



THE NOTEPAD

Materials you need:

- Sheets of paper – any colour or size
- 2 thin pieces of cardboard for each notebook (you are making 1 for each child)
- Stapler
- Masking tape or patterned washi tape
- Pens and pencils

Setup for play:

- Depending on the ages you are preparing your notebooks for take 5-10 sheets of paper (all roughly same size – can be from recycling bin though) and form them into a stack. Add a piece of cardboard to the front and back to form covers.
- Put 3 staples down the left side to hold the pages and cardboard together.
- Add a strip of masking tape or colourful washi tape to cover the staples back and front so there are no sharp edges.
- Pass out a notebook to each child and encourage them to create a front page so they know how to find their notebook. Depending on the ages this might be some simple mark making, a drawing or writing.
- Find a special space or shelf in your learning area to display the books along with some pencils and pens that the children can access themselves easily. Encourage the children to add to their notebooks whenever they want to.
- You might like to help them put words to their story by writing down what they describe to you on their pages.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make marks, draw or write in their notebooks they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- The skill of transference and representation
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Manipulate pens and pencils with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Work independently on a project
- Express oneself and represent what he/she knows, thinks, believes, and feels through visual arts.
- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Tell stories and recall prior experiences

Extending the play:

- When the notepads are full organise a little art show for family members and work with the children to create a display of their books.

