

Valentine's Day Bundle



Valentine Lotto Game

Purpose: As children play this fun game, they will develop visual discrimination skills, fine motor control and both expressive and receptive language skills.

Preparation:

To prepare the Valentine Lotto Game, print out a copy of the following page for each child plus one to use as a center material (if you would like). Have the children cut along all dotted lines to create a playing card and individual cards.

Use:

To play the game, the children should match the valentines by placing the individual cards on top of the matching valentines on their playing cards. As the children play with this material, engage them in conversations, asking open-ended questions such as, “Which valentine do you like best? Why do you like that one?” or “How do you feel when you receive a valentine in the mail?”

Alternate Use: Print out two copies of the individual game cards (so you have 2 of each picture) and then use to play a memory game.



Hidden Hearts

Purpose: The purpose of this material is to help children practice visual discrimination, counting and language skills.

Preparation:

Just print out the Valentine's Day scene on the next page and you are ready to go! If desired, print out a copy for each child plus one to use as a learning center material.

Use:

Show the children the picture and invite them to share their thoughts. Ask open-ended questions such as, "What do you think is happening in this picture?" or "What do you like best about Valentine's Day?" These types of questions help children build expressive language skills. Then, challenge the children to find all of the hearts in the scene. As they find each one, count out loud with the children. How many hearts can they find? They can also compare and contrast the hearts. How are they the same? How are they different?

Alternate Use: Print out a copy of this scene and mount to heavyweight paper. Cut into pieces...like a puzzle. The children can then put the scene back together.

How many hearts can you find?



Handprint Gift

Purpose: The purpose of this material is to provide children with the opportunity to create a Valentine's Day gift for someone special. In the process, the children will also have the opportunity to practice expressive language skills, make connections between spoken and written language and, of course, build fine motor control.

Preparation:

Print out a copy of the following page for each child. If children need more than one copy (e.g., if they want to make a gift for more than one person), no problem! Just print out as many copies as they need. In addition, fold paper towels in shallow dishes and soak with red, purple and/or pink paint.

Use:

Put the paper on the table so the heart is upside-down when they look at it. Then, have the children press their hands in either red, purple or pink paint (their choice). Help them make their thumbs and pointer fingers touch. This will create a heart shape in the space between their hands. While keeping all the remaining fingers together, have the children press their hands inside the heart. Allow the paint to dry and then invite each child to dictate a special "message" to the recipient of the valentine for you to print on the lines on the sheet. If the child is more advanced, he/she can print his/her name on the line at the bottom. If not, you can do this for the child. Either way, be sure to talk about letters and sound while doing so.





Name

Valentine's Day BINGO

Purpose: The purpose of this material is to provide a material you can use to reinforce colors in a fun way. You will want to adapt how you play this game depending on the developmental levels of the children in your group. See options below.

Preparation:

Print out the following BINGO cards and mount to heavyweight paper. Cut apart. You will also need to locate something to use as markers. If you are working with children who are 3 and under, use something like cereal pieces which are edible. Older children could use traditional BINGO markers if desired.

Use:

You can use these cards to play BINGO in different ways depending on the developmental levels of the children in your group.

TODDLERS/TWOS: For these children, put the cereal pieces on the hearts and then have them pick them up and eat them. As they do so, talk about the colors of the hearts. For instance, you might say, "You just ate a piece of cereal that was on a red heart."

THREES: Provide these children with cereal pieces to put on specific colors of hearts. For instance, you might say, "Can you find a blue heart and put a piece of cereal on it?"

FOURS/ADVANCED PRESCHOOLERS: These children can play BINGO in the traditional way. You can choose whether to play full card BINGO or the type where you must get a full line. These children should be able to put their markers on the hearts accurately and identify colors.

B I N G O

				
				
				
				
				

B I N G O

				
				
				
				
				

B I N G O

B I N G O

				
				
				
				
				

				
				
				
				
				



SET UP A VALENTINE CENTER

Materials:

- Area designated as a Valentine Center
 - Envelopes, construction paper, stickers, heart-shaped stencils, precut hearts, doilies, etc.
 - Crayons/markers, child-safe scissors, gluesticks
- Setting up a Valentine Center invites children to make valentines for anyone and everyone! It is also a wonderful way for them to practice literacy, pre-writing and small motor skills all at the same time. In addition, it is a wonderful way to promote social and emotional development.
 - Once the area is ready, explain to the children how it is meant to be used. Review any special rules and ask children if there are additional materials they would like you to add.
 - Children can then use the area as desired to create valentines for their friends and families. As you observe children using this center, you will gain keen insight into the developmental level of each child in many different areas.
 - Children who are ready to write: These children can be challenged to write their own messages on/in their valentines. If they are not ready to do this on their own, they can dictate messages for you to write.

CATCH THOSE HEARTS!

Materials:

- Heart-shaped sponges - Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter or stencil to cut hearts from sponges.
 - Water table or container of water, towel
 - Kitchen tongs
 - OPTIONAL: Washable pink or red paint (for tinting water)
- Most children love to play in water and using heart-shaped sponges encourages small motor development. Catching the hearts also helps to build eye-hand coordination is a wonderful sensory experience! You may even want to use washable pink red paint to tint the water red or pink.
 - Fill the water table or container of water. If you choose to tint the water with paint, do that while the children watch. Encourage those who are more verbal to make predictions about what they think will happen as they gently mix the paint into the water. Next, add the heart-shaped sponges.
 - Invite interested children to explore the water and the sponges. As the infants and toddlers explore, use plenty of language to describe their movements as well as how the water looks, sounds and feels. This is an excellent way to help these children build receptive language skills. These children can use their hands to catch the hearts. Children with more developed fine motor skills can attempt to use kitchen tongs to catch the hearts.
 - Add an element of math! For those children who are ready, challenge them to count the number of hearts they catch. This is a meaningful way for them to practice counting skills.



Special Offer!

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