Themed Activities: Sensational Symmetry

Learning Objective
To understand symmetry.

Starting Points
- PEE is an excellent starting point in symmetry. Children can sit pairs, facing each other, with crossing legs. CHAIR is the one facing the movements, and CHAIR & moves the movements. They then change roles. More advanced work can involve standing and mirroring movements, or completing a sequence of movements, standing with a symmetrical still.
- Children can use chalk photographs on chalk, add a spot, then children can copy a symmetrical picture of both sides. This can extend into area and perimeter as children make photographs frames.
- One child is a fish, and the symmetry line has been drawn on the fish’s vertical line, and gives them more links to couples or counters in two colors, only one color is used. Each child can work with one color. In pairs, one child can place a cube, then the other places their cube and makes a symmetrical pattern. Children can continue until the cubes have run out. The more intricate the pattern, the better understanding of children have of symmetry.

Make
- Choose a theme as a starting point for a symmetrical display, for example, the jungle.
- Prepare a background to the children's reflective symmetrical drawings. The symmetry drawings need to reflect the tips you are covering: for example, the habits’ drawings of the faces of trees, etc., this week, Hamster Courtyard.
- Use a poster to support children when they are creating the drawings, as this encourages more detailed and accurate work. The poster also supports children who find it difficult to see their reflection.
- Give children a drawing of a tiger and an empty poster to them to complete. Emphasize the importance of counting the squares from the centre of the drawing to ensure perfect symmetry. Arrange butterflies around the display and dotting lines.

Activities
- One child is a square of colored paper cut out from magazines. Give them a mirror and ask them to complete the children’s faces. All children are struggling, give them spots to help them. Alternatively, choose people from the last you are standing, such as the teachers, the children in the second world war.
- One child sits a cubed square of paper. The aim is to find an exact shape of square using all of the six sides, which should be attached along the length of the sides. One child draws a square to help one or two lines of symmetry. Then children can transfer their drawings onto paper. Alternatively, use reflecting colors to this activity, but there is no the 2D nature of the same shape, not the 3D model. This is the focus.
- Children are asked to draw shapes, squares, rectangles, the shapes and equal triangular shapes. Ask them to find the shapes in nature and cut a symmetrical pattern. They can then design a pattern on squared paper and transfer the pattern to fabric. To illustrate for the children to use their know how to fabric. Alternatively, the pattern can be completed in cross-stitch or fabric.
- Pre the game ‘Symmetry Race’. One pair of children sit a sheet of squared paper divided into two, and give them a pencil and paper. In pairs, they have drawn divided into your strokes, and squares, and then a plane mirror. CHAIR places a peg over their strokes, and records it. Enlarge squared paper while Child B puts a peg in the correct position on the other side of the board. They record each other’s moves. The game continues until the board is complete. Child A checks his moves and accuracy. A challenge for other children could be to use the four quadrants to place the pegs.

Develop and Extend
- ARI: Design patterns with symmetry.
- RRI: Research pattern in nature, for example, ‘Lozli’ patterns and Islamic art.