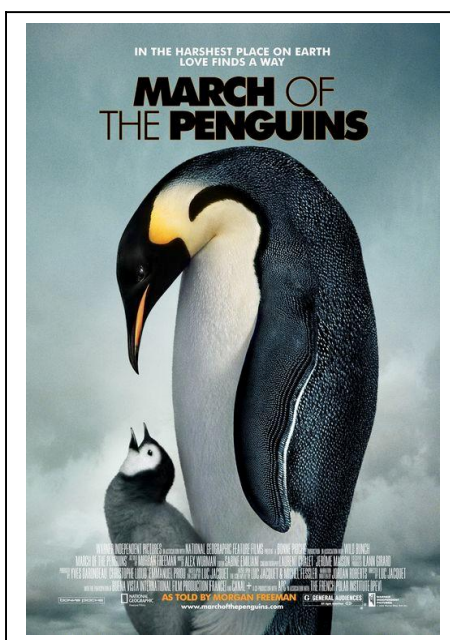


On Your Marks!!

Encouraging mark making developing writing

PENGUINS!!!: Developing fine motor skills, language and mark making



Ingredients

- Information books and storybooks about penguins
- DVDs about penguins: Happy Feet, Pingu, and 'March of the Penguins.
- Ravensburger 'Penguins Pile Up' game
- Table covered in lining paper/large sheets of white paper, stuck down with masking tape
- Felt pens
- Coloured play dough (optional)
- Penguin puppets and soft toys (optional)

The aim of the activity is to get the children involved in playing a game that requires cooperation and a lot of careful movement, and to make marks as well.

Show the class clips from March of the Penguins. They especially enjoy seeing the penguins shooting into the air out of the water, landing on their bellies and sliding across the ice. The shots of thousands of penguins marching across the ice inspired one boy to shout out, "They are in pairs!" Show a clip from Happy Feet and/or Pingu in subsequent lessons.

Talk to the children about how penguins like to huddle together, and how when they lay eggs the father looks after the egg while the mother heads back to the ocean to get fish.

Choose five children to sit round the table, and play the Penguin Pile Up game, supporting the children to take turns to place the penguins on the wobbly iceberg. When the children have played the game as much as they need, encourage them to

draw pictures on the large sheet of paper: of the penguins, ice, fish, eggs, etc. Introduce the coloured play dough as a means of extending the activity, as well as developing imagination, language, cooperation and mathematical thinking (see photos below).

The most important ingredient in this activity is the adult! It will be necessary to plan for an adult to stay with the activity: to initially lead, then support the children by making suggestions, listening to what they have to say, encouraging cooperation, and interpreting what children do. Towards the end of the activity (and some children can be absorbed for up to an hour!) write down what children have said about their drawings, on the paper next to what they have drawn. Carefully remove the paper and show it to the class, asking children to talk about their drawings.

The photos were taken at St. Joseph's Infants School, Luton



"The penguins are on the ice, and the ice is cracking. A shark is coming to eat lots of fish."



"I can fit all my penguins onto the ice I have drawn."



"My penguins are eating fish."