**Old McDonald Farm**

**Age Level: Montessori Pre-K**

**Subject(s) Area: Approaches to Play and Learning, Science, and Social Studies**

**Materials Needed:**

* **Wheelbarrow full of planting soil for students to explore hands-on and find fertilizer**
* **Cup Cake pan filled with different seeds in each up and then a picture of what the plant looks like when it grows**
* **Bring in stocks of corn (both green when growing and brown when ripe) to let students take apart and find the what is inside**
* **Place cream in a jar and let students figure out that when shaking it a whole bunch that butter forms**
* **Box full of garden ides: gardening gloves, trowels, watering can, flower pots, aprons, straw hats, and plastic vegetables**
* **Have a BIG box that is made into a red barn – inside the barn have real straw spread out on the floor**
* **Have a “Muddy Pigs” sensory table – fill up the tub with cornstarch, water, and brown paint to make pretend mud and place plastic pigs inside**
* **Have a farmers market that holds plastic vegetables and foods that farms grow that we buy**
* **“Let’s Go Farming” dress up box: straw hat, basketball caps, cowboy hats, blue jean bibs, winter coveralls, cowboy/cowgirl boots, water boots, work gloves, flannel t-shirts**
* **Have cardboard boxes stacked with straw and a paper chicken laying on it – have egg cartons beside the boxes that students have to feck the eggs from the “chicken coop”**
* **Bring in a square straw bale – drape a black over the back with a saddle – place a horse stick head coming out the top**
* **Have puppy, duck, chicken, cats, and etc. stuffed animals laying around the entire area**

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**Standards: (K-3 or Pre-K Content Standard OR Early Learning Guidelines)**

* **APL.1.1 Show interest and eagerness in discovering and learning new things**
* **APL.2.5 Uses imagination to create a variety of ideas, role-plays, and fantasy situations**
* **SCI.1.2 Recognize and inquire about simple cause and effect relationships**
* **SCI.2.4 Make predictions and generate ideas based on past experience, observations, and information**
* **SS.3.1 Know that people perform various kinds of work to earn money to buy things they need**

**Objectives: Students will:**

**Students will be able to engage in discovering new things within farm center.**

**Students will use imagination to find out the process of each real material.**

**Students will inquire cause and effect relationships – rain makes good crops, pigs are hot roll in mud, and etc.**

**Students will make thoughtful predictions to think about how the material is used in real life.**

**Students will know that farming is a type of work that people do to earn money.**

**Learning Activities:**

**Depending on size of space – plan the layout that would be inviting and most learning based**

**Arrive and set up environment before students arrive**

**Once attention is on you and teacher allows you to talk – introduce the farm center**

**Ask students:**

**Does anyone know what a farm is?**

**Has anyone ever been on a farm, maybe your grandparents or uncles and aunts?**

**Does anyone know what farmer give to use that we use?**

**Just naming all of the different items that students can do in this center is enough – my main purpose for this is allowing students to figure out what each thing would be used for and use their imagination**

**Also to ask questions on their own – using their own curiosity to drive them**

**Go over the title and main idea of each…**

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**Reflective Questions:**

**What do you think soil feels like when it rains a whole bunch?**

**What would the seeds look like if it rained a lot during the growing time or if didn’t rain a lot?**

**What makes the corn stocks so thick in order to stand up so high?**

**Why do you think shaking the cream will form butter?**

**If you had your own farm, what would you place inside your barn?**

**If it is really hot during the summer, and you see pigs rolling around in the mud, why is that do you think?**

**How many eggs do you think a chicken can lie a day?**

**Do you think real horses like having a saddle on them?**

**Vocabulary Words:**

**Fertilizer**

**Seeds**

**Garden**

**Barn**

**Straw**

**Farmer’s Market**

**Chicken Coop**

**Horse Saddle**

**Assessment:**

**Based on your Standards and Outcomes of the activity you are using the space for.**

**Reflection:**