

Practical Life, Care of the Environment  
"Food Prep for Guinea Pigs"  
Ages: 3 - 6 years old

Purposes: Development of order – following a logical sequence, Fine motor control

Motive for concentration and exactness, Development of the will – self-control

Social cohesion and social-emotional development, language development, numeracy development

Materials: tray, wavy chopper, small cutting board, 2 bowl, carrots

(Extension): greens, scissors

Presentation:

1. Take tray to table, place cutting board on table, wavy chopper atop board and bowl with carrots slightly to left of board, empty bowl to right of board.
2. Grasp wavy cutter in dominant hand, curly opposite fingers under and grasp carrot.
3. Slowly press wavy chopper down and slice carrot creating equal sized pieces.
4. Place slices in empty bowl.
5. Place cutting board on tray, place chopper and empty bowl on tray. Walk to dirty dish area and deposit.
6. Take carrots to guinea pig cage, be sure to mention that students should get the teacher once carrots are chopped and have assistance opening cage.

\*Extension - cutting greens with scissors for guinea pigs.

Learning Extensions:

Language:

Sammy the Classroom Guinea Pig by Alix Berenzy

A Tale of Two Guinea Pigs by Lisa Maddock

I Love Guinea Pigs by Dick King-Smith

Creating rodent nomenclature cards and learning about other members of the rodent family

Creating Parts of A Guinea Pig nomenclature cards

Art/Expression

Creating paper mache guinea pigs

Creating collage guinea pigs

Creating paper carrots, radishes, favorite guinea pig snacks

Mathematics:

Using guinea pig art pieces to represent individuals in the collective exercise games, using the carrots/snacks to carry out addition, subtraction, multiplication and division exercises between the "guinea pigs" eg: "we have 3 guinea pigs and fifteen carrot pieces, how can they share equally?"

Sensory experience (optional blindfold):

Tasting snacks that guinea pigs would eat (radishes, bell peppers, etc)

Smelling snacks

Discussion of nutrition for pets and people; healthy diets include lots of veggies and a little bit of fruits.