

Teaching Skills to Young Children with Autism through Motivating Summer Activities

- **Bubble Snake Maker:** <http://www.cometogetherkids.com/2011/04/bubble-snake-maker.html>
 - Have child request “more bubbles” , stop or go when blowing bubble snake, imitating saying “pop” as they pop the bubbles, and tell you where they want you to blow the bubble snake (in the garden, on the sidewalk, under the tree etc.)
- **Kool-Aid Play-doh:** <http://www.cometogetherkids.com/2011/01/kool-aid-playdoh.html>
 - Say “my turn” for stirring and taking turns pouring in ingredients
 - Only give small amount of play-doh so child can request more
 - Have one person in charge of play-doh tools- - child has to ask for tools
 - Take pictures of items you make with play-doh ahead of time so the child can choose what they will make by pointing at picture of using words
 - Day “Do this” and demonstrate one action with play-doh (roll, squeeze, poke, or push items in the play-doh) (Imitation)
- **Kool-Aid Painting:** <http://www.cometogetherkids.com/2011/07/kool-aid-painting.html>
 - Request color of paint or “more paint”
 - Say “Do this” and demonstrate a pre-writing strokes with paint-brush
 - Ask child to point to flower or sun you have painted
 - Have child show his/her picture to another peer, sibling, parent etc.
- **Crayon Painting:** <http://www.cometogetherkids.com/2010/08/crayon-painting.html>
 - Teaching adjectives (warm and cold – do not let them touch the griddle)
 - Requesting color of crayon (putting 2 words together “red crayon”
 - Have them Match two of the same color crayons
 - Have them pick what you will draw (flower, sun, letters, shapes, child’s name etc.)
 - “Do this” – copy pre-writing strokes and shapes, letters etc.
 - When picture is dry and cooled have them show it to siblings, parent, babysitter etc.
 - Higher level language: ask questions about their pic or your pic (“What does the dog say?”, “Where is the flower growing?” “Where is the house?”)
- **Marbleized Paper (Shaving Cream Fun!!):**
<http://www.cometogetherkids.com/2011/01/marbelized-paper.html>
 - Great for working on sensory input to the hands- touching shaving cream to finger tips or entire hand
 - Start with small amount so they have to ask for more shaving cream
 - “Do this” – copy pre-writing strokes and shapes, pat shaving cream, push or rub messy hands together etc.
- **Marble Painting:**
http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Colors/Marble_Painting/Marble_Painting.html
 - Counting marbles
 - Requesting more marbles, colors of paint

- “Do this” and demonstrate moving the box side to side (slow, or fast). With closed container demonstrate shaking closed container up high, down low, side to side, slow and fast etc.
- **Paper Cup Shakers:**
http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Music/papercupshakers/papercupshakers.html
 - Fill-in’s- sing songs and freeze to have the child finish by adding the word or making a sound
 - “Do This” and demonstrate shaking the shaker in different ways (slow, fast, up high, down low, side to side, over, under etc. , twirling around, marching etc
 - Ask the child “how should we shake” (give two choices if needed)
 - Chant “Freeze I am shaking the shaker” _____ (up, down, side, behind, under etc)
 - Freeze...Hold shaker up by your eyes and when the child looks up at your eyes say “I see your eyes...GO” and begin shaking again
- **Sponge Painting:** <http://www.kinderart.com/painting/sponge.shtml>
 - Requesting paper, paint and specific sponges
 - Count number of shapes or designs they made
 - Label shapes and encourage child to imitate after you say it
 - Have child match two of the same shapes
 - Have the child make a choice between two sponges (hold them up by your face so child looks toward your face and eyes)
- **Nature walk and Crafts:** Go on a walk and gather rocks sticks, leaves etc and go home to do crafts (washing rocks and painting them outside is great fun!!)
 - Pointing to items they see outside (help the child point hand-over-hand If necessary)
 - Practice following/referencing a point as you show them tree, flower, mail-box (stand close to item and next to your child as you raise your arm at their eye-line so they look down your arm at item)
 - Say “Do this” and dab glue on the paper/glue leaf to the paper (can do with any collage item)
 - Labeling items, concepts such as counting, colors
 - Following simple directions (maybe with a model)” put in” items in a bag, touch tree, give me rock etc
- **Water Fun Ideas: (see ideas for teaching skills below)**
 - Paint the sidewalk, bricks on the house or driveway with big paint brushed and water
 - Wash toys in big tubs outside
 - Water play with ducks, fish and boats
 - Water the plants, and grass (sometimes even weeds) with a small watering can
 - Water Stamps: Cut sponges into various shapes, get them wet and stamp on the sidewalk or patio
- **Skills to work on during Water Play:**
 - Concepts such as warm, cold, wet, dry, clean, dirty, fast, slow, big, little etc
 - Concepts such as shapes, letters, numbers (especially letters in the child’s name)

- Imitation: Say “Do This” and demonstrate an action with an object or with a gross or fine motor movement
- Have child ask for more water, soap, specific toys etc.
- Comment, sing or chant about what you are doing- - stop to have child fill in word or sound (but not too many words if your child is not using lots of words yet)
- Match two identical items’
- Give simple directions “put in” , “touch_____”, “give me_____”, “ Give Dad_____”
- Label items or ask “what’s this” as you hold up an item
- “Do This” and demonstrate fine and gross motor movements, actions with objects and toys, pre-writing strokes etc.