

Drop-In Activities from the Early Literacy Manual

Activity: **Littles Playground** from the manual - page 11
Materials: kitchen colander(s), artificial flowers, pipe cleaners
Cost: \$5
Directions: Place colanders upside-down on table and allow children to poke pipe cleaners and artificial flowers through the holes to create a fairy playground/garden. Supplement with other miniature garden toys if available.

Activity: **Catching Littles** modified from the manual - page 16
Materials: bubbles, badminton shuttlecocks
Cost: \$10
Directions: Practice the rhyme "A Catching We Will Go" from page 16 of the Early Lit manual encouraging children to cup their hands together on the word "catch" and open their hands on the final "go." Once the rhyme is familiar, provide children with badminton shuttlecocks and allow them to catch bubbles that you blow. As bubbles are falling, repeat the rhyme.

Activity: **Littles Search-and-Find** from the manual - page 18
Materials: printed & colored images from the manual, mounting putty/painters tape
Cost: \$3
Directions: Hide the images around your program space or library. Let children know how many images there are and have them go on a scavenger hunt. A simple key could be printed with sample images so they know what to look for. Perhaps offer a small carnival-type prize for kids who find all the images.

Activity: **Fairy Berry Sort** modified from the manual - page 19
Materials: 6-cup muffin pans, assorted colored pom-poms, tweezers/tongs
Cost: \$10
Directions: Encourage children to use tweezers/tongs to sort the pom-poms into the muffin tins. There is no right or wrong way; they may sort by color, size, quantity, or without a recognizable pattern at all. If you anticipate older children in attendance, provide craft feathers instead of pom-poms to make this task slightly more difficult - from page 31 of the manual.

Activity: **Cross the Bridge** modified from the manual - page 63
Materials: some object representing a bridge (could be as simple as posterboard with a line drawn across it or a piece of rope stretched across the floor), homemade spinner
Cost: \$5
Directions: Use this activity in conjunction with The Billy Goats Gruff fairytale. Label the spinner with different methods of crossing the bridge - walking, skipping, backwards, bear crawl, baby steps, etc. Allow kids to spin and perform the action indicated. For added fun, add a picture of a troll to the spinner which would allow kids to "freestyle" going across the bridge.

Activity: **Humpty Dumpty's Wall** from the manual - page 76
 Materials: anything that can be used as stackable building material, plastic or foam eggs
 Cost: \$5 (unless you choose to purchase blocks)
 Directions: Build a wall that Humpty Dumpty can sit on safely. If you anticipate older children in attendance, add a variety of sizes and shapes of building materials including canisters and bottles to make this task slightly more difficult.

Activity: **Mary's Little Sheep** from the manual - page 77
 Materials: cardboard sheet cut-outs, bulky yarn
 Cost: \$6
 Directions: Use in conjunction with Mary Had a Little Lamb or Baa Baa Black Sheep. Pre-cut several cardboard sheep and pieces of yard at least 48". Encourage children to wrap their sheep with the yarn.

Activity: **Nursery Rhyme Olympics** modified from the manual - page 83
 Materials: assorted based on which nursery rhymes you choose
 Cost: minimal
 Directions: The manual provides a variety of activities for nursery rhymes on pages 83 and 84. Choose the ones that work best in your space. This is an excellent tie-in with the Summer Olympics held July 24-August 9.

Cost Estimates

Ama = Amazon WM = WalMart DG = Dollar General

Littles Playground Colander Ama - \$5-\$10 WM - \$0.88-\$4 DG - \$2.75	Littles Playground Artificial flowers Ama - \$10-\$20 WM - \$1.50-\$3 DG - \$1-\$3	Littles Playground Pipe cleaners Ama - \$6-\$10 WM - \$1-\$3 DG - \$1
Catching Littles Bubbles Ama - \$11 (100oz bottle) WM - \$1 (6ox bottle) DG - \$1 (6oz bottle)	Catching Littles Shuttlecocks Ama - \$3-\$10 WM - \$2 DG - unavailable	Fairy Berry Sort Muffin tins Ama - \$6-\$11 WM - \$1.50 DG - \$4.50 (12-cup)
Fairy Berry Sort Pom poms Ama - \$9-\$13 WM - \$1.50-\$3.50 DG - \$1	Fairy Berry Sort Kitchen tongs Ama - \$8-\$13 Wm - \$1-\$5 DG - \$1-\$2.50	Sheep Bulky yarn Ama - \$6-\$11 WM - \$6-\$11 DG - unavailable