

Stone Soup

Activity for Preschool, PreK and Kinder class about the importance of sharing

SET UP

- Print Stone Soup Reading 1 and 2 – Make it into a “Book” for the class – 1 for teacher and at least 2 for class
- Previous week send home a note asking parents to send specified item for soup – see sample note “Dear Parents” – by Wednesday of following week
- Ask a parent / teacher / staff to lend a Crock Pot to make soup
- River rock for each child
- Small “rocks”

IN CLASS

- Read book Every Day
- Every day student will be making soup in different ways
- On Friday students will make real soup
- Before the cooking day have students wash “river rocks”

IN CIRCLE TIME

Discuss with students the importance of sharing. o What is sharing? o What can you do to remember the importance of sharing? o Think of a time when someone did not share with you or a time when you did not want to share. What happened and how did it make you feel? What are some reasons that other people might not want to share? o How are sharing and cooperation similar? Does sharing require cooperation?

ART CENTER / FINE MOTOR SKILLS CENTER

Instruct students to go to their tables and make their own stone soup using ingredients that were found in the book.

- Students will receive a worksheet containing a variety of vegetables. Students will need to choose six of their favorite vegetables, color them, and cut them out.
- Encourage students to draw vegetables not included on their worksheet.
- Stones will be on the table for children to include in their soup. After coloring and cutting, students will glue their vegetables and stone to a big, black pot.
- Cut out pictures of vegetables, from magazines or newspaper ads, or seed catalogs.
- Cut out some kettle shapes from black paper for your children.
- Set out some glue and the vegetable pictures.
- Have your children take a pot and some vegetable pictures and glue the pictures onto their pot shape.

FINER MOTOR CENTER - PLAY DOUGH VEGETABLES

- Set out some small containers of different colors of play dough.
- Give each child a black paper plate (for a soup pot)
- Set out some real vegetables for examples
- Encourage your children to make small play dough vegetables to place in their soup pot.
- Examples: red tomatoes; green beans and peas, white onions, yellow corn, etc.

MATH

Create a graph for favorite vegetables in class



THE DAY BEFORE “COOKING”

<http://notjustcute.com/2012/11/29/stone-soup-a-lesson-in-sharing/>

I was working on a batch of Stone Soup today, and thought it might be time to dig up, dust off, update, and reshare my favorite Stone Soup lesson from three years ago. It's a great way to start a discussion about the importance of sharing. **And who couldn't use some nice, warm soup this time of year?**

The story of Stone Soup is a popular old fable that has been retold countless ways. (If you need to brush up on the tale, you can find books at the library or online, and can even find online versions [here](#) and [here](#).) You can help your children be a part of this timeless story as you do some story acting and then share some soup together!

Start out by telling the children that you have something tasty to show them. **Pull out a rock, and ask if anyone would like to try some! “Of course not! It's a rock!” they'll all reply.** As you pretend to come to the realization that rocks are not food, tell the children that you know of a story where a delicious soup was made from a rock, or a stone, just like that one. Tell them you need their help in telling the story.

Embellish the story however you wish, but here is the basic way I tell it:

In this story there is a traveler *(that will be played by you, the teacher).* **And the traveler comes to a town where the people are not very good at sharing.** *Assure the children that you know they are very good at sharing, but they are going to have to pretend that they aren't.* **The people in this town had food, but they didn't want to share.** *Hand out some of the ingredients you used in your soup -the recipe I use follows at the end of this post. Explain what each ingredient is as you hand it out. I often hand out potatoes, onions, celery, carrots, dry pasta, canned or fresh tomatoes, a jar of chicken bouillon or even a can of chicken broth or cream of chicken to represent the broth, a jar of herbs, and some salt and pepper.*

I remind the children again that the villagers did not want to share, so they should hide their food behind their backs, and not share with me when I ask. Then I go on with the story. **This traveler arrived in the town where the people didn't share and she (or he) realized that she was very hungry! She knocked on the doors in the town and asked the people if they could share some food with her. Do you think the people shared? No, they weren't very good at sharing.** *Go around to the children asking the children if they have food, as they shake their heads no.*

Well, the traveler was good at sharing, and she was a little sneaky too. She sat down in the middle of the town, and said, “It's too bad no one has any food. I will make some stone soup for all of us to share!” So she got out a big pot *(you'll want one handy, along with a wooden spoon), filled it with water from the well, plopped in a big stone* *(use the one you showed at the beginning), and began stirring the pot over a warm*

fire. She sniffed the soup and said, loudly, “Oh, how I love Stone Soup! This is going to be a delicious



soup!”

Well the townspeople began to be very curious. They wondered how someone could make soup from just a stone! They began to watch the traveler. She stirred and sniffed and said, “Oh, this soup will be marvelous! If only I had some chicken broth, then it would be really delicious!” *Encourage the child with the broth to suddenly decide to share. Receive it graciously and put the whole jar or can, unopened, directly into the pot, pretending to stir above it. Continue on with each ingredient, bundling a few together if you need to keep things moving, (“If only I had some carrots and celery, then it would really be delightful!”) Really play it up, using a wide variety of words for “good” when describing how the soup smells and will taste (delightful, delectable, delicious, scrumptious) pairing several together for great affect. Continue until all of the items have been placed in the pot.*

Finally the stone soup was finished! Do you think the traveler decided to share the soup with the townspeople? Of course she did! They had shared with her and she wanted to share with them. *Pretend to pour soup into their hands and everyone pretends to eat. The townspeople were so amazed that such a delicious soup could be made from just a stone! But was it really made from just a stone? No, the soup was made delicious because everyone shared! After sharing the soup, the traveler moved on her way. But first, she washed off the stone, and put it in her pocket, in case she needed to make stone soup again someday!*

Talk to the children a bit about sharing and the fact that none of the people could have had a meal as delicious as the one they had together, and that we have more fun when we share and play together as well. To really make this activity memorable, tell the children that you have some Stone Soup you want to share with them.

You can make any soup you like (I included my recipe at the end of this post). Even a good old can of Campbell's will do the trick. I just think it's most effective to use the same ingredients for your props as those found in the soup. I've found that after the children act out the story with the props, they really enjoy finding "their" ingredients in the real soup. Even some of my picky eaters have been excited to eat Stone Soup, or at least to pick out the noodles or carrots or potatoes they put in during the



story.

You can cook soup with a rock in it or simply plop a clean rock into the soup after it's prepared. As you serve up the cooled soup, pull out the rock and ask if anyone wants to eat the stone! Then conclude that you'll just wash it up and save it because you never know when you'll need to make soup from a stone!

This activity builds language and literacy skills as the children take part in the story and as they learn a variety of new words that mean "good". Teaching children about fables is similar to teaching high schooler and adults about Homer's great works like the Illiad and the Oddessy. It's a classic standard and a reference they will encounter in future literary experiences and conversations. As most fables teach a social moral, this one in particular also teaches the importance of sharing as a social skill and can be used as a springboard for further discussions on sharing.

Enjoy some Stone Soup with your little ones!