

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