

INTRODUCTION



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Personal philosophy:

"Be who you needed
when you were
younger"

A little about me:

Youth Services Librarian for a little over 3 years, however I have worked in the 4CLS system in NYS for 12 years.

I'm Neurodiverse: ADHD, Autism, and Dyscalculia

I'm open about sharing my neurodiversity at work, including patrons (particularly the kids). {My small contribution of helping address stigma about neurodiversity}

I'm working on learning on how to unmask and prevent neurodiverse burnout while being a fulltime librarian.

Neurodivergence Thinking Spectrum

Neurodivergence refers to **variations** in brain function, encompassing conditions such as autism, ADHD, and dyslexia. Unlike neurotypical brains, neurodivergent brains process information and interact with the world uniquely.



Thinking Differently, Not Less:

Neurodivergence is not a deficit; it represents different brain operations that lead to unique strengths. For example, autistic individuals often excel in pattern recognition and detail-oriented tasks. Similarly, those with ADHD may demonstrate exceptional creativity and innovative problem-solving skills.

Neurodivergence & Common Descriptors around Thinking/Processing

NOTE: These areas vary for each individual and their circumstances. Example: I have dyscalculia and I struggle/have weak visual spatial reasoning and which include a perception of time aka "time blindness".



PLAY WITH PURPOSE

Learning Tool Examples:

Early Learning

Early learning refers to the skills and concepts that children (usually) develop before they reach kindergarten.

Sensory Play

Sensory play is any activity that stimulates at least one of your child's senses. This could be hearing, sight, touch, smell or taste. It also includes play that involves movement or balance.

Multi-Sensory Instruction

Multi-sensory instruction is a way of teaching that engages more than one sense at a time. Can be applied for various ages and learning concepts.

Multi-sensory instruction is often used to help students with learning difficulties or disorders.

Follows similar theory to the Montessori Method.

- Adaptive tools: tweezers, large/small writing/painting implements
- Manipulatives: counting, sorting
- Musical Instruments
- Tactile boards
- Tracing overlays
- Visual aids: charts, graphs

LEARNING TOOL SUGGESTIONS

Multi-sensory teaching techniques are essential for providing equal opportunities to every child so that they can meet and exceed expectations.

All learners of all neurotypes can benefit from these tools or multi-sensory teaching.



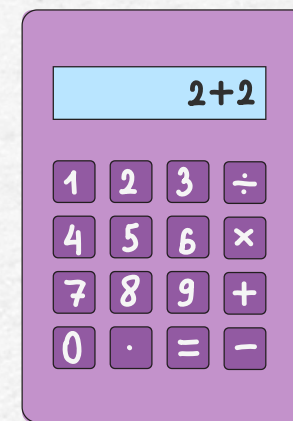
Pencil grips



Dry erase boards
& markers



Math
manipulatives



Calculators



Visual measuring cups, spoons



Story sticks

TIP: Use a different color craft stick to represent each element.



Visual timers



Check lists or
List of steps



Noise reducing headphones

MULTI-SENSORY LEARNING BENEFITS

MEMORY & RETENTION

Engaging multiple senses in the learning process helps information retention and recall, as it creates more neural pathways to store and retrieve the knowledge.

Using multiple senses in learning is beneficial for all learning types.

Make learning a fun memory!



BONDING & ENGAGEMENT

Creating a space for caregivers to bond with child. Encourage dialogue!

Remember: caregivers may need tips on how to help their kids too!

Provides a learning inclusive environment for a variety of ages & learning types.

Creating stations allows for socialization with others.



CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY

Using interactive activities or activity stations provide opportunity to explore a variety of activity, or to find something that resonates with them.

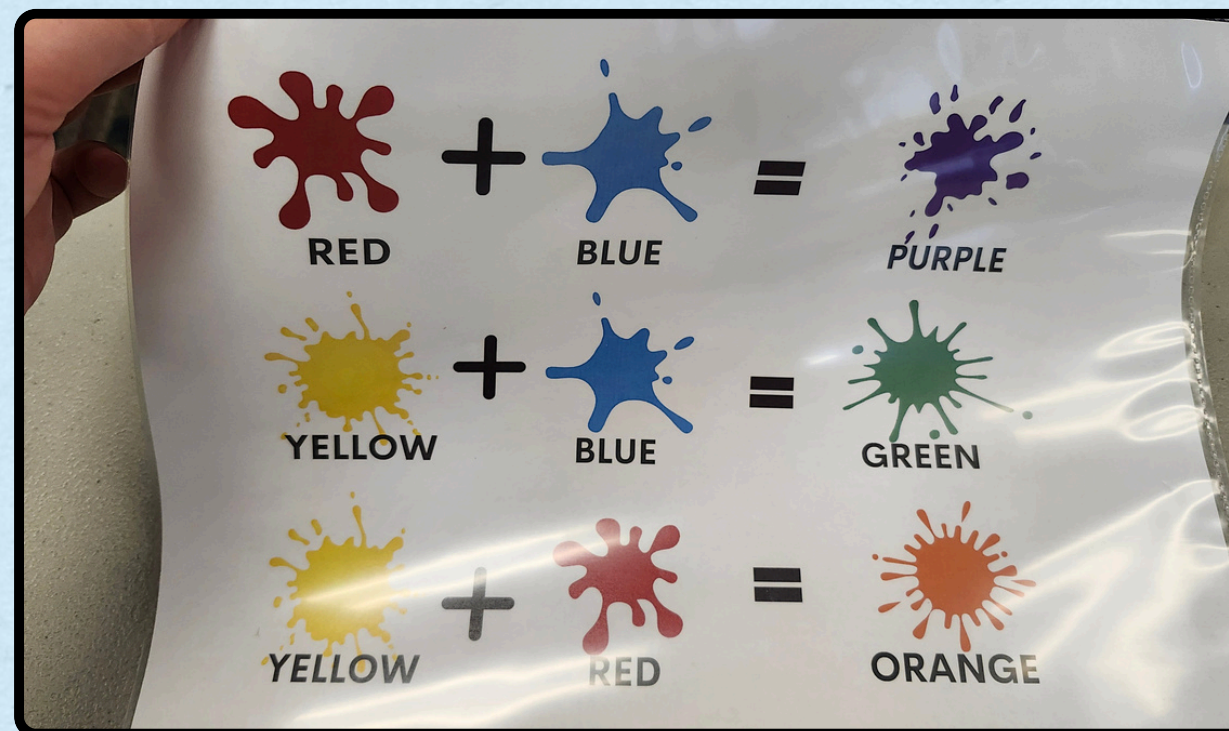
Let children explore beyond or outside of "directions". Encourage "What if" questions





Activities that help build associations or overlap concepts to support or reinforce learning or recognition.

Example: Coloring by numbers can help with number and color recognition.



Multi-Sensory Learning Colors



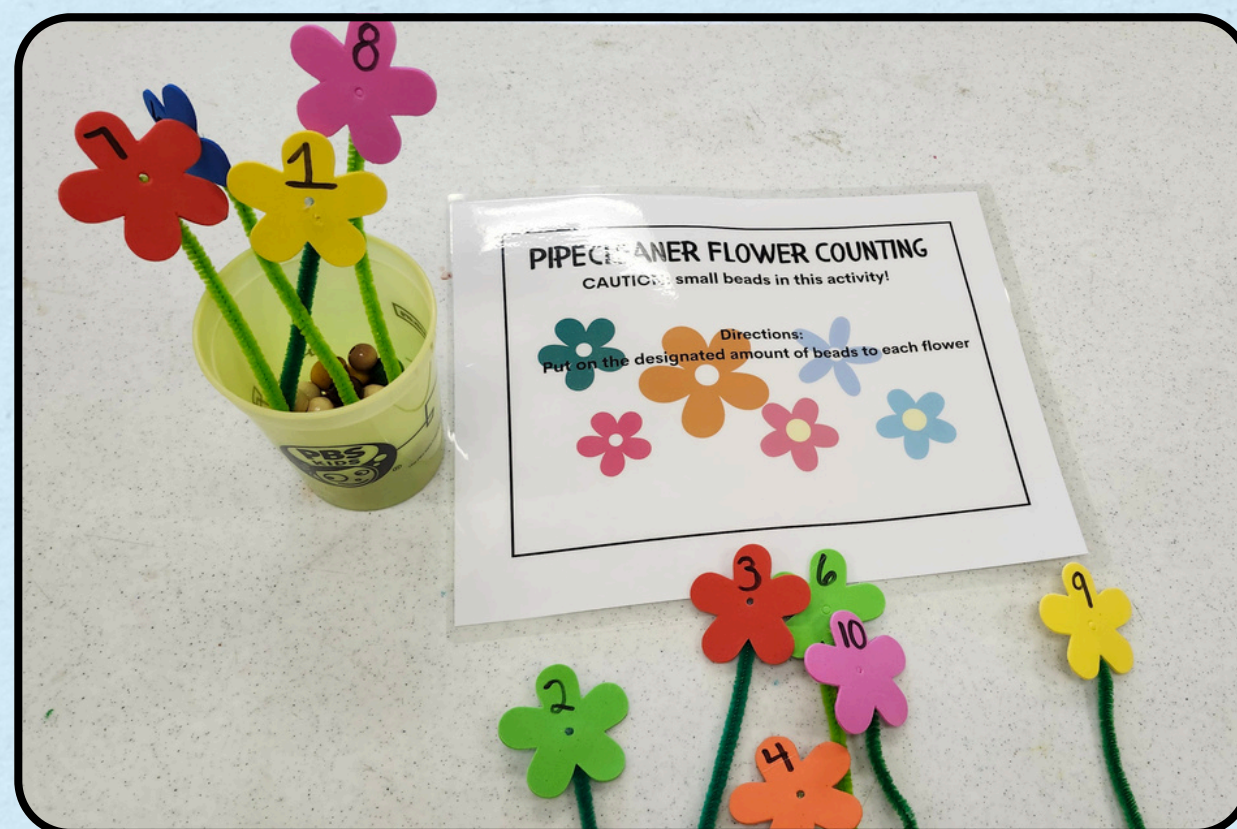
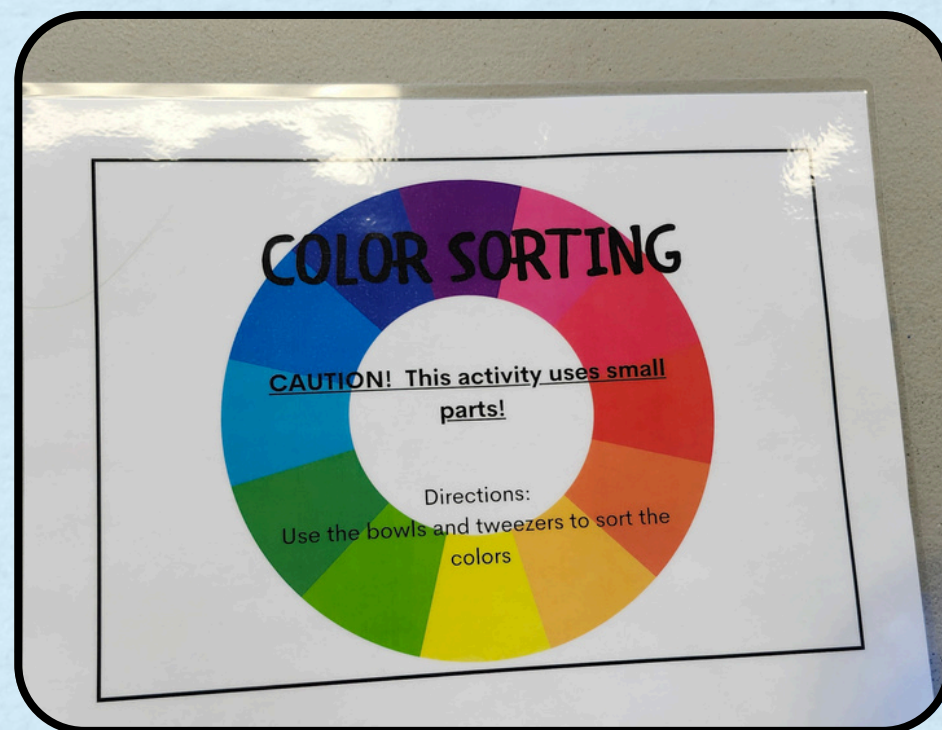
Activities that let kids explore and see and experience a concept in something hands on (kinesthetic learning) to reinforce learning concept and to make a tangible connection to learning objective.



Let caregivers assist!

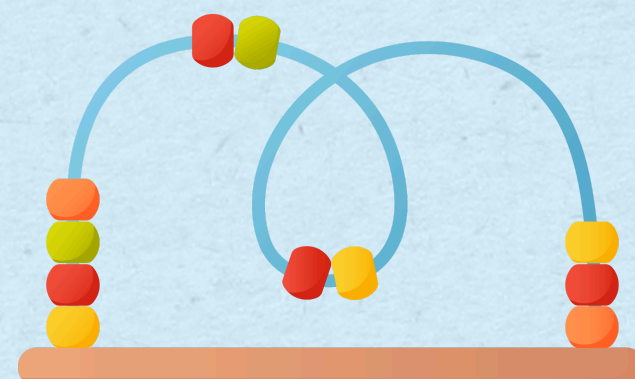
Give suggested prompts on questions they can ask, suggestions on what to say if they observe frustration or if they child is having difficulty with the task.

Many caregivers may not know how to support a child if there are learning differences, which can lead to both child and caregiver getting frustrated.



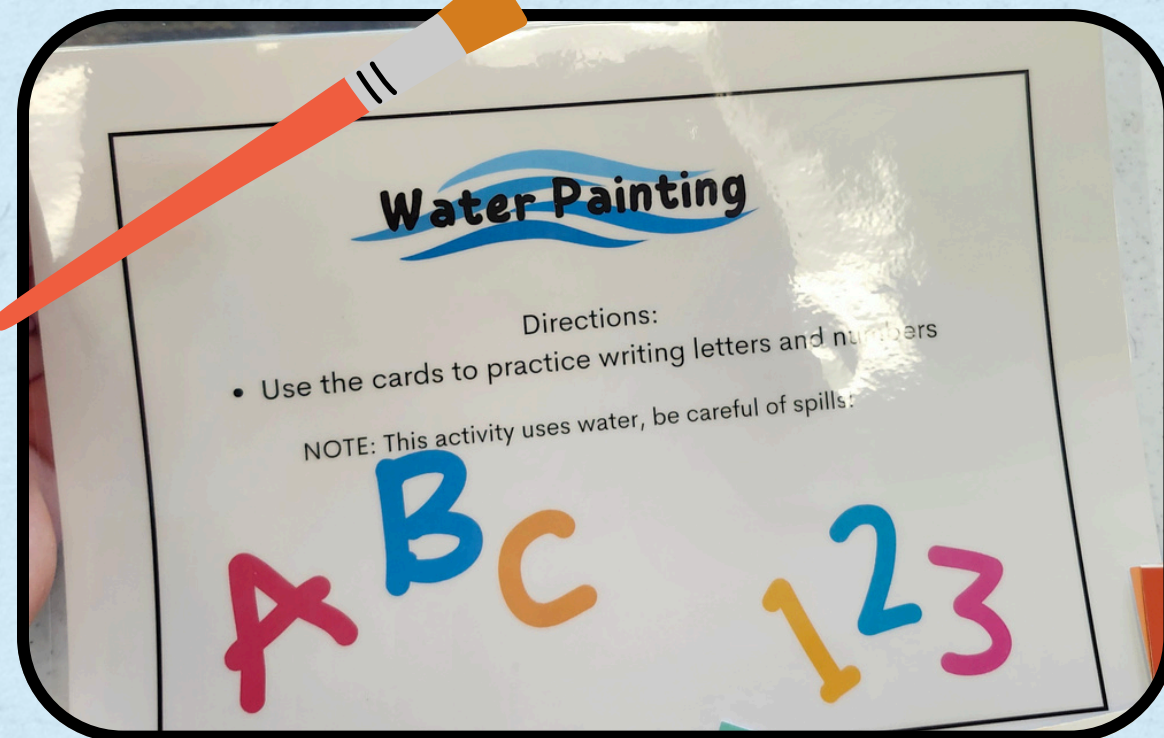
Ready, Set, Learn!

Early education activities





Examples of overlays and alternative ways of practicing letters, numbers, shapes



- Kinesthetic
- Tactile
- Alternative ways to work on "traditional" writing



Thank You!
Now, Let's Talk!



Questions?
Comments?
Stories?

Intrested in slides or ideas for tools/programs?-- Email me @ MCreveling@vestalpubliclibrary.org