Week of April 6th - 10th: Geometric Solids

This week’s suggested activities are inspired by a sensorial material called ‘Geometric Solids.’ The purpose of this material is to refine the child’s stereognostic sense and to prepare for future lessons in geometry. Please note: these suggestions are not intended for direct teaching or “homework.” Rather, they are ideas to implement if the parent is excited and the child is interested.

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<td>With your child, make a list of ingredients to make playdough (see recipe on page 2). While writing, use cursive articulating the phonetic sound of each letter. An older child will be able to make the list him/her using invented spelling. If you feel up to it, play the game suggested for Friday.</td>
<td>Make playdough with your child, letting him/her do as much of the task as s/he is capable of doing. Only help with the hardest part of the task. Enjoy your homemade playdough!</td>
<td>Using playdough made the previous day, model for your child how to shape an ovoid. Compare the shape to an egg. Give your child an ovoid challenge: how many ovoids can s/he create with playdough? Discuss the relative sizes using comparatives and superlatives: “This is bigger”; “This is the biggest!”</td>
<td>Research (on your own) the difference between an ellipsoid and ovoid. Have a conversation with your child about the difference. Using your homemade playdough, make several ellipsoids and ovoids. Count them!</td>
<td>Play a stereognostic game. Select several small items from around your house (example: spoon, cork, ball). Place them close together and cover them with a scarf. Demonstrate what to do - put both your hands under the scarf, feel one of the objects all around. Before you take it out, name it (“I think this is a spoon!”). Take turns to play. Invite your child to switch out the objects and play again!</td>
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Additional activities for extended day children: Practice writing, in cursive, the names of all the geometric solids (see page 3), creating different geometric solids with playdough, finding objects around the house which are a similar shape to the geometric solids.
Colored Playdough

Materials

- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- Food coloring (blue, if you want to match the color of the geometric solids)
- Saucepan
- 1 cup flour

Directions

1. Combine water, oil, salt, cream of tartar, and food coloring in a saucepan and heat until warm.
2. Remove from heat and add flour.
3. Stir, then knead until smooth. The cream of tartar makes this dough last 6 months or longer.
4. Store this dough in an airtight container or a Ziploc freezer bag.
Geometric Solids

Ellipsoid  Cube  Triangular-Based Pyramid  Square-Based Pyramid  Cone

Rectangular Prism  Triangular Prism  Cylinder  Sphere  Ovoid