

## **FUN WITH FUNGI IN THE CLASSROOM**

### *Preschool/Kindergarten Curriculum Ideas*

**A Mushroom Literacy Theme, created by Mrs. Zakowski** (kindergarten teacher at Central Falls, Rhode Island - [http://www.ri.net/schools/Central\\_Falls/ch/hezak/welcome.html](http://www.ri.net/schools/Central_Falls/ch/hezak/welcome.html))

**Link:** [http://www.ri.net/schools/Central\\_Falls/ch/hezak/mushroom/mushroom.html](http://www.ri.net/schools/Central_Falls/ch/hezak/mushroom/mushroom.html)

Use the book, Mushroom in the Rain by Mirra Ginsburg.

#### Synopsis:

It begins to rain and an ant finds cover under a mushroom. Soon, the ant is joined by a “troop” of animals seeking shelter. Just when it doesn’t appear that there is room, one more animal is squeezed in. When the sun comes out, the animals realize what happened to the mushroom during the rain storm.

#### Reading the story:

To introduce the story:

Ask the children to look at the title and count the number of words.

Discuss letters and letter sounds in the title.

Show the children a mushroom and ask if anyone has ever eaten a mushroom.

Reading the story:

Ask the children to predict if the next animal will be allowed under the mushroom.

Think about:

How did all those animals fit under the tiny mushroom?

Was there room for any more animals?

#### Literacy:

Make a Venn diagram to compare The Mitten by Jan Brett and Mushroom in the Rain.

Sequence the animals under the mushroom.

Match the word with the animal in a pocket chart.

#### Math:

Add up the animals under the mushroom.

Notice the size (compare relative sizes) of all the animals.

#### Art:

Paint with all parts of button mushrooms from the grocery store.

Have children draw or paint their own mushroom in the rain.

#### Science:

Examine real mushrooms, break them apart, and use a magnifying glass.

Use this opportunity to caution children never to eat mushrooms they find outside.

#### **Accompanying children’s literature**

The Mushroom Hunt by Simon Frazer and Penny Dale.

In the Mushroom Meadow by Alison Inches and Ron Rodecker

Gus and Button by Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffer