

Crochet for Babies (9-12)

Mathematics, Science, and Visual Arts

Summary: Students partner with senior citizens and use Mathematics skills to crochet baby hats for premature babies at the local hospital.

Service and Learning Activities

Preparation: Students investigate needs of premature babies. Invite a nurse or other health care worker to speak to the class and answer questions. What scientific and medical advances have been made in the last 20 years to ensure premature babies have a better chance of survival and a healthy life? What behaviors of pregnant mothers can lead to a higher or lower incidence of premature birth? Work in groups to research these questions and create a tri-fold, PowerPoint, or other presentation on the topic. Students partner with seniors to learn basic techniques for crocheting caps for premature babies. Then students graph designs for the caps using measurement and Mathematics skills. Document the project with a digital camera.

Action: Students work with senior citizens to crochet the caps. They take a field trip to the hospital to present the completed caps to the staff.

Reflection: Journals - Describe your experience in crocheting with a senior partner. What did you learn about the senior? How did you feel about creating something for a premature baby? How could you inform pregnant or prospective mothers of the dangers of smoking, drug use, and other risky behaviors? How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

Demonstration: Create a scrapbook of the project from start to finish to share with the seniors and other students. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

Standards

Mathematics: The student

MA.B.3.4 Measures quantities in the real world and uses the measures to solve problems.

MA.B.4.4 Selects and uses appropriate units and instruments for measurement to achieve the degree of precision and accuracy required in real-world situations.

MA.D.1.4 Describes, analyzes, and generalizes a wide variety of patterns, relations and functions.

Science: The student

SC.H.3.4 Understands that science, technology, and society are interwoven and interdependent.

Health: The student

HE.A.1.4 Comprehends concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention.

Visual Arts: The student

VA.A.1.4 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes

Academic Objectives

- Use Mathematics and art skills to create a patterned crochet cap
- Use listening, reading, interviews, and research skills to investigate and report on the subject of premature birth through a tri-fold, Powerpoint, or other method of presentation
- Understand factors and/or behaviors that can increase and/or decrease the likelihood of premature birth
- Create documentation of the project using a digital camera

Assessment(s): Crochet cap, group presentation, and journals

Service Objectives

- Provide senior citizens the opportunity for fellowship while they teach students to crochet
- Provide the hospital with caps for premature babies
- Teach lessons on prenatal dos and don'ts to prospective or future mothers

Assessment(s): Written and verbal comments from seniors, hospital staff, and the mothers of the premature babies