

# Creative Resources

## Jigsaw Puzzles

### Materials

Old magazines and posters  
Glue stick  
Cardboard  
Lead pencil  
Lamination sheets

### Method

1. Choose an age group to focus on. Remembering that the older the children the more puzzle pieces you will create.
2. Find a poster or magazine feature that would interest the age group you have chosen.
3. Glue poster/magazine page onto cardboard.
4. Using a lead pencil draw puzzle pieces onto the reverse side of the cardboard.
5. Cut out puzzle pieces.
6. Laminate puzzle pieces.
7. Cut around laminated puzzle pieces ensuring there are no sharp edges.

## Dress - Material and Matching Game

### Materials

Scraps of fabric/material exhibiting a variety of textures  
Scissors  
PVA glue  
Thick cardboard  
Small basket

### Method

1. Cut fabrics into small squares, making two squares of each kind of material.
2. Glue one set of the fabric onto a sheet of cardboard.
3. Place the other set of fabric squares into a small basket.
4. For 3-5 year old children encourage them to select a fabric square from the basket and match it with a fabric square on the cardboard.
5. For children above 5 years place the fabric squares into a surprise bag/pillow case. Encourage the child to explore the fabric squares on the cardboard sheet, then close their eyes, using their senses to find the matching fabric squares within the surprise bag.

## Fit the Lid

### Materials

Collection of lids and small flat items from the kitchen  
Firm cardboard  
Black marker

### Method

1. Spread out each kitchen item onto to the cardboard.
2. Trace around each kitchen item.
3. Encourage children to explore the kitchen items and then find the corresponding outline on the cardboard.

# Creative Resources

## Snap Cards

### Materials

Firm cardboard  
Glue stick  
Textures  
Coloured pencils  
Scissors  
Laminating sheets or clear contact

### Method

1. Cut the cardboard into 5cm x 5cm squares.
2. Draw familiar objects onto the squares ensuring that you have two of the same object.

## Juke Box

### Materials

Shoebbox  
Wrapping paper  
Glue  
Textures  
Cardboard

### Method

1. Cover the shoebbox with wrapping paper.
2. Decorate box with musical notes and write "juke box".
3. On pieces of cardboard write the names of songs that children are familiar with and place inside box.

## Spinner Story Board

### Materials

1 piece of thick cardboard  
Old magazines  
Coloured textures  
Extender clip  
Scissors  
Ruler

### Method

1. Draw a circle the size of a large pizza tray.
2. Divide the circle into six even wedges.
3. In each wedge either draw or paste a magazine picture, which will act as a story prompt.
4. Create a small hole in the middle of the circle (to attach the pointer to).
5. Draw and cut out a small pointer and attach it to the middle of the circle using the extender clip.

# Creative Resources

## Lock and Key Boards

### Materials

Scrap pieces of wood (preferably thick wood & minimum of 30cm x 30cm)  
A variety of household fixtures (i.e. lock & key, tap, latch, light switch etc)  
Sand paper

### Method

1. Using sand paper smooth over wood especially corners.
2. Securely attach household fixtures to wood, remembering to spread them out.

## Action Number Dip

### Materials

20 small cardboard squares  
Textures  
Coloured pencils  
2 small containers

### Method

1. Draw numbers on 10 of the small cardboard squares.
2. Draw different actions on the remaining 10 cards.
3. Put number cards and action cards in two separate containers.
4. Each child takes a card from the action box and a card from the number box and completes the action the required number of times (i.e. if a child picks out the number 5 and an action card with jumping on it, then the child will jump five times).

## Happy Boxes

### Materials

Boxes with lids and handles (washing powder)  
Spray paint  
Toys collections, art supplies etc

### Method

1. Remove plastic handle form the box.
2. Spray the box, let dry, replace the handle.
3. Fill with fun challenging materials that interest the children.
4. Place on tables and floors in the morning or at activity time.

## Pools of Fun

### Materials

A plastic swimming pool  
Art supplies  
Plastic farm, zoo animals  
Plastic dinosaurs  
Balls  
Blocks  
(Anything else you may think is interesting)

### Method

1. Fill the pool with one of the above items.
2. Place in a quiet corner.
3. Change contents frequently.

## Sign in Poster

### Materials

Poster Board  
Whiteboard marker  
Laminating machine  
String/ yarn  
Tape

### Method

1. Print “Sign-in Please” at the top of the poster board.
2. Laminate or clear contact cover it, hang at child’s height.
3. Tie the whiteboard marker to the side.
4. Ask parents and children to sign in each day.

## Morning Match-up

### Materials

Poster card  
Photos of individual children  
Scissor  
Markers

### Method

1. Print “We are Here Today” at the top of the poster board, laminate board for strength.
2. Make name labels of children with photo’s.
3. Ask parents to place on poster board OR
4. Make Name tags up separate to photo’s.
5. Place photos on poster board.
6. Ask parents/ children to match up labels to photos.

## Talking Stick

### Materials

Stick or dowel  
Gold or silver spray paint  
Glue  
Sequins or glitter

### Method

1. Spray the stick with paint, let dry.
2. Decorate with glitter and sequins.
3. Show the children how the “Talking Stick” works – the person with the stick has the opportunity to speak, and everyone else listens until it’s their turn to hold the talking stick.

## Tickets

### Materials

Coloured Paper  
Scissors  
Can with a plastic lid  
Tape

### Method

1. Make up tickets from the coloured paper (similar to bus, train, movie tickets).
2. Decorate the can and cut a slit in the lid.
3. Hand out to children when they arrive, as the clean up.
4. Explain that the tickets are for a special “circle” or “mat” time.
5. Ask children to put the tickets into the can as they come to the circle.

## Concept Song

### Materials

None

### Method

1. Sing the following to the tune of Muffin Man

Do you see the (circle shape)  
The (circle shape), the (circle shape)  
Do you see the (circle shape)  
Somewhere in the room?

2. Choose a child to get up and touch something of that shape and sing

Yes we see the (circle shape)  
The (circle shape), the (circle shape)  
Yes we see the (circle shape)  
Somewhere in the room?

## Sing a Name

### Materials

None

### Method

1. Sing the following to the children who are sitting quietly, or sing to get a child's attention

(To the tune of Row Row Row Your Boat)

How, How, How do you do (Shake child's hand)

(Child's name), how are you

I'm glad to say I'm fine today (point to self)

I hope that you are to (point to child)

(To the Tune of Farmer in the Dell)

We're all here today (clap your hands as you sing)

We're all here today

Lets all clap together

Because we're all here today

(First child's name) is here today

(Second child's name) is here today

(Third child's name) is here today

And (fourth child's name) is here today.)

(To the tune of Where is Thumbkin)

Where is (child's name)

Where is (child's name)

Here I am (child stands and sings)

Here I am (child stands and sings)

How are you today (child's name)?

Very well I thank you (child responds)

Glad you're here

Glad you're here.

## What shall we do Today?

### Materials

A large calendar

### Method

1. Choose a child to point to the date on the calendar (help them if they are too young)
2. Sing the following to the tune of "Mary had a little lamb"

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What shall we do today?  
Do today Do today  
Today is (the day of the week)  
So what shall we do today?

3. Take suggestions from children, then add to the song, singing

We'll (activity e.g. paint today)  
Paint today paint today  
Today is (day of the week)  
And we'll paint.

## References

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<http://www.meerilinga.org.au/children-parenting/parenting-tips>

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