this aspect and also be more aware of the students in my class.