



Head Start School Intervention Project
Classroom Environment: Treasure Hunt

Goal of activity: Children exposed to violence are often hypervigilant to changes in the environment. This activity helps children to gain a sense of predictability, which will create safety in the classroom.

Approximate length of activity: 10 – 15 minutes

Materials: 15-20 identical shapes (star, circle, square, letter) cut out of paper, cardboard, etc

Instructional Procedures:

- The teacher/aide will hide identical cut out shapes around the room for each child
- The teacher will introduce the word “treasure” as a new vocabulary word.
- “Today we are going to look for treasure. Treasure means something special”**
- The teacher will show the students an example of what they will be looking for.
- “Here is a treasure -an orange star”**
- The teacher will model searching for the treasure and show where the treasure was found.
- “See if you can search for your own orange star”**
- The teacher will invite students to search for their own treasure.
- “See if you can search for your own treasure – an orange star”**
- Students will be invited to share where they found their treasure.
- “Where did you find your treasure – the orange star”**
- Repeat this activity several times throughout the year and when new students arrive.





Feeling Good about Learning



Feeling Safe



Calming My Body and Mind

 <p>KEY POINTS – Signs of anxiety</p> <p><u>Hesitation to explore on their own</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allow children to observe others searching. ○ Partner up – encourage another child to help this child find object. ○ Work directly with that student to help find the object. <p><u>Taking objects from others</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work directly with that student to help find objects and increase their possibility for success. ○ Label objects with students’ names. 	 <p>LITERACY TIPS</p> <p><u>Oral Language</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read a book about “treasure” and explain that the word treasure means something special. <p><u>Phonology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hide a treasure that begins with the letter of the week. Tell students they will be looking for a star and the first sound in star is “s”. <p><u>Print Knowledge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Label the object with: the child’s name, the name of the object or both (i.e. Jacob’s Star). ○ Encourage students to show others the shape with their name on it – “These letters tell us that this is Ariyana’s treasure.”
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