Color Unit

Books

A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni
Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh
White Rabbit's Book of Color by Alan Baker

Make the Color Monster Book (see attached)

The activities on this page can be used with any color or for color review. Specific colors activities are listed separately. It is very effective to study a color each month and then review and celebrate with a rainbow day or month.

Games and Activities

Tie Dye

Introduce each color by making a colorful tie dyed effect sheet. Hang a white sheet outside. Give each child a spray bottle with the colored water. Have them spray the sheet. Once dry, the sheet can be used all month as a blanket to sit on, for parachute activities, a tablecloth, etc. Get each month's sheet out at the end of the color unit for your rainbow activities. With all of them laid out, you could have the children sort themselves by favorite colors, what they are wearing, etc.

Color Bingo

Color Musical chairs

Color hunt

Have the children look around the room for things that are the color you are studying. As they search, have them join in this poem.

Color hunt poem: Going on a color hunt, Going right away, if we can't find red, we'll be hunting all day.

Color four corners

This is a fun game that can be used for colors, numbers, letters, shapes, etc. In four corners of the room, place four different colors. Begin counting to ten or play music until the children reach a corner. When you stop, the children should all have chosen a corner to stand at. Draw a shape out of a bag. The children who are standing in that color's corner are out. Keep playing until you have one child left. Instead of drawing the colors out of a bag, you can cover a square box with
paper and color each side to use as dice. As children get out they can still participate by being the dice roller and identifying the color that is rolled. This is a really good way to observe each child's color knowledge.

**Sand table search**

Fill you sand table with small colored items. Provide plastic colored bowls for sorting. As they discover each item, have them sort it into the corresponding bowl.

**Rice Table**

Substitute your sand table with colored rice. To color rice, mix food coloring and rice and microwave for one minute.

**Water Table**

Fill the water table and add food coloring of the desired color and toys of the desired color.

**Spray the snow**

During the winter, fill a clean spray bottle with water colored red (or any color) and let the children spray the snow. They love it.

**Color Day**

To begin or end your color unit have a Red (green, yellow, etc.) celebration.

Have everyone come to school dressed in clothes that are the color of the day
* Tint all the day's art materials: shaving cream, playdough, glue, etc.
* Take a walk to look for a particular color of car
* Dip cooked spaghetti in the desired color of paint and let it "dance" across white paper
* Make a chart listing foods that are the color of the day
* String the desired color of buttons on matching colored telephone wire to make necklaces
* Use paper plates and napkins that are the color of the day for snack time
* Try guessing how many of the same colored buttons, beads, etc., there are in a glass jar, then count to see who came the closest.
* Read books about the color of the day
* Have a picnic for snack on blankets in the color
* Have each child bring something for show and tell in your color of the day.
Rainbow Day
For review at the end of the unit or end of the year, have a rainbow day. The children can come dressed in their favorite color, bring their favorite color show and tell and a colorful snack to share with the class. (This is a great way to use up art leftovers from your color units.) Decorate the room with colorful streamers, confetti, etc. This is another good chance to graph the children's favorite colors. You could also have them sort themselves by the colors they wore.

Music

A song for every color

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXzdm6P8Qwc
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8e0NJzLQWzI
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0HZNaM7gTg
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPWZu4LDmQM
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQASH8bbkUY

Science

Color explosion

This is a fun activity than can be used for many things. You will need: multiple spoons, baking soda, cups, various colors of food coloring, water, vinegar

Place a drop of food coloring on each spoon on top of that place a scoop of baking soda. Fill one glass with vinegar and the others with vinegar. Place the color you are studying next to the glass of vinegar. Explain to the children that the color of the month is a magic color. Have them come up one by one and stir the soda into glasses. The ones mixed into water will color the water and you can discuss that this is not the color you are looking for. When they find the right color something magical will happen. Finally when the choose the spoon with the correct color and mix it in the vinegar, it will explode.

Colorful world
Cover a window with the color cellophane you are studying. Let your child observe the colorful world.

**Mixing colors**

Give a white ice cube tray to the child and fill the first three holes with red, yellow and blue water. Give the child an eye dropper (or medicine dropper) and let them mix the colors in the empty spaces. This will create many shades of colors.

Paint each of the child's hands with a different primary color. Give them a large sheet of paper to finger paint and mix to discover the new color.

Make some colored water using food coloring and freeze it in ice trays the day or night before. Then, put them on trays or in the water table and watch them melt to make colored water. If you use different colored ice cubes, the colors will mix to make new colors.

Have the children help you make colored playdough or goop. Make a batch of play dough and leave it white. Form several balls of the dough and place a drop or two of food coloring in the middle of the ball. Give the dough to the children to play with. They will be very surprised when the dough starts turning colors! They can also knead together two different balls to see what colors they can make.

**Snacks**

**Matching snacks**

Add food coloring to ranch dip for matching snacks: Example: orange with carrots, red with radishes, green for celery and broccoli.

**Painted Toast**

Supplies: Fresh white bread, Milk, Food coloring, new small paintbrushes, cookie cutters, bowls, toaster oven, butter and sugar


You can also reinforce letters and shapes you are studying by cutting out bread in those shapes or having the children paint those shapes and letters on uncut bread.

**Colorful snacks**

Add food coloring to vanilla pudding or applesauce
Make Jell-O in the color you want and even add some fruit of that color.

Tint cream cheese or marshmallow dip with food coloring and mix in fruit (yellow with pineapple, blue with blueberries, red with raspberries). Use as fruit dip or spread on white bread or graham crackers.

* Make finger Jell-o to coordinate with the color of the day.

**Art**

**Kool-aid Finger Paint**

What you need:

- 2 cups flour, 2 packages unsweetened Kool-Aid (use different flavors for different colors), 1/2 cup salt, 3 cups boiling water, 3 tablespoons oil

What you do:

1. Put the Kool-aid, flour and salt into a mixing bowl.
2. Add the oil.
3. Slowly add the boiling water.
4. Start painting!

**Koolaid Playdough**

1 Cup Flour  
1 Tablespoon Vegetable Oil  
1 Packet Unsweetened Kool-Aid  
1/4 Cup Salt  
2 Tablespoons Cream of Tartar  
1 Cup Water

Mix flour, salt, cream of tartar and Kool-Aid in a medium pot. Add water and oil. Stir over medium heat 3 to 5 minutes. When mixture forms a ball in pot, remove. Knead until smooth. Put in a plastic bag and refrigerate.

**Koolaid Scratch and Sniff Watercolors**
1 Tablespoon Unsweetened Kool-Aid
1 Tablespoon Warm Water
Use several flavors of Kool-Aid for an assortment of colors and scents.
Mix water and drink mix in small containers. (small muffin tins work great)
Paint your picture the way you would with any watercolor paint.
Let dry overnight before scratching and sniffing.

Tint shaving cream and glue with food coloring.

**Coffee filter flowers**

Have children color coffee filters with bright markers. After they color, place filter on newspaper and let them spray water on filter. Once it is dry, scrunch the middle and add a pipe cleaner.
This could be done for a flower unit or a fun gift for Mother's Day.

**Math**

Use the desired color of paper cups for stacking in pyramids or for counting.

Graph the children's favorite colors. You can also have them do a survey at home to determine their families favorite colors and graph the results. Provide a laminated name tag for each child.
Ask them to come up and put their name in the column under their favorite color. Analyze the results by asking the following questions:

Which color did our class like the best?
Which had the least number of children who liked it?
Did any of the colors have the same number of people?
Did any of the colors have no names underneath?

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<th>Red</th>
<th>Blue</th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Pink</th>
<th>Yellow</th>
<th>Brown</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayden</td>
<td>Seth</td>
<td>Rachel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Kelsey</td>
<td>Michael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Matt</td>
<td>Randy</td>
<td>Trisha</td>
<td>Russ</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Jessie</td>
<td>Wendy</td>
<td>Rob</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The children can sort different colored cereals. They could also pick out a certain color and sort by red or not red, etc. With their first sorting experiences, it could be helpful to have colored mats or pieces of construction for them to sort onto. Eventually you would take these away.

Have them sort themselves by the colors they are wearing, hair color, eye color, shoe color, etc.

**Additional Activities for the Color Red**

Big Red Barn - Margaret Wise Brown  
Big Red Fire Engine - Rose Greydanus  
Big Red Fire Truck - Ken Wilson-Max  
Clifford The Big Red Dog - Norman Bridwell  
Clifford The Small Red Puppy - Norman Bridwell  
Hello, Red Fox - Eric Carle  
Hiriam's Red Shirt - Mabel Watts  
In a Red House - Nancy Tafuri  
Is It Red? Is It Yellow! Is It Blue? An Adventure In Color - Tana Hoban  
Little Red Plane - Ken Wilson-Maz  
Little Red Riding Hood  
Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers - Merle Peek  
My Red Umbrella - Robert Bright  
One Red Rooster - Kathleen Sullivan Carroll  
Red is Best - Kathy Stinson  
Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer  
The Red Balloon  
Who Said Red? - Mary Serfozo

Little Mouse and the Big Red Ripe Strawberry-Audrey Wood

**Song:** Are you wearing any red, any red (If you're happy and you know it)

Are you wearing any red, any red  
Are you wearing any red, any red  
If you're wearing any red, put your hands on your head  
Are you wearing any red, any red.

**Red Activities:**

Take a walk to collect red autumn leaves  
Visit an apple orchard  
Visit the fire station to see the red fire engines  
For snack eat strawberries, cherries, apples, raspberries, tomato soup, or use the various snack ideas in the color unit.  
Play Red Rover