

Artful Stories:

A Preschool Tour Experience at the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Garden

Book

Good Morning, Garden, written by Barbara Brenner, illustrated by Denise Ortakales

Materials

- Storybook
- Picture frame
- Songs/rhymes sheet
- Laminated garden sorting cards
- Felt
- Laminated garden images (from book illustrations)

Lesson

Content Objectives

- Explore a storybook and artwork in the galleries
- Explore images through sorting and selection

Skill Objectives

What students will do

- Listen to and talk about a storybook
- Make theme connections from the book to the artworks
- Manipulate materials related to theme

What students will learn

- Language acquisition and critical thinking
- Visual perception and discrimination

Vocabulary

- Colors
- Plants
- Animals
- Sun
- Sky
- Morning
- Dew
- Flowers
- Bumble bees
- Cherry
- Blackberries
- Plants
- Toad
- Snake
- Leaves
- Orange
- Blue
- Color names
- Shapes
- Insects
- Flowers
- Discuss how the sun moves during the day (rising and setting)

Activities

Introduction

Museum Rules

- Looking Eyes (making circles with hands around eyes)
- Listening Ears (have children wiggle ears)
- Quiet Hands (put hands in their lap)
- Inside Voice (put finger to mouth and make “shhhh” sound)

Picture Frame Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”
- Pass picture frame to each child in turn
- Have them hold up the frame to their face and say/sing the following
- Repeat for each child

*“Looking through my picture frame, who do I see?
I see [INSERT NAME] looking at me!”*

Artful Kids Rhyme

- Can be spoken or sung to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

*It’s story time at Mia
I’m so glad you’re here today
The art is here for everyone
So, let’s get ready to have some fun
We’ll sit down and read a book
And take our time to talk and look*

Gallery

Movement

- Walk through the galleries using hands like butterfly wings, slither arms like a snake, hands on head to make ears like a squirrel or antenna like an insect, etc.
- Have the students crouch down into a ball and pretend to be a seed
- Go around to each kid and pretend to gently pour rain on their backs by tickling their back
 - The teacher and chaperones can help you with this
- After the “rain” has touched their backs, they can slowly begin to grow and stretch into a plant

Manipulative exercises

- Ask children to point out things in the storybook illustrations and/or artwork that they can say good morning to:
 - “What else can we say ‘Good Morning’ to?”
 - “Good Morning Bunny Rabbit”

Sorting activity

- Pass out packets of Garden Cards to children
- Ask children to sort these garden related items in to categories such as:

- Color
- Plants vs. Animals
- Things you can eat
- Things that smell good
- Things that have wings
- Things that have tails
- Things that fly
- Things that hop
- Things that are bugs/insects
- Things that start with the letter B (Bug, Butterfly, Blue Bird, Bunny Rabbit)
- Ask children to show you these garden related items in categories such as:
 - Show me something we can eat
 - Show me something that flies
 - Show me something that is alive
 - Show me something makes noise
 - Show me something that flies

I Spy

- Use same cards to play an I Spy game looking at artworks

Planting a Garden

- Using felt for a garden base, have children sit around the felt “rug” and look at laminated cutouts from the storybook illustrations
- Have each child select an item to “plant” in the garden
- Allow children to place the items on the felt to create a special place
- If items are extra, have adults participate also

Additional/Optional games using the felt and laminated illustrations

- Have children cover their eyes and remove an item from the felt garden. Then have children try to figure out what is missing
- Ask children to make sounds, movements, etc. like the plant or animal in their illustration
 - They can name the colors they see
 - They can tell you if that animal flies, hops, etc.
- Talk about what items might live close to one another, far away from one another, or in a garden

Songs and Poems

Sunshine Day and Night

The sun makes the outdoors a warm place to play (*Arms in circle above head*)
It makes the flowers grow each day (*Hold up hands and wiggle fingers*)
The sun hides its face during the night (*Cover face with hands*)
But during the daytime it shines - oh so bright (*Arms in circle above head*)

Plant a little Seed

I plant a little seed in the cold, cold ground (*Squat down and pretend to plant*)
Out comes the yellow sun, big and round (*Arms in circle above head*)
Down come the raindrops soft and slow (*Finger dance downward to ground*)
Up comes the flower - grow, grow, grow! (*Stand up as flower emerges*)