

Wichita Collegiate School Early Childhood  
Read and Romp Day Activity Ideas for 2009



**Bounce** by Doreen Cronin

At this station there will be a relay using the hippity hops that children sit on and bounce. Students will be placed in lines behind color cones and a matching color cone will be placed a short distance away. When the race begins, the first student will sit on the hippity hop, bounce down to the cone and back to the start. He then gives the hippity hop to the next person in line and goes to the end of the line. Continue until everyone has had a turn. Repeat the relay if time permits or do a different relay where children jump or hop down to the cone and back. Also, take a moment to discuss what kinds of things bounce.



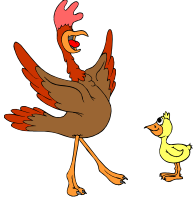
**Wiggle** by Doreen Cronin

This station is fairly unstructured, as children will have hula hoops and attempt to make them move around the waist. Volunteers should assist, if possible, but this is a learned skill and takes lots of practice by the students. It's just fun to watch children work so diligently to keep the hula hoop moving. If this skill is too challenging for some children, allow them to experiment with the hoop to find new ways that the hoop can "wiggle." Suggestions: spin the hoop on its edge and jump inside the hoop as it drops to the floor, twirl the hoop around the arm, wrist, neck, or foot, roll the hoop on the floor and attempt to crawl through it as it rolls. Just let the children use their imaginations but be aware of spatial limitations. Also, take a moment to discuss what kinds of things wiggle.



**Bad Kitty** by Nick Bruel

This is the snack area book. Being an ABC book, the area will be decorated with banners, pictures, and crafts depicting ABC's and cats. A snack will be served consisting of a mixture of ABC crackers, rainbow goldfish crackers, YOGOS yogurt flavored fruit bits, and water. After reading, have the reader play "I spy the letter..." and have children find it.



### **Stuck in the Mud** by Jane Clarke

A game called “Stuck in the Mud” will be played at this station. Children will spread out in one area and face a volunteer at the front of the room. There will be another volunteer at the back of the room. Volunteers will shout out directions like “full turn, half turn, quarter turn right, or quarter turn left, while holding up directional cue cards that help the children know which way to turn. The children are to jump into the air and turn to face the appropriate direction. When landing, they are to bend their knees and not move their feet. When this happens, they are “stuck in the mud.” The object of the game is to see who can land without moving their feet. Since we do not want to eliminate children by making them sit out if they move their feet, just giggle about all the misses and ask children at the end of the game if there were any people who were able to go the whole time without moving their feet on the landings.



### **I Want a Hug** by John A. Rowe

The children will play a tag game called “Hug Tag.” One child will be the tagger and will carry a foam Frisbee. Two or three other children will have stuffed animal hedgehogs and will be the “savers.” (If the class is large, there may be more than one tagger.) On the word “go,” the tagger moves about using the foam Frisbee to try and touch the children who are running within the established boundaries. (\*Note - The Frisbee is not thrown.) If a child is tagged, he must stop immediately, open his arms slightly in front of him, and yell “I want a hug.” One of the savers with the hedgehog will come over to stand in front of the tagged player and throw the hedgehog to him. That person must catch the hedgehog, give it a hug, and keep the hedgehog to become the new saver. If the hedgehog is not caught by the player and it drops to the floor, only a running player can stop to pick it up and re-throw it to the player waiting for a hug. The game should be stopped often and new taggers chosen.

This station will also have a real hedgehog for the children to view.



## **Turtle's Penguin Day** by Valeri Gorbachev

This is a balloon passing game using the feet. No hands are allowed on the balloon except by the parent volunteers. Children will sit in a circle with their knees bent out in front of them. A parent volunteer will put a white balloon (egg) between the feet of the first person in the circle who will lift the balloon up off the floor slightly, swivel on his bottom, and turn to face the next player in the circle. The next person will lift his legs into the air and place his feet on each side of the balloon to receive the pass. This continues around the circle. New balloons will be continually added. When a balloon gets all the way around the circle, the parent volunteer will take it and put it aside. The objective is to see how many balloons can make it all the way around the circle in the allotted time.

If extra time is available, have the children move around the room with the balloon between their feet. This is a very challenging activity.



## **Leaves** by David Ezra Stein

This activity has 6 different color leaves on the underneath side of small paper plates. Each style leaf has its own color. The paper plates will be spread out face down on the floor. The class will be divided into 6 lines, with each line standing behind the cone that matches the color leaf they will look for. The first person in each line will run out and look under a paper plate. If the leaf is not the right color, he will continue to search until he finds a plate with the correct color. Once a correct leaf is found, the child will return to the line, place the leaf in the slotted cone, and go to the back of the line. The next person will then take a turn. Continue until all 6 leaves have been found. (Options – 3 year old students can play this game the first time through with the paper plates face up. It will allow the game to move at a faster pace. If you need a greater challenge for kindergarten students, have them return to the back of the line if they do not pick up a correct color paper plate on the first try. Although this method moves children through the line quickly, it makes memory more of a factor and challenges students to remember which plates they have already looked under.)



### **If You Give a Cat a Cupcake** by Laura Numeroff

This will be a throwing activity. Students will line up on dots placed a short distance from a wall. Against the wall will be muffin tins. The object of this activity is to underhand throw the cats (small plastic math counters) into the muffin tins. This station should encourage correct underhand throwing form so remind students to step forward with the opposite foot. If students need help with this, place a hair scrunchie around the toe area of the foot opposite the child's dominant hand. A small spot marker will be placed in front of the big spot marker so that each child can stand with two feet on the big spot and step forward with the opposite (scrunchie) foot onto the small spot. The following rhyme can be said to help with underhand throwing:

Forward	<i>(the arm moves forward)</i>
Backward	<i>(the arm moves backward)</i>
Step and	<i>(step forward with the opposite foot than</i> <i>throwing hand)</i>
Throw	<i>(Release the plastic cat towards the target)</i>
That's the way	<i>(Look at target to see if cat goes in muffin tin)</i>
That cat should go	



### **Do Like a Duck Does** by Judy Hindley

This station will be led by the music teacher. A dance activity will be done to a song entitled, "Two Webbed Feet" from the CD "Cat Paws," by Cat Paws in Motion. The movements mentioned in the song are acted out by the volunteers and children. The song helps children understand that everyone has special qualities and although they may not be good at everything, they can be good at some things. The song also helps children work on directional cues like right and left.



## **Finklehopper Frog** by Irene Livingston

This is a dance activity that will be taught by the dance instructor. She will do a dance where children are frogs and dance in a variety of different styles including country, twist, ballet, and, of course, frog style. This is a great story that emphasizes just being yourself.