

# **Early Education Notes**Play School's Colours All Around

# **Background**

From the yellow sun in the sky, to the red dirt on the ground, there are colours everywhere – **Colours All Around!** 

Exploring colour provides an exciting vocabulary for children to describe their world and classify everyday objects. In this series, we experience colour through nature, art making, Aboriginal culture, STEM and many more colourful ways.

# Links to The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)

Learning Outcome 1:	Children have a strong sense of identity.
Learning Outcome 1.3:	Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities.
Learning Outcome 4:	Children are confident and involved learners.
Learning Outcome 4.3:	Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.
Learning Outcome 5:	Children are effective communicators.
Learning Outcome 5.3:	Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
Learning Outcome 5.4:	Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.
Principle 4:	Respect for diversity
Practice 3:	Learning through play
Practice 4:	Intentional teaching
Practice 5:	Learning environments



### Follow-up ideas

#### Colours of the animal kingdom

Emma and Teo explore the colours of insects and wild animals through binoculars. Delve a little deeper and investigate animal camouflage and aposematic animals – those with bright warning colours and patterns to deter predators such as the lady beetle and blue-ringed octopus.



#### Colour in art

Expressing ideas through visual arts supports cognitive development and creativity. Explore variation and depth of colour with a range of paint mediums including acrylic, watercolour, pastel, powdered, tempera, metallic and ochre.

Invite children to create their own colour wheel by arranging loose parts and collage materials in segments on a table or in the sandpit (red, yellow, green, blue, purple and orange). As children find and sort objects, discuss how each colour has many shades.

# **Experimenting with colour**

Make colourful goop!

- 1 ½ cups of corn flour
- · 1 cup of water
- A few drops of food colouring

For another enjoyable sensory experience, place two blobs of coloured paint in a zip lock bag then squish the bag to watch colours mix.





Try re-creating the colourful light garden featured in episode 3 using a white backdrop and torches covered in coloured cellophane to project colours. Overlapping transparent coloured materials on a projector or light table will form new colours to ignite a sense of wonder and delight.

Rainbows never fail to spark happiness and awe! Make your own rainbow by holding up magnifying glass to a window so sunlight shines through and separates into a colour spectrum.

Try our Play School: Science Time <u>Rainbow Water science</u> <u>experiment</u>.

#### **Imagining with colour**

The stories shared in this series will inspire small world creative play. In episode 3 Abi and Hunter use hand-made puppets in the story 'Finding Bruno'. Characters include striking sea creatures such as the fluorescent <a href="Peacock Mantis Shrimp">Peacock Mantis Shrimp</a>!



Including a range of colourful clothing and accessories for pretend play can help extend children's vocabulary when identifying and labelling colours. Visit your local op-shop to find affordable, unique and colourful clothing and accessories.

#### **Colour in nature**

Appreciating the vivid colours of our Australian landscape, including its flowers and foliage, encourages mindfulness and nurtures respect for the environment.

Episode 4 incorporates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being (EYLF Principle 4: Respect for diversity). Picture books and artworks by Aboriginal authors and illustrators/artists incorporate unique colours and culturally significant designs to represent Australia's land, waterways and skies. The Art in Country by Bronwyn Bancroft is a wonderful storybook sharing the colours of Australia through art and engaging language "Orbs of sun light up the land. Grass lies across the green velvet cloak of hills".



#### I can see a rainbow!

Emotions can be ignited by colour. For example, blue may evoke calm and peaceful feelings. Build emotional literacy by brainstorming with children about how different colours make them feel. Want to learn more? Moodies on ABC iview gently references mood and colour association through costume and animation.

Episode 5 features a story about a family with two dads. This provides an opportunity to explore diverse family structures, including <u>rainbow families</u>. Educators can support a child's sense of belonging by asking them to reflect on who is part of their own family and why their family is important to them.





#### Picture books from this series

- A Colour of His Own (1997) by Leo Lionni
- My Country (2019) by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan
- Red House, Blue House, Green House, Tree House (2020) by Jane Godwin and Jane Reiseger



#### More picture book suggestions

- One World, Many Colours (2020) by Ben Lerwill and Alette Straathof
- The Kingdom of Beautiful Colours (2019) by Isabel Wyatt and Sara Parrilli
- The Art in Country: A Treasury for Children (2020) by Bronwyn Bancroft
- How Do You Make a Rainbow? (2021) by Caroline Crow and Cally Johnson-Isaacs
- *Big Book of Colours* (2015) by Felicity Brooks and Sophia Touliatou
- The Rainbow Fish (1999) by Marcus Pfister

#### **Additional resources**

- Early Childhood Australia: Spend a Minute on the Creative Arts
- Download the Play School Art Time Educator Notes
- Discover more about colours in the natural world with The Wonder Gang's <u>Wonder Cards</u>.
- Check out DIY experiments with <u>Play School Science Time</u>: Early Education Resources.
- Narragunnawali: Colours as Cultural Symbols
- The Spoke Early Childhood Australia: Communicating Family Diversity and Celebrations

#### References

- Colour Psychology: Child Behaviour and Learning through
   Colours
- 2. QA Education: Why is Colour So Important in Early Development?
- 3. Australian Government, Department of Education,
  Employment and Workplace Relations (2009). Belonging,
  Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework
  for Australia

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