

Ferdinand's Happiness Pasture Template

This activity works best with:

- SMALL GROUPS
- CLASSROOMS/LIBRARIES
- ACTIVITY STATIONS AT LARGE EVENTS

Preparation Time: MEDIUM

Materials: \$\$

OVERVIEW

In this activity, children talk about what makes Ferdinand happy and think about the kinds of things that make them happy. They then make flowers filled with pictures of things that make them happy to hang in Ferdinand's Happiness Pasture.

MATERIALS & PREPARATION

MATERIALS:

- Assorted colors of construction paper
- Tape and glue
- Paint and paint brushes (optional)
- Variety of craft materials such as tissue paper, pipe cleaners, sequins, corks, buttons, fabric scraps (furry for Ferdinand)
- Markers, crayons, and other writing/drawing tools
- Large sheet of butcher paper

PREPARATION:

- Using the butcher paper, draw a mural of a pasture large enough to display the flowers that the children will create. Try to include images that would be found in Ferdinand's pasture, such as grass, the cork tree, a hill, some bees, or Ferdinand himself. See pages 3 and 7 of *The Story of Ferdinand* for ideas.
- Create a sample flower to show to children. The flower should have a stem thick enough to write a couple of words about the picture and be large enough to create a drawing on the flower's bloom (flower head) of something that makes you happy.
- If desired, create flower templates with thick stems thick enough for children to write in and blooms for the children to use (see sample flower).

INTRODUCTION

- Begin this activity by talking about Ferdinand - Ask children, "What did Ferdinand like to do in the story?"
- Tell the children that today we will be drawing our own pictures, which will be in the shape of flowers, about things that make us happy or things we like to do - just like how smelling flowers and sitting under the cork tree made Ferdinand happy.
- Tell the children that we will put our drawings on the mural in Ferdinand's pasture to give him lots of flowers to smell - our own pasture full of pictures of things that make us happy!

ACTIVITY

- Using the templates of the flower or asking children to draw a flower themselves, children draw and decorate pictures of things that make them happy on the flower blooms.
- On the flower stems, encourage children, with the help of an adult, to write in words about what makes them happy. If children cannot write on their own encourage them to dictate to adults. Adults should write word for word what the children say and read back the language they have written.
- Have children post their flowers to the mural when they are finished.
- If time permits, invite children to help decorate Ferdinand's Happiness Pasture Mural by adding more trees, birds, etc.

TIPS FOR CONVERSATION

- Introduce the concept of pastures. "Pastures are big, open areas covered with grass and other plants that animals can eat. This is why Ferdinand and the other bulls and cows spend so much time there. What are some of the plants and animals in Ferdinand's pasture?" (cork tree, flowers, other bulls and cows, grass, butterflies, bumble bee)
- Have adults discuss the words lonesome, happy, happiness, and what it means to be happy - "Do you know what the words happy and happiness mean?" Discuss the meaning of these words with children and give simple clear examples. "Ferdinand's mother was worried he would be lonesome sitting by himself under the tree. Do you think Ferdinand was a happy bull?" "Why?" "What made him happy?" (sitting under the cork tree, smelling flowers, having a mother who loves him for who he is, etc.)
- Engage children in dialogue about being happy - "Tell me about a time you were very happy. What made you so happy? Are there other things that make you as happy as that?"
- Adults can also share examples of things that make them happy to encourage dialogue if the children don't have ideas to share. The example should be simple and clear.
- Encourage children to talk about their drawings - "Tell me about your drawing. What kinds of things do you like to do with your dog?" "What is your favorite flavor of ice cream? Do you like any other flavors?" "Where do you go when you ride your bike?"

LEARNING CONNECTION

- New words: Pasture / Lonesome / Happiness / (Flower) Stem / (Flower) Bloom
- The conversations you have after reading are just as important as the actual reading.
- Providing opportunities to understand and express their feelings helps children develop social-emotional understanding and skills which helps prepare them to be a part of a classroom learning community.
- Build on children's ideas by introducing new words and information.

Sample Flower

