

Flower Beanbags

Physical:

Items required are several felt beanbags in the shape of flowers. These are easy to make (a design follows). Stuff two with dry beans, two with plastic grocery bags, and two with cotton or batting. You will also need a basket with no handle.

Gather participants around the table and perform the greeting. Bring out the basket of flowers. Present one flower at a time explaining what it is; "This is a red felt flower." Present the flower to one participant and ask that person to hold it. Bring out a second flower and do the same with a second participant and then a third and fourth until all the flowers are on the table. Ask participants to squeeze their flower and feel the softness of the texture. Then ask individuals to toss their flowers to another player; throw them, slide the, or hand them to other participants.

Place the empty basket in the middle of the table. Ask participants to take their flower and throw it into the basket. Move the basket closer if necessary so the participant can get the flower inside. Have participants throw flowers into the basket several times each.

Cognitive:

Items required are felt flower bean bags of various color and bumble bee bean bags.

Displaying one flower at a time, ask the color. If no answer is forthcoming, give the answer and reinforce it by showing each participant as you repeat the color. Do this with each flower.

Place two of the flowers in front of one participant. Ask that individual to put one certain flower into the basket, which you then present to them. "Put the red flower in the basket." Do not allow a wrong response. If the participant begins to make an incorrect choice, remove the basket and repeat the color requested. "I need a red flower, do you have a red one?" Help them make the correct choice. Then request the second flower by color. Move to the next participant, place two flowers in front of that person and perform the same requests. Continue through all the flowers.

Intersperse a request for a bee. You may also pull out a bee as a surprise item and ask, "What is this?" Give the bees to different players. When drawing a bee from the basket, you can ask, "Is this a flower?" "Is this a bee?" "What color is the bee?"

When all flowers are in the basket, draw them out again, one at a time. Hold up the one flower and ask, "What color is this?" If there is no answer, add, "This is red." Then try again, "What color is this?" If again there is no answer, say, "This is red." and give the flower to one participant and pull a second one from the basket. Continue until all flowers are back in the hands of the participants. To close, hand the basket around and simply ask that players return the flowers to the basket.

This song can be sung to enhance the activity even more!

I'M A LONLEY LITTLE PETUNIA

I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch
An onion patch, an onion patch
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch
And all I do is cry all day
Boo-hoo, Boo-hoo
Won't somebody come and play with me
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch
And all I do is cry all day

