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### ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS  
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

# Preschool Theme Kits

# IMAGINATION



Welcome to the *Imagination* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

## *Related Activities*

**FOR YOU:** a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

### *-Fun and Games-*

#### **ADD-ON STORIES \***

Children's imaginations can take them anywhere! Try this great project with your children called an "Add-on Story." The adult starts the story with an opening line that encourages a vivid image. "One day we were walking to the park and you would not believe what we saw!" Go around the group and ask each child to add something to the story.

Younger children may only be able to list things. Older children can let their imaginations go, as they build onto what their friend just said. Write down their story fast and try to record just what they say. You can also use a tape recorder.

You can make a classroom book with their words and illustrations.

#### **PAINT SPLOTS \***

Fold white construction paper in half. Have thick paint in a variety of colors in low cups. Using popsicle sticks, paint brushes or cotton balls, show the children how to put paint on one side of their paper. Then fold it in half, rub it flat and open it up to see an amazing picture appear. This can be done with one color or many. Do the paintings remind you of anything – what?

*Variation:* use water color paints and cotton swabs with small sheets of paper.

#### **RECYCLED ART \***

Collect any safe materials that can be used in this project: toilet tissue rolls, plastic containers, juice lids, string, yarn, large buttons, macaroni, and tissue or crepe paper. Families can help collect these "treasures".

Make sure you have plenty of tape, staplers, paint and lots of space for the children to work. Put down newspaper or a plastic sheet/tablecloth and allow the children to create their masterpieces. Have a sharing time where the children tell what their thoughts were as they were working.

#### **LET'S FLY \*\***

Make **Hey, Al** feathers out of construction paper strips and tape them to wrist bands. Play some good flying music and let the children take off!



*\*Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

*\*\*Used with permission from King County Library System.*



### MAKE A TENT! A CAVE! A SPACESHIP!!

At the end of **Wibbly Pig Can Make a Tent**, the book asks “What can you make?” Let the children use a blanket, sheet or table cloth(s) to drape over furniture to make tent(s), cave(s), submarine(s), space ship(s); whatever they imagine!

### IMAGINE THAT!

The video included in this kit provides many scenarios for children’s fertile imaginations: Pirates, the circus, magic acts, a balloon trip, and a day at the fair can all be inspiration for your own small adventures.

Make simple costumes out of paper and have a pirate adventure in your backyard or playground.

A day at the circus can include many “acts”: lion and tigers, the tightrope walker, trick bicyclists, pet trainers, the clowns and jugglers.

Plan a costume party and let the children wear recycled Halloween costumes and come as their favorite characters or creatures.

### PLAY WITH BIG BOXES

So many great ideas! With large appliance size boxes, make a Peek-A-Boo Box (p. 20), a Telephone Booth (p. 22), or a Gas Pump (p. 30). With medium size boxes make “walk along vehicles”: fire engine, police car, airplane, or train (pages 74-81).

There are also directions for learning centers and art projects using boxes. Each suggestion will result in hours of imaginative play.

Imagination Theme Kit

**Questions or Suggestions:**  
Call the Youth Services Dept.  
at (360) 384-3150

## -Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

### PRETENDING

Suit actions to words:

I am a bear – hear me growl!  
I am a lion – hear me roar!  
I am a dog – hear me bark!  
As I run out the door.

I am an elephant – with a trunk  
I am a camel – with a hump  
I am a donkey – running races  
I am a monkey – see me jump!

### SPACE ROCKET

Inside a rocket ship,  
Just enough room.  
Here comes the countdown  
10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1,0  
Zooo-o-o-o-ommm!

**JACK IN THE BOX** – Children love this game! *Crouch down very small, into a ball. On Yes I will, pop up with arms over head.*

Jack in the box  
Stay so still  
Won’t you come out  
Yes I will!

*Ask the children what animal to be next, and continue as long as you want.*

### TIGHT ROPE WALKER\*\*

Suit actions to words.

While the band is playing,  
Back and forth I go.  
High above the crowd  
Sitting far below.  
While the fans are cheering,  
I sway from side to side.  
Now the show is over, and  
Down the pole I slide.

### THE GRACEFUL ELEPHANT \*

One elephant balanced gracefully  
Upon a spider’s web.  
But when the web bounced  
him all around,  
He called in another to help  
him hold it down.

*Continue until all children are bouncing and holding down:*

Two elephants...  
Three elephants...

*Sit with elbows close to body and hands in front, fingertips forming “cone” of rocket.*

*Stand up tall, with fingertips soaring up over your head!!*



### QUICK AS A CRICKET!

Read through **Quick as a Cricket** once, then have the children act like each of the animals as you read through again. The children can use the flannel story pieces included in this kit to tell the story again and again.

### How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.