

Shadow Exploration

Activity: Children will explore shadows by finding them, making them and tracing them.



Objective

Children will explore the relationship of objects to light.

Targeted Standards

VI. Scientific Inquiry

VI.C.1. Demonstrates knowledge related to physical science

Benchmark e. Explores the relationship of objects to light

http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/standards.html#d=VI&a=four_year_olds

Scaffolding

- Assist children in tracing each other's shadows as necessary.
- Some children may benefit from an adult helping them practice shadow making. Ask the child to explain what is making the shadow. Provide assistance as necessary.

Extensions

- Make related books available for children to explore. Some suggestions include:
 - *What Makes a Shadow?* by Clyde Robert Bulla
 - *Shadows and Reflections*, by Tana Hoban
 - *My Shadow*, by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Dim the classroom lights and invite children to use a projector or flashlights to create shadows on a bare wall.

Materials Needed

Sidewalk chalk

Markers

White construction paper or a roll of newsprint

Book about shadows

Unit blocks

Checking for Understanding

Children will demonstrate their understanding of the lesson by finding shadows and the objects that made them.

Shadow Exploration

Activity: Children will explore shadows by finding them, making them and tracing them.



Targeted Standards

VI. Scientific Inquiry

VI.C.1. Demonstrates knowledge related to physical science

Benchmark e. Explores the relationship of objects to light

http://flbt5.floridaearlylearning.com/standards.html#d=VI&a=four_year_olds

Procedures

1. Discuss shadows with the children and invite them to share their thoughts and experiences. Have they ever seen a shadow? Where? Was it a sunny day or a cloudy day?
2. Read an age appropriate book about shadows (see suggestions below). Explain that a shadow is made when an object blocks light.
3. Take the children outdoors, on a sunny day, and encourage them to look for shadows. What object is blocking the light to make the shadow?
4. Encourage them to place a piece of paper in the path of the shadow and trace it with a marker.
5. Invite children to make shadows with their bodies. Help them notice what happens to the shadows when they move (the shadows move too). Provide sidewalk chalk and invite the children to trace each other's shadows.
6. Bring unit blocks outside and encourage the children to build structures and trace the shadows they make.
7. What did the children learn about shadows?