



SELF PORTRAIT FRAMES

Materials you need:

- Small frame shapes cut from recycled cardboard (cereal boxes work well!) with an open space in the middle big enough for a picture.
- White paper rectangle cut slightly larger all round than the opening in the frame (you need to leave a paper border so you can paste onto back of frame) so you might like to draw an outline of where children can draw so it shows in the frame.
- Coloured markers
- Tape, pva glue, scissors, brushes
- Old magazines – try to use a variety of genres if you can

Setup for play:

- Give each child one of the frames along with the paper and ask them to draw a self portrait - just a simple picture of themselves.
- When they are happy with their picture set them aside and explain they are going to look through the magazines to find pictures of things that make them happy or they like – food, games, toys, places etc. Interests and things that help clarify their identity.
- Brush glue onto the frames and paste pictures all around the frame overlapping to fill in all spaces in the style of decoupage.
- When they are happy with their designs brush a final coat of pva glue over the top to help seal and give the frame a shine.
- The next day when the frames are completely dry use some tape to stick the self portraits to the cardboard frame. Tape a little twine in a loop so they can hang the frames.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children create their self-portrait frames they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and increase their spatial awareness
- Develop new vocabulary and language skills
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and symbols.
- Express themselves creatively

Extending the play:

- Provide material remnants and scissors for the children to design and make clothes that suit their own likes and personalities.
- Use loose parts like buttons, necklaces, twigs, material scraps, jewellery leaves, wood cookies, wooden curtain rings etc to make faces on a square of black felt. Take a photo of each face to add to your wall display.

