

Phase 2: Team Proposal: Finger Friends

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SOCL 306-01: Stress and Crisis in Families

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September 25, 2022

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The “Finger Friends” activity is designed to facilitate positive parent involvement by engaging the parent and child in an activity together. This activity is for preschool children ages three to five. This activity aims to enhance children’s fine motor skills; children’s recognition of color, shape, and texture; and problem-solving skills. Finger Friends are inexpensive and can be completed in less than thirty minutes.

During the Finger Friends activity, parents will need to assist their preschool child in assembling their unique characters. Children will be able to choose how to make their Finger Friend, an alien, an animal, or any other character the child desires. The assistance of the parent will allow the parent and child to communicate different types of characters to make, the texture of the objects (hard, soft, or fuzzy), shapes of objects (circle, square, or rectangle), and colors of objects. Parents will have the opportunity to instruct and teach their children through problem-solving situations that may include putting together their finger friends or when learning about different colors, shapes, and textures.

Parents and children will be provided with all the needed materials to make three unique finger friends, including half-pipe cleaners, pom poms, googly eyes, and glue dots. All materials are kid-friendly and non-harmful, and non-messy, allowing for easy clean-up. This specific activity is not time-consuming, allowing it to be completed during the school week.

Enhancing Child Development

Fine motor skills are important for growth and development in children. By completing the “Finger Friends” activity children will have enhanced their fine motor skills to help them improve in daily activities. Some skills acquired from developing fine motor skills are: increased confidence within the child, improved physical awareness, and hand-eye coordination (“Petit

Journey”, 2019). These skills allow children to pick up and play with small items. Children will engage in creativity as well as, choosing what type of Finger Friends they want to create and deciding where to place their googly eyes and pom poms. This engages their hand-eye coordination and ability to pick up and use glue dots to create their Finger Friends (“Petit Journey”, 2019).

Using glue dots facilitates the development of fine motor skills by using muscular movements in the hands. Due to the sticky consistency of the glue dots and fuzziness of the pipe cleaners the child would be able to explore the different textures of the items they’re using. As the activity continues, the parent or guardian of the child is encouraged to mention the shapes of the objects. This will help the child develop an awareness of differences in the appearance of everyday objects.

Parents help with enhancing problem-solving skills by asking questions that allow the child to think through what they need to do next to create their “Finger Friends” (“Preschool Problem-solving”, n.d.). Asking the child how to stick the pom pom to the pipe cleaner and where the googly eyes will go facilitates further discussion. Talking through the instructions and pointing out different colors, shapes, and textures allows for the parent to reinforce already known information while introducing new knowledge in a fun way. Parental engagement with this activity allows the parent and child to spend time together in a fun way, fostering a good relationship and creating a “Finger Friend” to play together with.

The Finger Friends SMART Objectives:

- Upon completion of this activity, children will be able to create their own unique “Finger Friends”.

- Upon completion of this activity, children will be able to identify the different colors, shapes, and textures of items used for the “Finger Friends”.
- Upon completion of this activity, parents will have assisted their child with the completion of the “Finger Friends” activity.

References

- Chapman, D., Chapman, D., Parastoo, & Michelle. (2020, October 23). *Easy pipe cleaner finger puppets*. One Little Project. Retrieved from <https://onelittleproject.com/pipe-cleaner-finger-puppets/>
- Petit Journey. (2019, December 6). *Fine motor skills in children*. Petit Journey. Retrieved from <https://www.petitjourney.com.au/fine-motor-skills/>
- Preschooler development*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002013.htm>
- Preschool problem-solving*. Scholastic. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/creativity-and-critical-thinking/development-milestones/preschool-problem-solving.html>

Appendix A

Instructions

Finger Friends!

STEP

1

Take one-half of a pipe cleaner of the child's choice and wrap it around their finger, creating a spiral.

STEP

2

Remove the pipe cleaner from your child's finger and attach one of the pom-poms with glue dots to the top of the pipe cleaner.

STEP

3

Help your child attach the googly eyes to the pom-poms with the glue dots.

STEP

4

Use another half of a pipe cleaner as a crown, hair, ears, or antennas.

STEP

5

Once your child is satisfied with their creation, they can now enjoy their new friend!



As you complete this activity with your child, mention the colors, shapes, and textures of the items you're using to promote their cognitive development!

Colors: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple, Pink, Black, White

Shapes: Circle, square, rectangle - big, small

Textures: smooth, rough, hard, soft, sticky, bumpy



Enjoy making your unique finger friend!

Appendix B

Budget

Budget Family Engagement Project Fall 2022 ☆ 🗑️ 🔄

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1	Item	Quantity	Est. Cost Per Item	Est. Total Cost	Actual Cost Per Item	Actual Total Cost	
2	Pipe Cleaners	3 packs (of 100)	\$11.40	\$34.20			
3	Pom poms	3 packs (of 100)	\$2.91	\$8.73			
4	Googly eyes	3 packs (of 125)	\$10.74	\$32.22			
5	Glue Dots	3 Packs (of 200)	\$4.88	\$14.64			
6	Baggies	1 Pack (of 200)	\$4.34	\$4.34			
7	Printed Parent Instructi	105	\$0.54	\$56.70			
8				\$150.83			
9							

Google Sheets Link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TSYo119Emmei1K6u65j2iYIL5hSeGQr-0u_eqQ3sbuo/edit?usp=sharing