

Passports™: Experiences for Pre-K Success – String E-Z Planner

Take Home Opportunities

A sampling of learning experiences, that provide ways to connect and engage families in the topic of study.

Skill and Concept Focus

An easy way to see a sample of learning experiences that focus on colors, shapes, numbers, and/or letters.

Subtheme 1: Types of String

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
String Painting Instructions	13
Soccer Video	13
Paint "Brushes"	16
Hay Creations	16
Pattern Prints	17

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
String-ing	12				
Where in the World?	13				
Number Line	15				
All About Me	17				
Straight and Round	18				

Subtheme 2: Different Types of String Have Different Purposes

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
Book Binding	26
Family Flags	30
Basket Stamping	30
Purposeful Strings	30
Color Scheme	31

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
How Do You Measure Up?	24				
Kick, Kick, Kicking	27				
Park Mural	27				
Gift Shop	28				
Gone Fishing	29				
Family Flags	30				

Subtheme 3: String Can Be Used In Artistic Ways

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
Pluck Those Strings	39
Over and Under	43
Candle Creations	43
String Collage	44
Wire Sculptures	44

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
Tuned In	40				
Retelling With Props	41				
Highlighting	41				
Pretty Patterns	42				
Sew . . . A Needle Pulling Thread	42				
Counting Candles	43				

Subtheme 4: String Can Be Fun

Take Home Opportunities

Learning Experience	Page Number
String Kites	57
Paint Ball	58
String Sculpture	58
Found Material Mobile	59
Personalized	59

Skill and Concept Focus

Learning Experience	Page Number	Colors	Shapes	Numbers	Letters
Bubble Challenge	53				
Sssilly Sstring	54				
Basket Ball	54				
Change the Game	55				
Balloon Sort	56				
String Kites	57				

Supercenter Ideas

What are Supercenters?

Supercenters are elaborate centers for play and exploration that inspire deeper investigation of a topic. To expand an area into a Supercenter, choose materials that add complexity, variety, and choices of things to do for discovery and dramatic play.

Subtheme 1: Types of String

Gather several large picture frames (11" x 14" or 16" x 18") and remove the glass. In lieu of glass, cut pieces of chicken wire or wire mesh with large holes and anchor the pieces onto the backs of the frames with heavy tape or hot glue. Provide different types of string (ribbon, yarn, embroidery thread, raffia, wire, etc.) for children to weave. After children weave in the frames, leave their weavings to be built upon and encourage others to add to the works of art. When this center has been exhausted and children have had ample time to participate in the weaving, display the string art for all to enjoy!

Subtheme 2: Different Types of String Have Different Purposes

Locate several toy fishing rods (the type that do not have an actual hook) and affix a magnet to the end of the line (some children's games that use fishing rods come with magnets attached). Locate matching sets of small pictures of a variety of fish, preferably photographs. Glue the pictures onto medium-sized index cards. Write the name of the fish on them, emphasizing the first letter of the word. Attach a magnet strip to the index card and lay them in a small empty wading pool with the magnet side up. You can choose to put the magnet on the picture side or keep the picture hidden by placing the magnet on the blank side. If the pictures are hidden, the center can become a Concentration game. Children will enjoy going fishing and will simultaneously work on letter recognition and matching skills.

Subtheme 3: String Can Be Used In Artistic Ways

Children love to play with instruments. Provide a variety of string instruments for children to explore. (Also consider providing materials in this center for children to create their own instruments.) Gather a toy guitar, a child's piano, and any other string instruments that you or parents can contribute for exploration. Add a CD player with string music to the center so children can listen to and try to guess which instruments are making the sounds. Place labeled photographs of various string instruments around this center.

Subtheme 4: String Can Be Fun

Children's use of puppets kindles their imaginations. They will enjoy creating a class puppet theater in which they can use marionettes (string puppets). When using marionettes, it is helpful to have a larger opening in your puppet theater set closer to the floor. Use a large piece of tri-fold display board (available at office supply stores) to create the front of the theater. After you cut an opening, children will enjoy decorating the outside and setting the scene for the show. Purchase a second display to act as the backdrop for the theater. Children may want to decorate the backdrop as well. When children use the marionettes, they will need to stand on an elevated surface behind the backdrop to perform their shows. Assist children with how to use the marionettes until they feel comfortable; most preschool children have not used string puppets.