Language Nest Activities

**Songs, Chants and Rhymes**

-Repetition is key in language learning: with songs, chants and rhymes, learners will happily repeat language structures many times.

Songs to sing in your language (pick a tune and make up new words):
- *Hokey Pokey*
- *The Farmer in the Dell*
- *Kumbaya*
- *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*
- *Head and Shoulders*
- *Itsy Bitsy Spider*

**Games**

-Games are fun and usually physically active. Games can be used to teach cooperative skills and language. Kids will learn without even knowing they’re learning!

*Simon Says…*
*Snakes and Ladders*
*What Time is it Mr. Wolf?*
*Flashcard Games*
*Spot the difference games*
*Puzzles and blocks*

**Art and Expression**

Children need both free and guided art and craft activities. Drama and art aid in developing self expression and confidence. Materials can be collected and recycled from homes. Gathering some of the natural materials (pine cones and flowers) can also be turned into an outing for the kids:

**Materials:**
- *Paper* (newspapers, construction paper, colored paper, old magazines, tissue paper, wax paper)
- *Paints* (washable)
- *Glue*
- *Sponges* (for printmaking and painting)
- *Ribbons, crepe paper*
- *Scissors*
- *Felt pens*
- *Crayons*
- *Doilies*
- *Aluminum foil*
- *Beads*
- *Yarn*
- *Thread*
- *Macaroni noodles, beans* (make collage and jewelry)
- *Sand/small rocks*
- *Dried grass and flowers*
- *Bark*
- *Pine cones*
- *Containers (yogurt, sour cream, cereal boxes etc to store supplies)*
- *Egg cartons*
Language Nest Activities

Exploring the Natural World
Nature is a great teacher to the very young. By interacting with nature, kids can learn their history, culture and language, as well as gain respect and appreciation for their surroundings.

Nature activities:
Nature walks
I spy...
Animal identification
Art projects with natural materials
Plant rubbings on paper
Water life
Scavenger hunt
Animal tracks

Food
Gathering food was an integral part of all First Nations cultures. Food provides many great language learning opportunities. Daily meal times can include food related conversation, phrases and words, question and answers for offering and accepting/refusing etc. The repetitive nature of meal times also creates a great language learning environment. To get kids out on the land, they can also be brought to traditional food gathering places to gather some of their own (berries for example).

Food Lesson Plan Ideas:
Salmon Lesson
Berry Lesson
Feast Lesson

Snack Ideas:
Apple sauce (homemade)
Ants on a log (celery with peanut butter and raisins on tops)
Berry biscuits
Fruit/berry smoothies
Yogurt popsicles
Peanut butter and jam sandwich cut-outs
Popcorn