

“Making Brain Hats” (Week One: Day 4)

Learning objectives:

Know the lobes and major functions.

Know the basics of color theory (the color wheel; primary, secondary, and complementary colors; cultural perceptions of colors [i.e, black is for mourning, etc.]; what feelings or ideas do each of us associate with which colors?)

Use colors to represent different areas of the brain. Show that every brain’s “personality” is different and unique even though the basic structure is the same.

Materials:

Card stock with printed templates (we’ll cut these out ahead of time)

Markers/Paint/Collage materials

Scissors

Elmer’s glue

Clothespins/clips to clamp template pieces together while glue dries

Lesson Plan:

Pass out templates. Have each table group stocked with materials and one of us to help. Hold back the paint, glue, and collage materials until we’re done with the labeling and information. Have primary teacher introduce the major lobes of the brain. Include at least Frontal, Temporal, Occipital, Parietal Lobes; maybe include somatosensory/motor cortex. Use a big visual on projector/overhead (or our “big brain“ poster) to show where locations are, as well as have one of us showing

where this is on the template. As each lobe is discussed, outline the major functions of that area. The kids will label each area as we talk about them. Once labeling is done, we'll talk about color theory, then the kids can color/paint/collage their brains, trying to keep the designated areas different (colors/patterns, etc). Encourage them to use color to represent their own special individual brain. Glue the template sections together and clamp to dry. This part will take help from all the adults, as it requires making the dome shape- we can do this step by step as a class.

Kids can wear their brains whenever they want to; we'll keep them in the classroom along with their journals. The kids can add more color, texture, and pattern to their brain hats, and we can also use them for other activities such as brain damage activity, or zombie activity, learning about the adolescent brain, whatever!