

THRIFTY TEACHERS

What You Can Do with a Dollar !

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School budgets are being cut.

Teachers are finding creative ways to meet the unique learning needs of our students. THRIFTY TEACHERS can improvise, create and perform wonders with a visit to a dollar store, Wal-Mart or Target's dollar bin, or a similar type / price store



Here are some inexpensive ideas which are easy for teachers and parents to adapt for:

- Behavior and Social / Emotional Skills
- Academics
- Sensory
- Fine and Gross Motor Skills
- Visual supports

Behavior and Social/Emotional Skills

Behavior



Have a child that picks at fingers, pinches or scratches?

Cover hands with the student's favorite character socks.







Eubba.

Behavior

Silicon Straws to bite and chew on.

Can be cut in shorter pieces and made into a necklace.





Cut out the bottom of a drink cooler, place on student's wrist.

Can be used as a fidget or something to chew or bite on.

Behavior



For a child who has problems walking or keeping hands to self. Have them hold onto a rope or football. Child can hold onto both ends or parent/teacher can hold the other end.

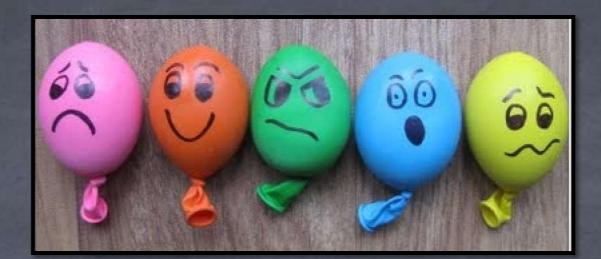


Social / Emotional



Anger Box / Calming Caddy





Stuffed balloons with magic marker faces



Eggs with faces -Identifying emotions

Academics

Pre-Readiness Skills, Math, Reading & Writing





Academic Pre-Readiness Skills -Sorting Activities





Sort by size, shape, color, function, attributes, etc.

Use for counting or patterning





More Sorting Activities







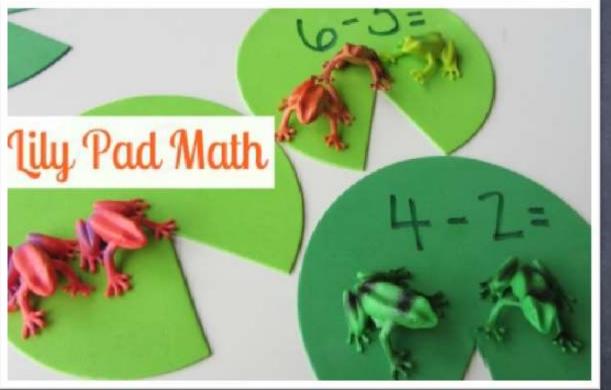




Math

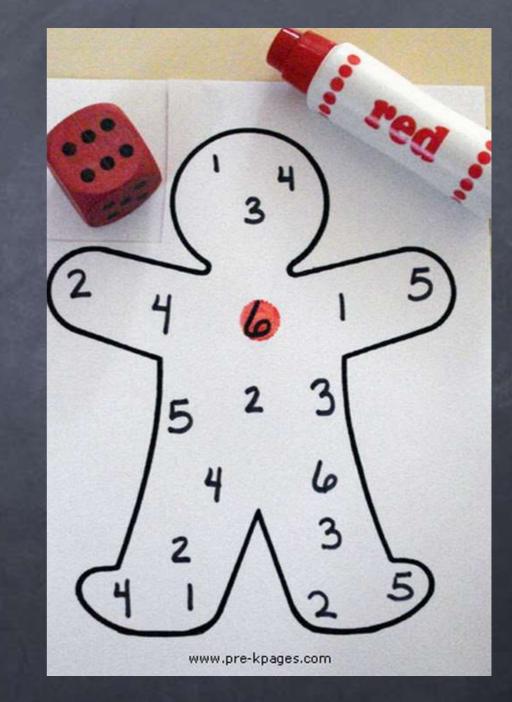
Dominoes, dice and magnetic numbers

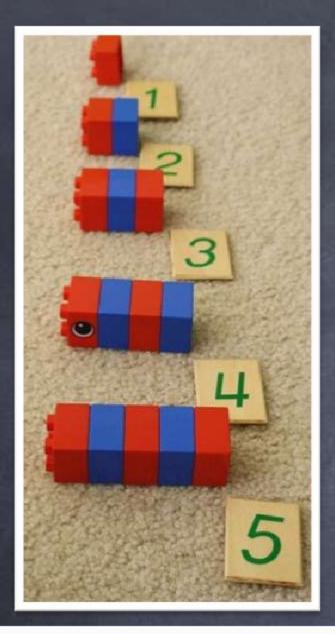




Lily Pad Math – use foam circles, plastic frogs and a marker

Bingo Markers and large dice







Number Concepts







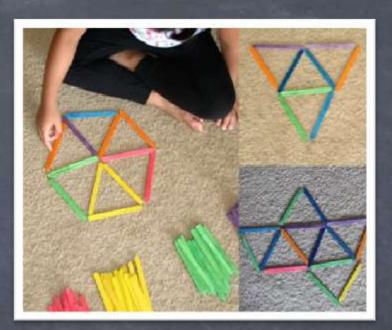


Greater than, less than, & equal to

Craft Stick -Ideas for Math

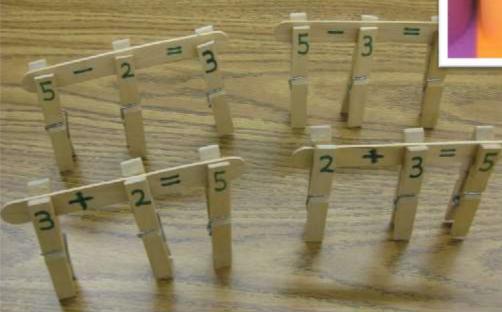


Number sentences



Geometry Shapes

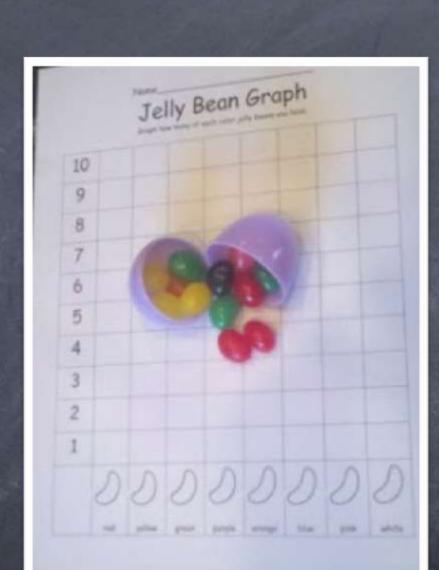




Math ideas – counting your chickens before they hatch











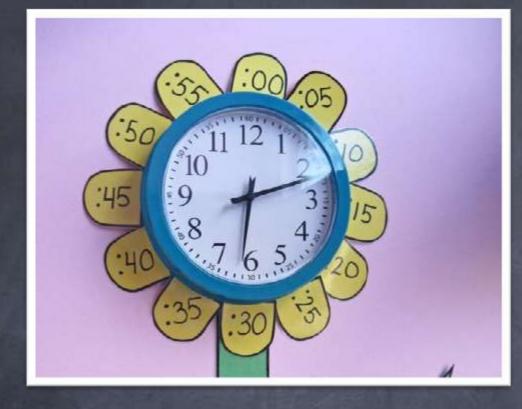


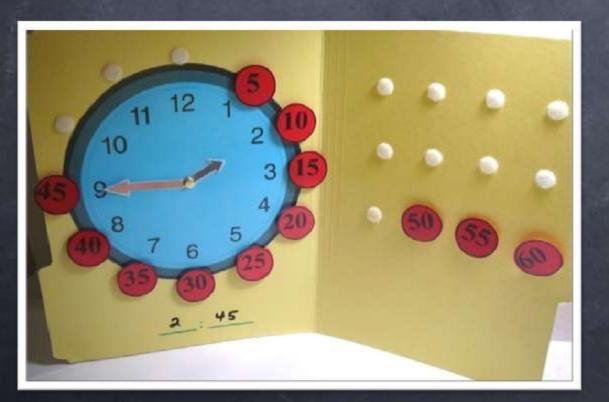


Matching



Telling Time





File Folder Games



Hula Hoop on Dry Erase Board



Paper Plates with foam hands and numbers







Math Cards and candy for matching, sorting, patterning and problem solving.









Alphabet Activities

Cookie Sheets and Magnet Letters





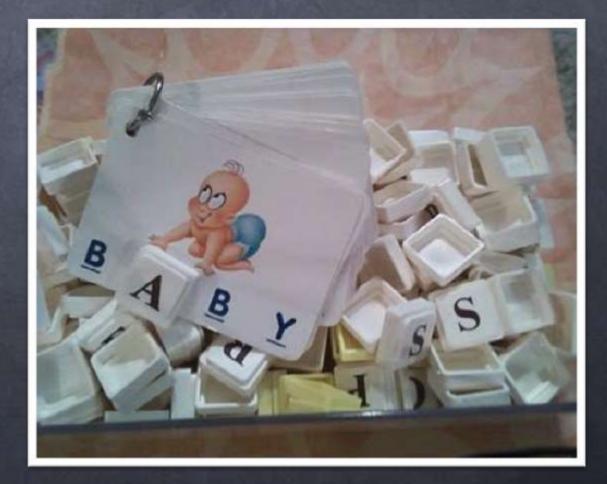


Bottle caps and sticker letters



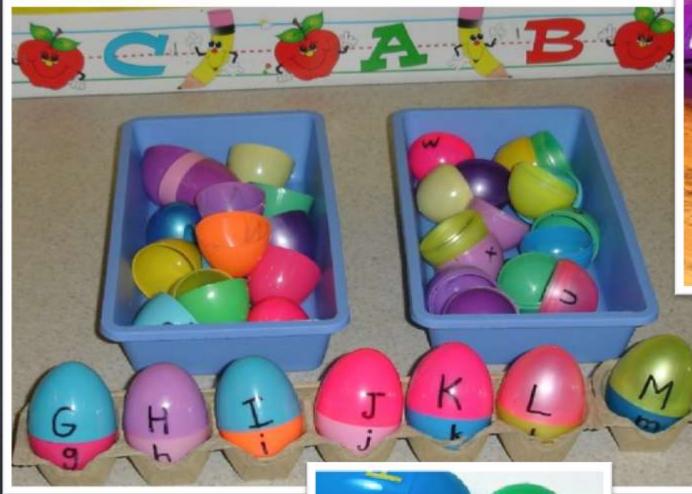


Pool Noodle Letters



Scrabble Letters

Literacy Eggs



Contraction of the second seco

Compound Words

Matching Letters



Word Families



Reading & Literacy

COMPOUND WORDS MAGNETS 39 Magnets Included
un shine flower pot bug
ly fire works honey bee
omb cup cake butter
orn paste tooth worm
ok lady sail boat skate
se board chalk pop

Magnet words can be placed on cookie sheet, blackboard, file cabinet, etc.



Microphone used for oral reading



Use Scrabble letter tiles to make words



Establish a reading center using touch lights and a Sharpie marker. When the lights are on, it's time to grab your book and read.





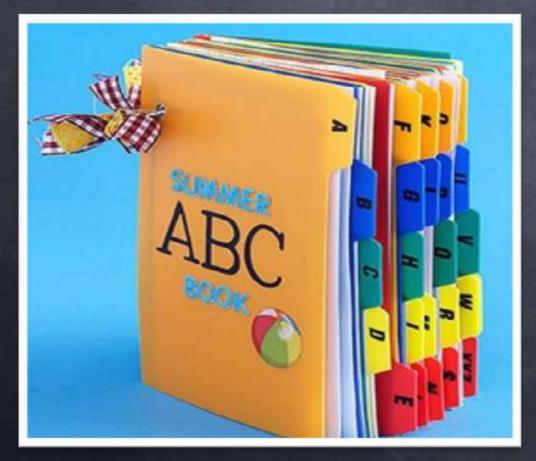




Ideas using Index Cards















 Bendy pencils or fancy pens may encourage writing and provide sensory feedback.

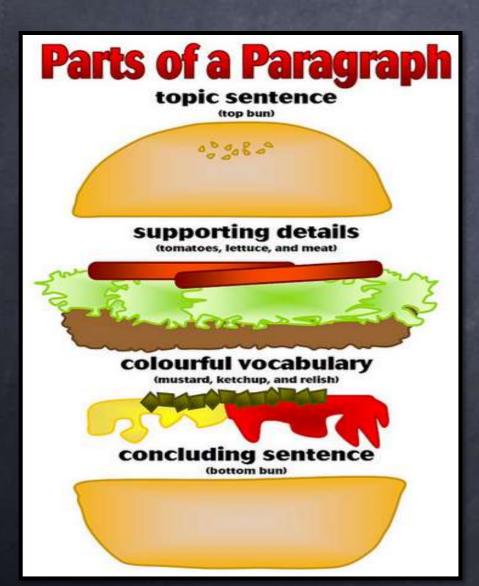




Writing

Coasters shaped like a sandwich – can be used as a visual to remind students of the parts of a paragraph.

Laminate coasters and use a dry erase marker to write ideas on.







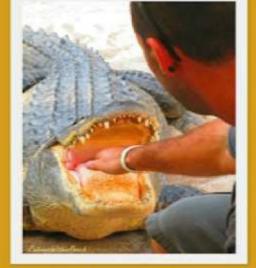
Something to "Peep" about -

Place a writing prompt or a picture in plastic eggs and have students select an egg and write to that prompt

Write a first person account of a cat stuck on a trampoline



[In other words, pretend you are a cat stuck on a trampoline. Describe how you got stuck on the trampoline, explain what it's like, and give lots of details.]



What is this man doing? Why? Would you want to have his job? Would you be brave enough? How would you feel trying this?



What kind of creature is this? Where do you think it lives?

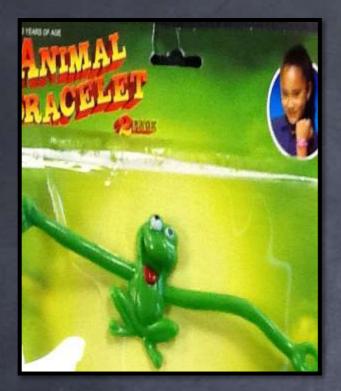




What is this life form? What planet is it from? How does it travel? What does it use for fuel? What would you name it? Would you want to touch it?



Sensory Items













Fidgets





















Car Wash Mitts











Sensory Boards

Made from dollar store cutting boards and common objects.

There is sand paper - kitchen scrubbies - car wash mitts - place mats - terrycloth toweling - fun fur, sandpaper, etc.

The edging is made from colorful shoelaces and each item is glued down with tacky glue.



Hair gel in a heavy duty zip lock bag. Add glitter, sparkles, toys.



Rain forest sound bottle – made with toothpicks, rice, water bottle

More Sensory Items



Sensory bottles – using water bottle, oil, food coloring, beads and glitter.

> Aquarium rocks



Noise Putty





Scented markers, bubbles, lip balm, and hand cream











Sensory Items

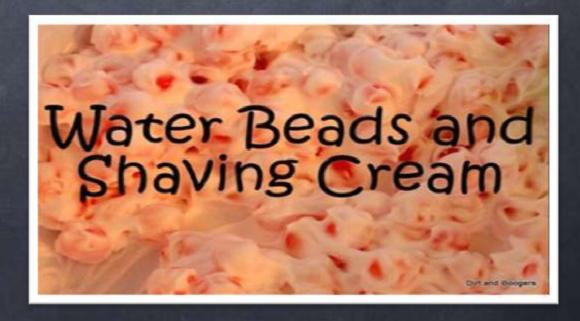


Teaching a student to shake hands. Buzzer gives sensory input and provides reinforcement for shaking hands.

Water Beads









Insta-Snow



Put animals or other items in Insta-Snow. Have students find the animals.

Can also use rice, beans, jello, sand, etc.

Fine and Gross Motor



Fine Motor Activities



Put straws pieces or pipe cleaners into Parmesan cheese bottle or microwave soup container.



Popsicle sticks in a Mayo bottle or toothpicks in pumpkin juice bottle.

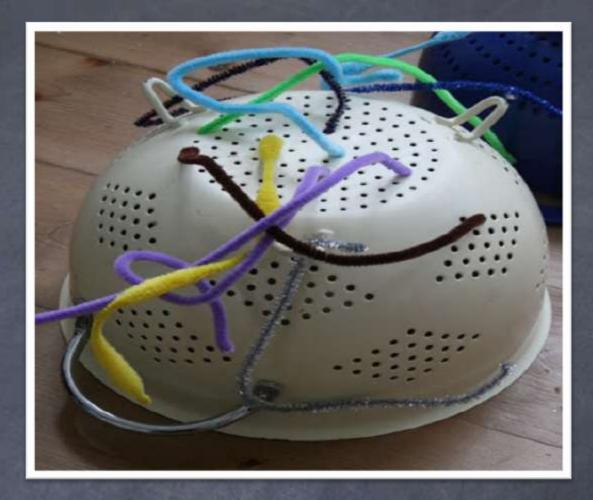




Tongs and a Kleenex box



Ice Cream Scoop and Rice



Strainer and pipe cleaners



Shaving cream and cookie sheet



Use a claw to pick up items.

Work on shoe tying

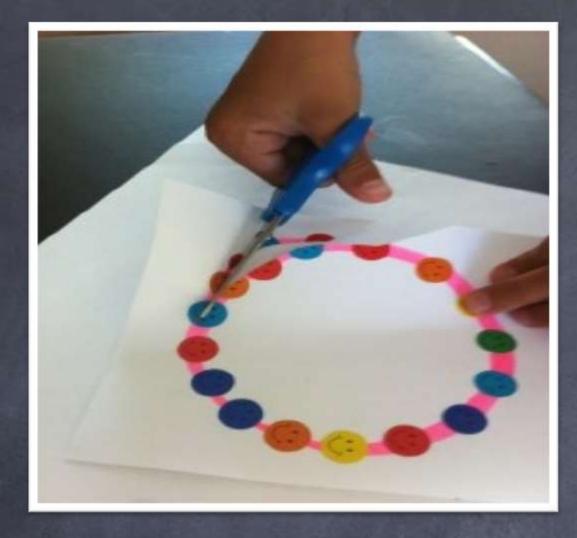




Chalk holder for fine motor and sensory concerns For finger isolation on the iPad use a mitten, glove or sock to limit touch screen contact to the index finger

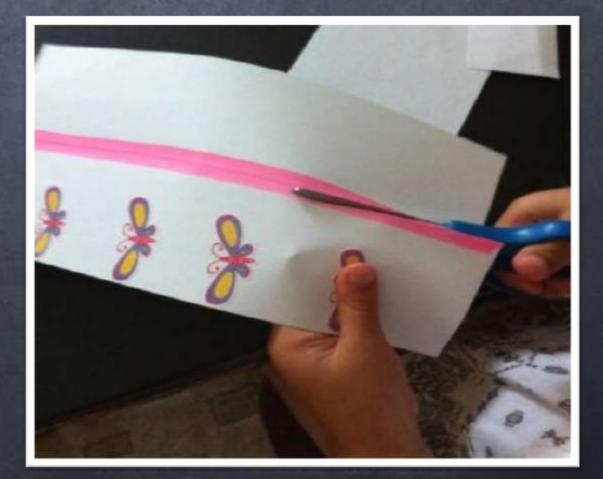




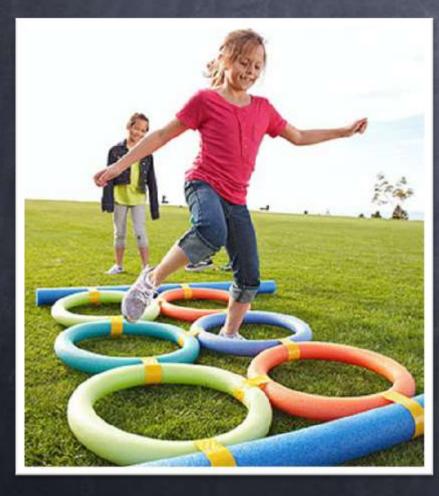


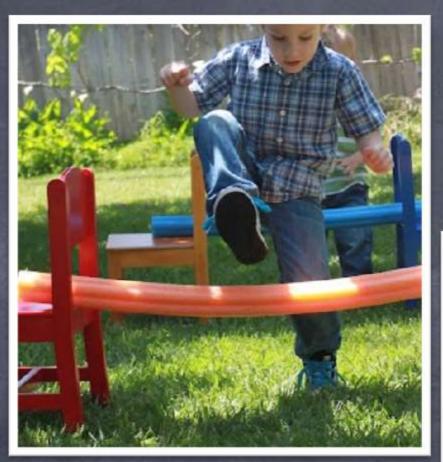
Cut through stickers to help stay on the line or use stickers to show holding hand placement

Fine Motor



Pool Noodle – gross motor activities





Pool noodle activities





Gross Motor Skills

Hop Scotch –

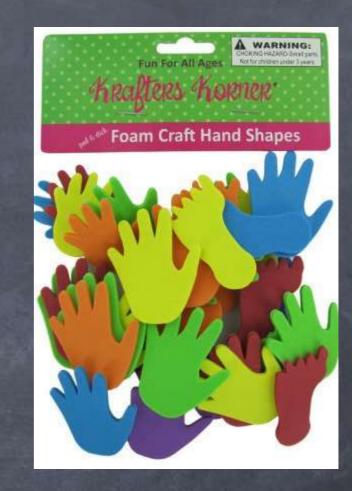
Using electrical tape and bean bags





Foam Shapes





Use foam feet to help with lining up. Can be used to show distance between students. Also can laminate and add students names for line order. Foam hands on the desk to remind student to raise hand before speaking.

Schedules





Clever Wallet becomes portable schedule holder





Schedule or Penny board on cutting board



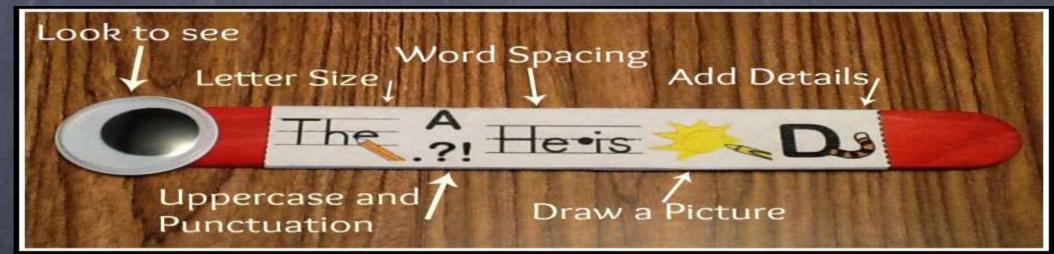


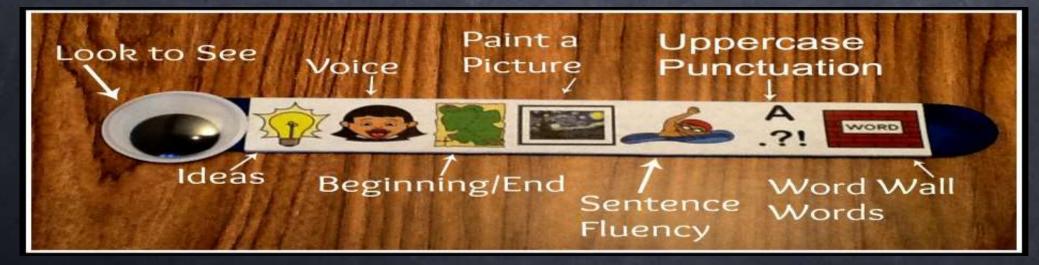


Visual reminder signs



Use craft sticks as focus sticks or task reminders

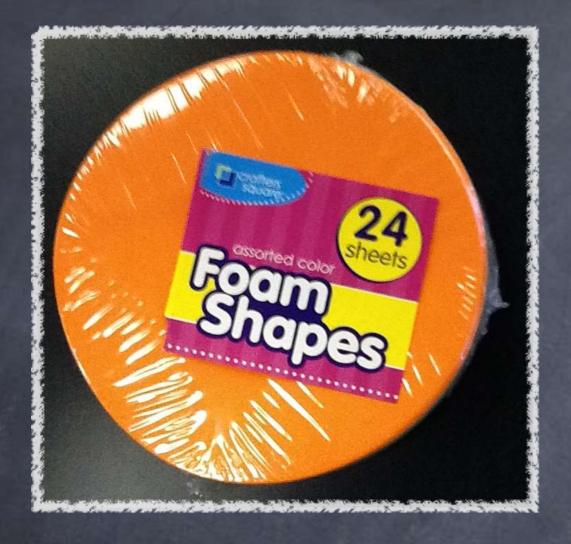




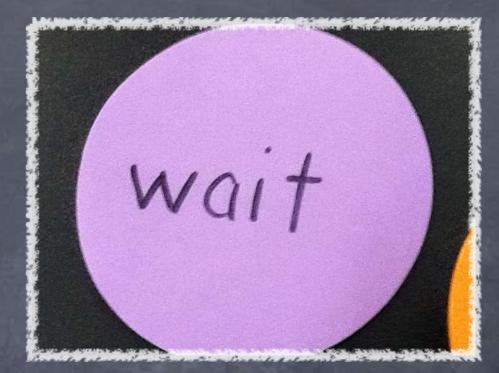
Tool Kit for Assignments

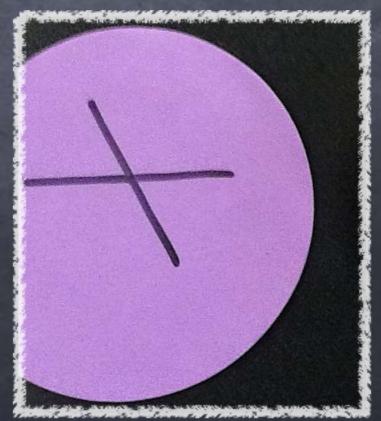
- If an assignment is too long-saw it in half
- If an assignment is too hard-hammer it out
- If the assignment is stressful-use the adjustable wrench to communicate that you feel "too tight" and need to "loosen up and relax"
- If you don't like the assignment-use the nut wrench to communicate that you think it is "nutty"
- If you are mad at your teacher use a" think don't say"-Raise the screw driver and twist a couple of times

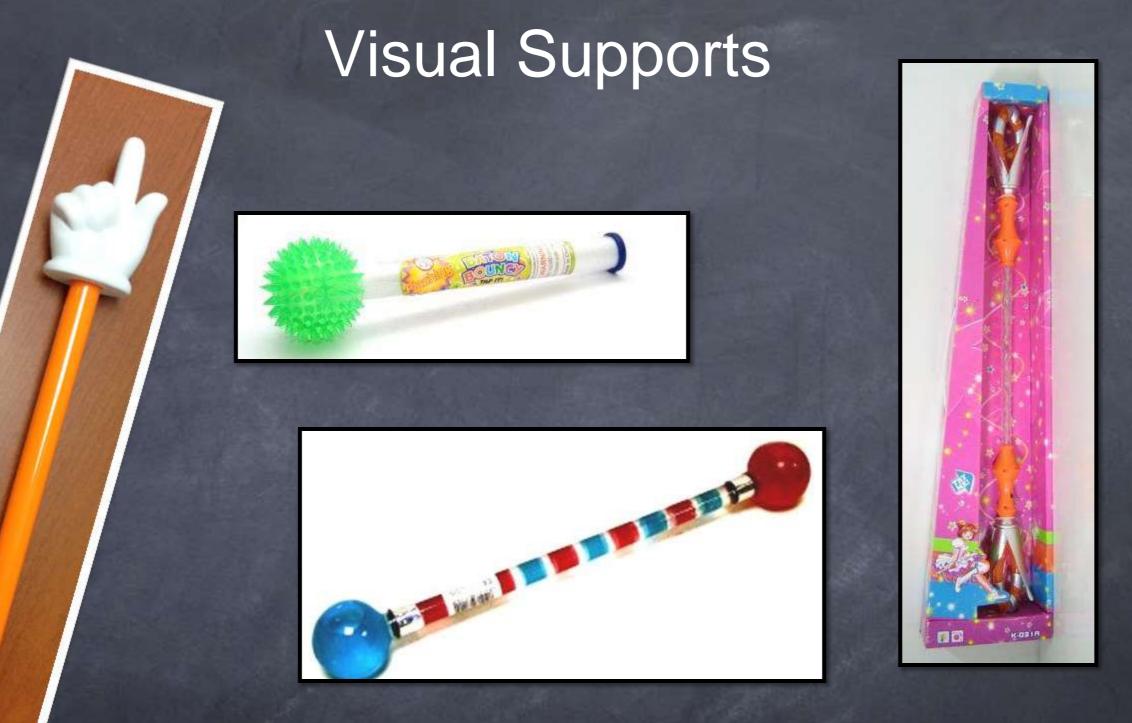
Concrete items students can use when work is too hard and has difficulty asking for help.



Foam circles - can be used to mark wait area or place to sit or stand







Pointing finger, magic wand or baton can be used to point, tap on items, gain attention or designate turn taking.

Visual Supports Binder Clips



Different colored clips – can be used to show work by subject, work to be made up, to go home, etc.



Put names on mail boxes



Add pictures to identify student's work

Spacers -

Used to add spaces between words and sentences. Can use clothes pins, craft sticks or spoons.







Mr. Potato Head

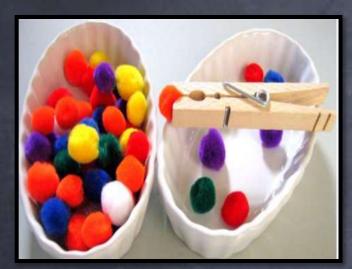
Pieces used to make classroom rules visual and concrete



Be creative...

The possibilities are endless!







Clothes Pins









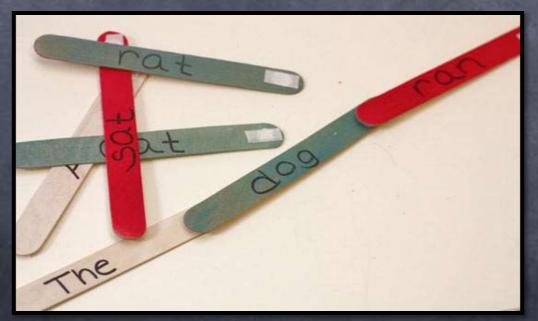






Craft Sticks



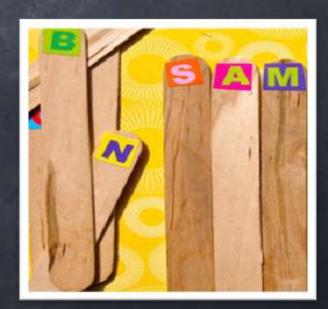


Add Velcro or magnets to form shapes, letters, words, numbers, sentences & puzzles.



Use as book marks











Sponges: Manipulatives to stack, sort, throw, etc





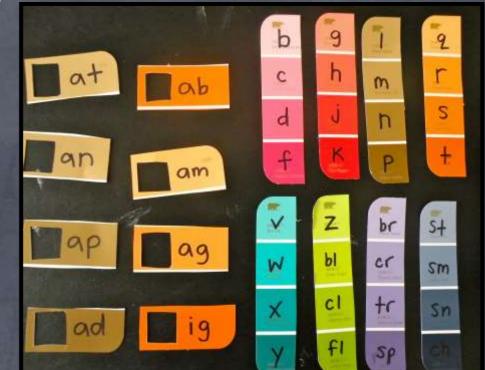






Paint Chips







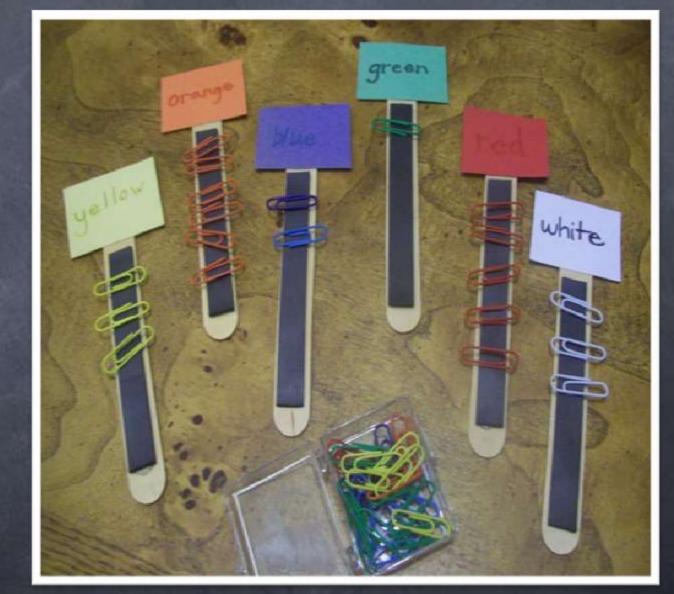




Facial cleaners used for Individual white board erasers and car mitts for large white boards

Practicing work skills







What are your "dollar" ideas?



Thanks to Central Indiana Autism Academy for sharing their \$ ideas.

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