

A Color and Light Integrated Planning Wheel

Wheel is an example of the planning format we developed to help teachers create an integrated curriculum. The lead activity of the day, “Colorful Clay,” is part of a coherent unit on mixing colors. The teacher introduces the topic in a large group setting and reads the book *Little Blue, Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni to engage children in a discussion of the topic. During large group time, the teacher might demonstrate—while inviting lots of input from the children—the entire activity. Next, during choice time, children can extend or repeat the science activity in a small group with adult support. Children who choose to play in other activity settings will find props and materials to support further exploration of the activity. The listing of related math and social studies activities and relevant vocabulary in the planning wheel helps the teacher extend the day’s lesson.

Color and Light Integrated Planning Wheel

Colorful Clay Unit

Concept

We can identify the primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. In combinations, they create the secondary colors: green, orange, and purple.

Objectives

The children will

- reflect and ask about the colors they see around them every day
- plan and predict how to make more colors
- act and observe what happens when the primary colors are mixed together
- report and reflect on the new colors they have created.

Materials Needed

red, yellow, and blue playdough • plastic wrap • plastic knives • red, yellow, and blue crayons • paper

Activity

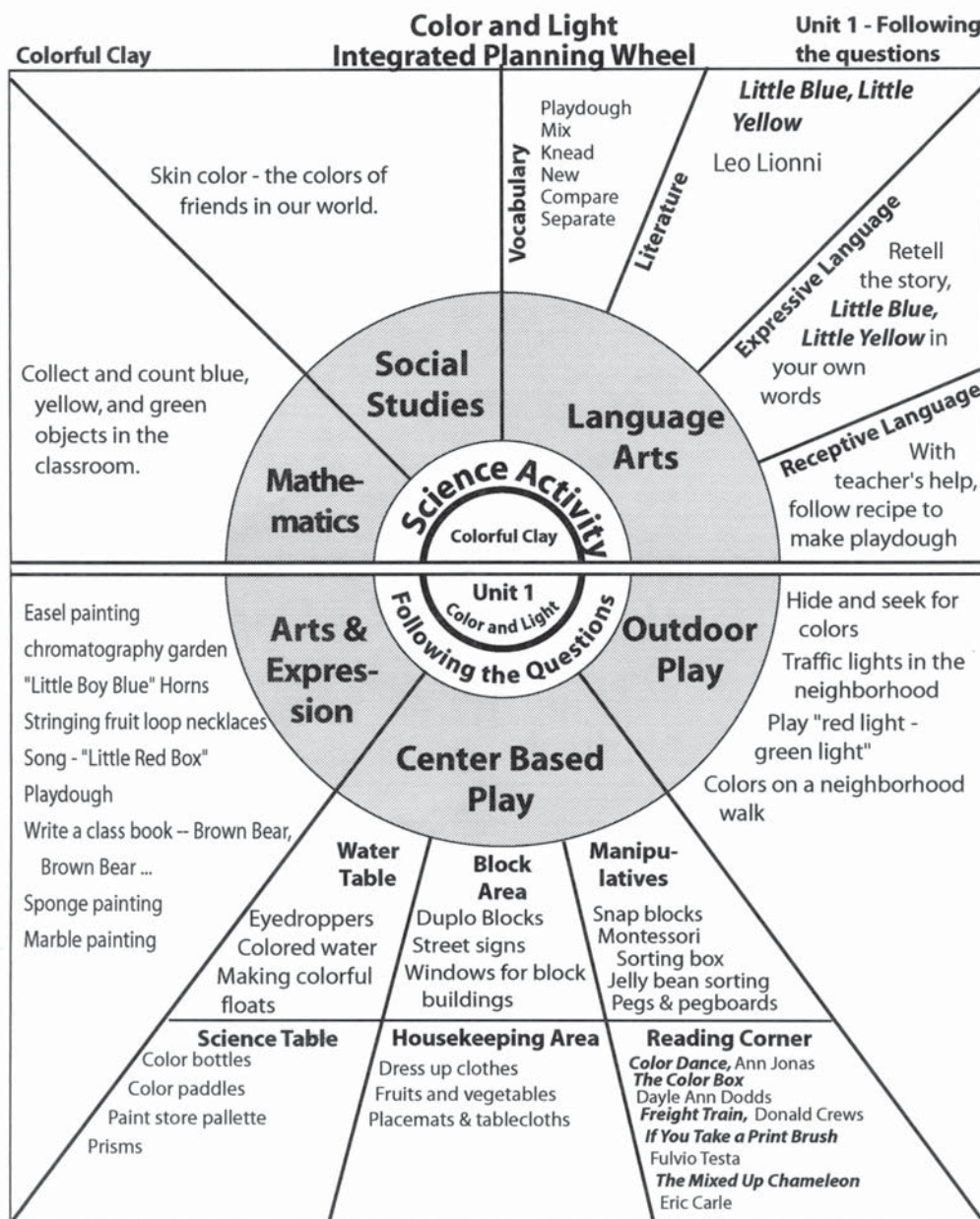
Be sure to give the children plenty of time to experiment with the playdough before doing this experiment.

1. Choose one of the colors of playdough and roll it into a long rope.
2. Select a crayon that matches the color of the dough.
3. Draw on paper a mark to symbolize the dough.
4. Repeat with a second color.
5. Slice off equal amounts of the two colors that were chosen and predict what new color will be created.
6. Mix the small lumps of dough together.
7. Repeat with new colors.
8. Save the mixtures and let them dry.

Discovery Questions

1. Compare color mixtures with peers—are all secondary colors the same?
2. What new colors were made?
3. Did anyone mix all three colors? What happened?
4. What would happen if you mixed unequal pieces?

—Kathleen Conezio and Lucia French



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Integrated Curriculum and Extensions for Colorful Clay Unit

Mathematics

Collect and count blue, yellow, and green objects in the classroom

Social Studies

- skin color—the colors of friends in our world
- color of flags of countries

Language Arts

literature

Read Leo Lionni's *Little Blue, Little Yellow*

vocabulary

playdough mix
knead new
compare separate

expressive language

Retell the story *Little Blue, Little Yellow* in your own words.

receptive language

With teacher's help, follow recipe to make playdough.

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