

Inside and Outside

Read the children's story [Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse](#) by Lindsay Barrett George. This story compares what two mice have in their lives. One lives inside a house and the other one lives outside. Talk about what you have at your house or center, both inside and outside. Encourage the children to explore both. Make a list of what they find. Talk about things they find that are the same and things that are different. Have the children draw pictures of what they discover. They can share with each other what they have found.

Leftover Art Mural

Gather leftover scraps from art projects and create a fun time for the children.

What you need:

- Paper scraps, cloth scraps, glitter, bits of yarn and ribbon, confetti from a hole puncher, and any other leftovers you can find from previous projects
- A large roll of paper
- Craft glue
- Old newspapers

What to do:

- Place old newspaper on the floor.
- Put a large sheet of the rolled paper on top of the newspaper.
- Put several puddles of glue on the paper.
- Encourage the children to place the leftover scraps wherever they want on the paper, making sure to have glue on the back of each piece.
- Decorate the finished mural with glitter or confetti or both.
- Hang in the classroom for all to enjoy!

Pom-Pom Dance

Have the children make pom-poms to use while dancing.

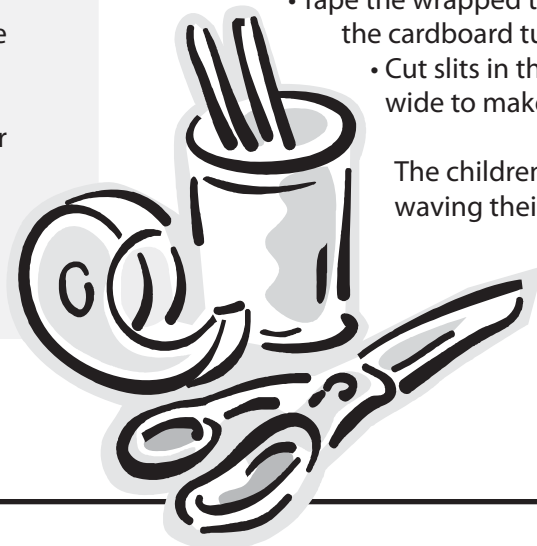
What you need:

- Tissue paper
- Cardboard paper towel rolls
- Craft glue and paintbrush
- Safety scissors
- Tape

What to do:

- Take a sheet of the tissue paper and fold it in half lengthwise.
- Paint about a one-inch band of glue around one end of the cardboard tube.
- Attach one end of the tissue around the glued end of the tube.
 - Tape the wrapped tissue to secure it to the cardboard tube.
 - Cut slits in the tissue about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide to make the pom-pom fringe.

The children can dance to music, waving their pom-poms to the beat.



Outdoor Discovery Area

Children learn so much when they have chances to explore outdoors. Here are some ideas to enhance their play:

What you need:

- A small table
- Some magnifying glasses
- Old pots and pans, unbreakable dishes, spoons
- Small shovels and pails
- An old blanket or sheet to make a tent
- Chairs to form the tent
- Old sleeping bag or cushions to sit on in play tent
- Containers or bags for collections

What to do:

- Place the table and play tent in a shady area of the yard.
- Encourage the children to pretend they are camping and exploring.
- Give them a list of things to find in the yard.
- Have them explore and find whatever they can. Encourage them to use the things you have provided and to use their imaginations to do and find other things.

What Am I?

Children will have fun playing this charade-like game, while using their imaginations and problem-solving skills.

What you need:

- Pictures of objects such as a kitten, a fish, a bunny, a bird, a clock, a ball, a spoon, a bike, a ball, etc.
- A folder or envelope to keep the pictures hidden during the activity.

What to do:

- Each child gets a turn to select and look at a picture of an object. No one else in the group gets to see the picture.
- The child will act out what is in the picture.
- Each child gets a chance to select a different picture.

Seed Finger Play

(Do motions to act out each line)

See the little seed I have.
I'll dig a hole and plant it.
I'll smooth the earth with little pats
And water it with care.

The sun will shine onto the seed
And one day I will see
A tiny green shoot, then a leaf or two
And finally a bud, then a flower.

The flower will nod in the breeze.
And I will smell its perfume.
What a wonderful scent!
It's so beautiful to see.

Then the petals will fall to the ground.
Soon its seeds will scatter all round.
So there will be more flowers next year,
To look for when the weather is warm.



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