



# Kindergarten Korner

## Let's Get Real

Children learn by using their 5 senses. The more real the item or activity is the more the child will learn.

Try this idea at home with your family. Give each person an apple to eat. As they are munching and crunching it, ask them to tell you what words they can think of to describe the apple. Make sure you think about all of the 5 senses. Write down all of the words they say. For example: crunchy, sweet, red, etc. You should be able to get at least 50 different words to describe the real apple.

Then pull out a plastic 3 dimensional apple from a child play kitchen or decoration from Michaels.

Cross off the words that no longer fit to describe the apple. Your list will be reduced by at least half.

Lastly, find a picture of any apple and cross out any other words that no longer fit. You will be amazed at how much more vocabulary words the children will learn by describing and eating an apple. Let me know how it goes at home.

In class I try very hard to

bring in real items to show the children. They can feel them, smell them, hear them, see them, and sometimes taste them. If you remember I asked a parent to bring in a real piece of holly before Christmas. Most children had never seen it before. We were able to talk about the parts of the plant, compare the leaves to other type of leaves, and discuss that this plant is poisonous and should never be eaten. They loved it. So let your child examine things safely.

My favorite activity this year was when we made apple sauce and the children had to peel, core, and chop an apple. They loved it and said it was the best apple sauce ever!

### Speech and Language

It is very important for children to exercise their mouth, lip, throat, vocal cords, tongue, and face muscles in order to learn expression and pronunciation as they learn to read. Your child may have told you that I am very silly. (This may or may not be true!)

As we learn our poems, read books and sing songs we change the type of voice we are using. Ask your child to

demonstrate our belly button, whisper, tongue out, spooky, squeaky, voices for you. Each different voice we use exercises different muscles. Try it yourself and feel the difference as you say a simple phrase.

The children are very creative with telling me different voices to use. Some I have to practice like when they want me to say it in a cat voice!

### Math Manipulative's

Once again we need to "get real"! Children at this age will have a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts if they can use simple items to count with. Small blocks, pennies, tooth picks, marshmallows, etc., will help them learn how much each number represents. Currently we are working on greater than and less than. Just identifying the numeral does not always give them the correct answer. As we count items, they can use their senses to figure it out. Soon we will be starting addition and subtraction. Manipulative's are absolutely necessary for children to understand these concepts.

Mrs. Osborne's  
"Learning Tips"

### Science

Children are naturally curious. This is one of the most fascinating things to watch when you let the child just play with things. My son's used to love to play scientist. They loved to mix baking soda and vinegar together to see what would happen. They would change the size of containers they used, measure different amounts of the ingredients to see if something different happened. I loved to watch their problem solving skills develop. (Tip- I had the boys always do this experiment in the bathroom. It was easier to clean up and didn't smell up my kitchen.) Let your child mix salt and sugar in water to make a solution. Let them taste each, one they will like and the other they won't. Some activities will require supervision and help, but most won't. Most importantly have fun!



