



Being Creative

Key Stage 1

STEM Activity 1: Recreate a Strawberry with Playdough

Background and Science Information

In the summertime, we can eat lots of lovely summer berries, but have we ever looked really closely at them? Let's see how good we are at observing.

Scientific Inquiry

What does a strawberry look like?

Learning Intention

Strawberries are a particular shape with tiny seeds all over the surface and a green leafy top.

Equipment

- Magnifying glasses
- Strawberries
- Strawberry scented play dough
- Cloves or something small to represent the seeds on the surface of the strawberry
- Mint leaves or something to represent the leafy top

Method

Introduction

With the children, look at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book as a stimulus for the activity.

One of the pieces of fruit the caterpillar eats is a strawberry. Maybe you have grown your own strawberries. If not, you can buy some at the local greengrocers.

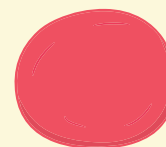
Development

Encourage the children to use the magnifying glasses to take a good look at the piece of fruit. Encourage them to recreate what they see using the materials you have provided.

Encourage the children to look at:

- the shape;
- the detail; and
- the different parts.

What can they use to represent each part?





Being Creative

Discussion and plenary

Ask the children to share their creations with the rest of the class. Can they point out the different parts they have made?

Extension

Could the children create other foods from the story? Remember, you are encouraging the children to develop the skill of observation. So, encourage them to tell you what they can see or relate everything to what they can see.

The children could help prepare the play dough.

RECIPE

- 8 tablespoons plain flour
- 2 tablespoons table salt
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 60 ml warm water

Combine all these ingredients in a bowl to make the main dough. To create the sensory strawberry pink play dough for this activity, add these items:

- 1 teaspoon approximately of strawberry essence
- Red food colouring

Note: Food colouring can temporarily dye skin.



Key Stage 1

STEM Activity 2: Strawberry Plant in a Strawberry Pot

Background and Science Information

Plant seeds to grow your own strawberries or from April to May you can buy seedling plants. The strawberries will be ready to pick and eat between four and six weeks after the plant flowers. If you have bought an everbearing variety, this process will continue over the growing period of the summer. Strawberry plants need eight hours sunshine a day to produce fruit. Frost will damage the plant.

Scientific Inquiry

Can I grow my own strawberries?

Learning Intention

I can grow my own strawberry plant and I can decorate a strawberry pot to grow it in.

Equipment for creating the pot

- Terracotta plant pot
- Red, green and black paint
- PVA glue
- Paint brush

Method

Introduction

Look at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book as a stimulus for the activity. One of the pieces of fruit the caterpillar eats is a strawberry. We want to grow our own and we want a nice pot to grow them in. We want to make the pot look like a strawberry.

Development

Remind the learners of what they observed when completing Activity 1: Making a Playdough Strawberry.

Encourage the learners to look at the parts of the strawberry. What colour is the top?

What colour is the main body? Can we use a fingerprint to represent the seeds?

Now start creating with the pots. They will have to be left to dry before you can plant the strawberry plant.

Once the pots are dry, give each learner a pot with some compost in the bottom.

Encourage each learner, with help, to plant their own strawberry plant.



Self-Management



Being Creative



Discussion and Plenary

Why do plants like sunlight?

Why do plants like water?

Which parts of the strawberry plant do humans like to eat?

Have you ever eaten strawberries?

Hold a tasting session with strawberries or other fruit. Make sure to check for allergies before tasting.

Extension

Ask the learners to create a time log to find out how long it takes for the strawberries to grow. Remind them to check the plant regularly for changes and growth. Encourage them to record this progress by taking a photo each day.

Can the learners make the connection between the flower blossom and the strawberry?



Self-Management



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