Weaving Experience

Why weaving?

Weaving is a fun and inexpensive activity that helps to develop your child's fine motor skills.

Weaving also helps to develop:

- Eye-hand coordination and concentration.

- Problem-solving skills. Children need to consider and work through any problems they encounter as they weave.

- Understanding of patterns and sequencing, which are essential for later literacy and numeracy development.

- Language skills such as naming colours, and language concepts such as 'in', 'out', 'up', 'down', 'under' and 'over' etc.

- Creativity and relaxation. Weaving is a quiet, calming activity in which children can develop and express their creative ideas.

- Environment awareness. Children learn to recycle and reuse materials from around the home or the natural world, their garden.

Here's what you'll need:

- Weaving material: you can use things you have around the house, such as fabric strips (you could recycle old clothes by cutting them into strips), wool, packing tape, string, pipe cleaners, curling ribbon, straws, onion/orange bags, strings of beads, feathers etc.

- A weaving frame: you can use washing baskets, basket trays, plastic mesh from hardware stores, fences, bannisters, sticks, hula hoops etc.

How to start:

- Prepare for the activity by cutting your weaving materials into legnths that are manageable for your child.

- Prepare your frames.

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Here's how to do it:

- Set up your frame and have your materials ready.

- Demonstrate to your child how to weave the fabric in and out between the spaces of the frame.

- Get your child to have a turn, encouraging them to be creative and follow their own pattern.

- Allow/help them to experiment with using different types of knots and patterns.

- Celebrate their masterpiece and praise their efforts. You might like to display their piece somewhere in your home.

Photo provided by Belmont Kindergarten

Photo provided Tabitha Nelson (educator)

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