



# Redlands Playgroup

A Service of Bayside Family Day Care

Weekly Playgroup Sessions for Children of Parents and Early Childhood Educators in The Redlands

*A WEEKLY UPDATE MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE NOTT, REDLANDS PLAYGROUP COORDINATOR*

## Message for the Week Culminating on July 30th, 2010

We welcome Lewis and Mum Diane this week to Redlands Playgroup. I hope you had lots of fun and I look forward to getting to know you better.

### The Value of Art and Craft to Children

From: [Art Development: Arts and Crafts Ideas and Activities for Kids](#) by Dalene Joubert

Through art children learn many things. Here are 10 compelling reasons to use arts and crafts for your children:

#### 1. Creativity

Creativity enables your child to try out and explore new ideas, options and find alternatives. Children learn to “think outside the box”.

The golden age of creativity dawns in early childhood. Picasso recognized this when he said every child was an artist; the problem is how to remain one while growing up. Children are natural artists and adults can learn from their spontaneous creativity.

#### 2. Perseverance

Children learn to keep trying until they finish their task. And if something goes wrong....they simply persist by trying new ways and means.

#### 3. Concentration

Arts and crafts will definitely teach your child to focus on one specific task at hand...ignoring distractions, in short, concentration will improve.

#### **4. Delayed Gratification**

Delaying gratification is an exceptionally important characteristic to reach meaningful long-term goals.

#### **5. Social Interaction**

Arts and crafts teach social interaction when working and interacting in small groups. Communication among friends is improved.

#### **6. Task Completion**

All arts and crafts help children develop a sense of satisfaction on completion of the task. Together with perseverance it eliminates giving up before a task is completed or even being distracted to focus on other interesting things.

#### **7. Planning**

Arts and crafts teach children to

- follow a recipe or plan to completion
- systematically and logically do things
- formulate new ideas and thoughts

#### **8. Expression of Emotions**

Art gives children the opportunity to express powerful emotions. The process of making art and finished artwork facilitates discussion about some of the issues they may be facing. Children can often say more in pictures than they are able to articulate.

#### **9. Openness**

Many adults have great ideas and solutions to many problems. Yet, for fear of criticism few ever do anything with the ideas. Parents can help their children to overcome this. A great quality all arts and crafts for children develop is allowing and opening up for feedback, critique and comments.

## 10. Self Image

Arts and crafts improve your child's self image. The satisfaction of creating something unique is great for your child's self-esteem. When your child shows you something they have made or drawn resist the temptation to ask "what is it?" try instead "tell me about this" – it will enable your child to talk freely about their creation rather than just giving you a closed answer, and will also remove the pressure of feeling like they "must create something recognizable", which isn't necessarily the point of art.

With benefits ranging from mere enjoyment to developing long-lasting skills and qualities, take the time to fully explore and benefit from art and craft activities for children.

### 'How To Dye Pasta' - An At-Home Craft Activity



Dyeing pasta is very easy and can be used in many different craft activities. Some simple craft ideas for coloured pasta are making necklaces, bracelets, mobiles, collages, and other homemade decorations. Children can also explore math concepts like colour identification, sorting, patterning, adding, subtracting.

#### What you need

- Variety of Pasta Shapes (2 cups)
- ¼ cup Clear Alcohol
- Food Colouring (about 10 drops), various colours
- Zip Lock Bags
- Newspaper or Baking Paper
- Trays

## What you do

1. Pour Alcohol and food colouring into a zip lock bag and mix thoroughly.
2. Add pasta to the zip lock bag and shake the mixture vigorously to completely cover the pasta with alcohol and food colouring mixture.
3. Let the pasta mixture sit for approx. 10 mins and then turn the bag over until the pasta is completely covered in colour.
4. Repeat for each colour required.
5. Drain the pasta and separate into colours to dry on Newspaper/baking paper lined trays. Let the coloured pasta dry overnight. Once dried you can make your favourite homemade decorations.

Pasta comes in many shapes and sizes. Buy several different types of pasta for your craft projects. Use Penne for stringing and fun-shaped pasta like bow tie pasta, wagon wheel pasta or alphabet letter pasta to create collages or maths manipulatives.

## Rainbow Song

Red and yellow and pink and green

Purple and orange and blue

I can sing a rainbow,

Sing a rainbow,

Sing a rainbow too.

Listen with your eyes,

Listen with your ears,

And sing everything you see,

I can sing a rainbow,

Sing a rainbow,  
Sing along with me.  
Red and yellow and pink and green,  
Purple and orange and blue,  
I can sing a rainbow,  
Sing a rainbow,  
Sing a rainbow too!

## ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

### Playgroup Fees

This is a friendly reminder that fees are now \$4 per child or \$5 for 2 or more children participating in the program. This is to cover the cost of materials and Morning Tea.

For safety reasons, we are also changing the procedure slightly. No longer will we be using the 'cash tin' for payment. Payment must be handed directly to Michelle upon arrival and a receipt will then be issued.

**Payment must be made on the day.**

*Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with this matter.*

### Safety

**For safety reasons, it is very important that children sit and eat their Morning Tea at the tables and completely finish before playing. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.**

Playgroup offers you a unique opportunity to enjoy your children in an early childhood setting. You are your child's first teacher and the time and energy you expend at this time will pay dividends at a later date.