



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 42 to 48 Months

Colorful Caterpillars

This fun and easy caterpillar activity focuses on the basic element of color. While making a beautiful caterpillar, children learn primary colors and how they mix to create secondary colors through hands-on experience.

Materials:

- Pipe cleaners
- String or yarn for hanging
- Poster Board
- Liquid watercolor paints or food coloring in red, blue, and yellow
- Wiggly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sponges

What to do:

1. Introduce the child to books about insects and caterpillars. Encourage him to be a scientist by planning a hike to look for caterpillars and their habitats. Talk about the life of a caterpillar and how caterpillars turn into butterflies. Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.
2. Cut out five to ten circles from the poster board to create the caterpillar's body.
3. Set out cardboard circles, sponges, and liquid watercolor paints or food coloring.
4. Invite the child to choose one color and stamp several circles with that color. Allow the paint to dry. While these circles are drying, have the child choose another color and stamp the other circles. Allow these to dry.
5. Encourage the child to overlap the circle with another primary color once it's dry. (Example: Cover a yellow circle with blue and watch the color green emerge.) Talk with the child about the new color. Encourage him to make predictions. What happens when you mix blue and red? What about red and yellow? See if the children's predictions are correct.
6. Encourage the child to keep overlapping colors until he gets the effect he likes.
7. Help the child assemble the circles to make a caterpillar body by overlapping the circles slightly and gluing.
8. Cut the pipe cleaners to make antennae and have the child glue them to the head of the caterpillar along with two wiggly eyes.
9. Punch a hole in the caterpillar's body and display.

