

StrongStart BC Pilot Program: Week 16 Activity Examples

1. Example submission: (Click on image for link to 2 page PDF)

APPETITE TO PLAY

Earth Day

What do you see in the photo?
What is happening?

The enclosed photos show our Earth Day activities throughout the weeks. These were presented in multiple ways to encourage families to recycle, ways to conserve water, discover our garden insects, plant wild seeds (indoors) sunflower seeds (outdoors), and reading books related to our earth.

Why do you think this activity is important
What does it represent?

It is important that children are guided onto a path of environmental responsibility, enabling them to grow into mindful adults while fostering empathy and accountability for the world around them. It all starts with us, the adults, setting a daily example.







Meeting our garden friends.



Grauer StrongStart and Outreach Blundell - SD33

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2. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

During our StrongStart gym time we were working on some gross motor physical activities that were child led.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

Physical activity helps children developed hand eye coordination, confidence, learning cause and effect and build social and emotional skills.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

Was amazing to watch children developed their own circuit routine by just providing materials. Parents were amazing how the children coordinated where they would start and whose turn it was. We provided a separate area for the under 3's.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

Would build on it by suggesting to the children we add a bouncing, balancing and catching station to their gross motor activity circuit.

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3. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

In this photo 3 children are balancing and shimmying along a curb and railing. On this particular day, due to things happening around our school, our usual outdoor space was not accessible to us. I am always fascinated to observe how flexible children are and how they adapt and display natural curiosity in new spaces. This curb and railing seemed to call out to the children to balance and shimmy!

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

This activity represents children's natural curiosity and ability to explore. This opportunity in a new space with few teachers set up provocations seemed to naturally provide a gift of time for children to explore with no apparent adult objective or provocation. This child led exploration led to joyful movement that included balancing, side movements, hand/foot coordination etc.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

This activity worked well as children were excited to join their friends exploring the railing and curb. Most children eagerly joined in the opportunity to use balance, spatial awareness etc.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

While this space is not our "usual" outdoor exploration space we may re visit this space and encourage children to create an obstacle course of which this balancing could be a part of.

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4. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

We started out playing the throw and catch with scarves activity on appetite to play. We started throwing them in the air and catching them then it expanded into some tied together then we kept tying them together to make long lines and the kids loved running around the gym with them.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

This activity is important because it is facilitating active play and gross motor skills concentrating on running and pulling at the same time.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

Throwing the scarves in the air got boring after a couple of minutes, I tried showing the children how to attempt to juggle with 2 but for some the hand eye coordination was a little tough and discouraging.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I will try again because the development of hand eye coordination is very important and several of them struggled with it.

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5. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

With the beautiful weather we are spending more of our day outside in our playground. after winter we need to "paint" our building using bubble paint (food coloring, water and soap).

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

We talked about taking care of our environment on earth day. this also includes taking care of our physical buildings. It is great to start children young learning to "spring clean".

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

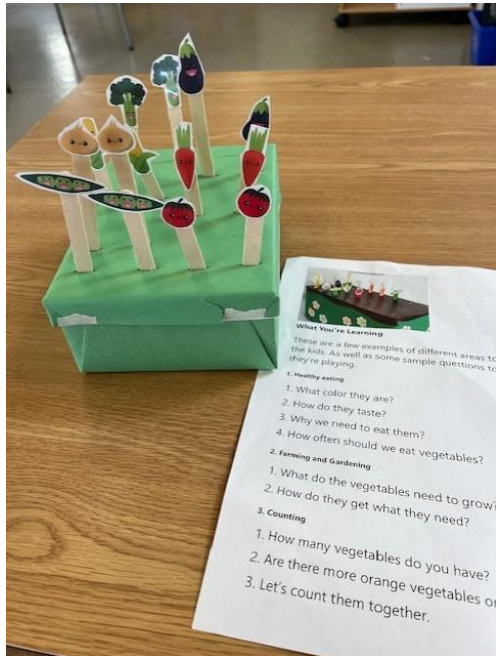
I added chalk as well but it made the building kind of messy looking. the next day we didn't take the chalk out and they had fun cleaning
I get asked now for Paint when we are outside.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

Nothing to really change.

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6. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

The veggie garden game. this is from our spring planting week this is a game that the children played with their caregiver.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

It provided questions/ ideas that helped the caregivers chat about and learn their child's feelings thoughts around veggies.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

Worked well, the parents did comment that it was a bit small but they had fun with it .

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

In the future I would make it more the size of a shoe box.

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7. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

A child is eating the recipe yum bite bars off the appetite to play website.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

It is a good recipe to showcase healthy eating.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

The recipe is correct if you do not let them cool completely they are very crumbly so we just ate them with a fork because I didn't have time for them to cool completely.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I will allow them more time to cool they were still very delicious either way.

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8. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

In this photo, you can see that we have a one person trampoline in our StrongStart classroom!

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

It is so important for children to always have lots of opportunity to work on their gross motor coordination, balance, and strength. It's important as educators to provide them these opportunities in all of their environments. Children also need this for self regulation or a body break...

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

This activity has been amazing. You do need enough space within your classroom to provide a safe bouncing space. I put a soft mat underneath just in case somebody were to fall and I need to make sure that only one child is bouncing at a time.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I will continue to provide this activity every day for the children's use. This will be a great tool for them to use for so many different developmental needs.

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9. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

Here the kids are using egg cartons to paint and decorate with glitter and attach a pipe cleaner stem to make flowers.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

It demonstrates how much fun can be had with everyday household items.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

It worked well because the kids had so much fun decorating and choosing their colours and decorations.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I would make sure all the parents know we are doing a messy activity ahead of time and to bring backup clothes or to wear clothes they don't mind getting messy.

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10. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

A two-year-old is stretching as tall as she can, up on tippy toes, balancing as she squirts water on the painted easel.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

This activity was important because it encouraged the children to use their whole bodies, balancing, engaging large muscles, strengthening fingers, using eye/hand co-ordination, but in a small space within the classroom. It represents independent, open ended, tactile play. It is exciting because of the cause and effect of the water spray.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

This activity was a lot of fun. It supported social/emotional development by giving the children the space to self regulate. It would work better if the spray bottles were easier to grip on to.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I will put paper on the easel and water colour paint into the spray bottles.

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11. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

In Terrace, when the sun is out, you make going outside a priority. Take time to notice your shadow, and the shapes you can make with your body. You are never alone when you play with your shadow!

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

This simple mindful activity can be done anywhere. It helps learners gain increased self-awareness, authenticity, creativity, and perhaps a better sense of self when you capture it in a picture. It is cause-and-effect play and helps bring attention to spatial awareness.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

Shadows are all around us in the right light. Use them as a teachable moment. We made large movements, skipped along, and made funny shapes with our bodies. We jumped over high tires watching each others' shadows bounce as well.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I want to look for shadows in nature and ask the children to take their own pictures of shadows they find interesting.

Later, I can make them into picture cards and children can make a guessing game. "What is the shadow?"

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12. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

This is a collage of pictures of children and their adult's collecting garbage littered around the school grounds. The children used tongs to collect the garbage.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

This activity is so very important for children to know we are all responsible for taking care of our mother Earth. It is important for caregivers also to know that everyone can help no matter the age. Children are learning social responsibility, fine motor skills, and getting fresh air and gross motor movement.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

Every time I do this the children love collecting and cleaning the school grounds. They are always amazed at how much mess is around the grounds. The tongs were challenging for some of the younger friends, but they still managed. I even had a grandma with her grandbaby help collect the garbage.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I would like to continue to practice cleaning up more often not just for Earth Day. In fact, we did it the next day again.

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13. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

This week the sensory table featured feeding the birds.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

The birds were connected to clothes pins. The activity encouraged the children to use their pincher grip to pick up the worms with the birds.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

The activity worked well for the older children. it was more difficult for the younger ones to pick up the worms, so they would make the birds talk.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I would build on this activity by going on a nature walk to find the birds.

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14. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

Various activities are set up in the gym for the children.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

When we go to the gym I try to provide opportunities for children to practice a variety of physical skills using simple gym equipment. Today there was a tunnel (crawling), balance beam with mat (balancing/crawling/jumping), bowling pins (rolling/throwing/balancing the pins), scooter boards (balance) and balls (throwing/catching). As well, we played the Little Ponies game, in which we moved like various animals.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

The children were able to move amongst the activities at will, staying longer at those that captured their interest and challenged them at their level.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I'd like to find something that the children can climb, adding another skill to practice.

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15. Example submission:



What do you see in the photo? What is happening?

A child is playing with items on the light table. He was placing all of the little acrylic and wood pieces on a tray, running his fingers through them, then dumping them all and repeating the process.

Why do you think this activity is important? What does it represent?

When I set up a centre or provocation in the classroom, I don't know how a child will choose to use it. Generally, I try to set them up to work in numerous ways. In this case, I had included a book and information about pollinators; toy flowers, bees and butterflies; and various types of sorting trays. This little guy used the pieces sensorily, and it helped him regulate.

What worked well or didn't work well in this activity?

I liked that the activity was open-ended enough to be used sensorily, for sorting, for imaginative play, to learn about pollinators, or another way that I can't anticipate.

How will you adjust or build on this activity moving forward?

I am planning on changing out the light table activity, but I will need to ensure that I still have a selection of sensory activities available for this child and others.