

Imaginary Gift

Developed by Michele Valeri

Objective/Goal:

This is a closure experience that supports creative representation and problem solving. At the outcome of this experience, children will be able to use their thinking skills to identify what they would like to have as a gift, draw an imaginary door to a place to store their gift, go through the steps of opening a package to find a surprise, and then reverse the process.

Educational Impact:

- ✓ Prediction
- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Comprehension
- ✓ Left and right orientation

Procedure and Process:

Have the children create an imaginary door by copying your actions. Draw an imaginary line up from the floor to over your head — that's one side of the door. Then, draw the line across to make the top; then take the line down to form the other side of the door. Draw a doorknob.

*I'm going to give each of you an imaginary gift.
It's in our imaginary closet.
Let's draw it together.*

Explain to the children that this door is a closet door. Grab the doorknob and open the door. Put your hand up and find a shelf. On the shelf you'll find a box.

*You've made a closet door!
Grab the doorknob and pull the door open.
Look up – there's a shelf with a box on it!*

Have each child reach up in the closet he or she has created and take a box down off the shelf. In the box is "The Gift." Ask the children to think about what might be in the box. It can be anything they like.

*R-e-a-c-h up and take the box down from the shelf.
It's your gift.
What do you think it is?
Think about what you would really like it to be.*

Then have the children take the lids off their boxes together and look inside. Tell the children that you got what you had always wanted.

*Now, take off the lid and look inside.
Oh – you got just what you wanted!
Take out your gift and show me what you've got.*

Take your gift out of the box and show it to them. Ask what they got. There will be general noise as the children all talk at once about their gifts. Give them a few seconds to "show" you what they found.

*Now, it's time to put the gift away.
Put it back in the box.
Put on the lid.
Put the box back up on the shelf – reach, reach.
PULL the closet door closed.*

Then have the children put the gifts back in the boxes; put the lid on the box, put the box on the shelf, and close the door. Then erase the door, going up one side, across the top, and down the other side of the door. The last thing to erase is the doorknob.

*We don't need that door anymore.
What should we do with it?
Let's erase it – and don't forget the doorknob.*

New Vocabulary Words:

- Closet
- Doorknob
- Imaginary
- Gift
- Lid

