MUD MADNESS!

Spring is slowly arriving. As the weather begins to warm, all the snow and ice remains from the winter will start to melt, leaving the ground with a healthy coating of MUD!!! Let your inner child take over and allow your kids a romp in the dirty world of mud, squishing that soft dirt between their toes, rolling around in their bathing suits, and taking advantage of all the other delights that a good spring mud provides. Use this outdoor adventure as an opportunity to exercise your children’s bodies, minds, and imaginations. Watch SESAME STREET’s “What Happens Next?” Show and learn along with Elmo as he explores the scientific elements of mud play! Then read Mud by Mary Lyn Ray and discover the joys of goopey, gloppy magnificent mud. Turn your messy little scientists into artists using this month’s activity, Senufa Mud Painting.

Web Resources:

Fun with Clean Mud:
http://pbskids.org/clifford/parentsteachers/activities/be_trut
hful/06_be_truthful.html
Mud Pony Review:
http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/books/review073c.html

VIEW:

SESAME STREET (#4100)
“What Happens Next?” Show
Monday, March 6, 2006 @ 7:00 a.m.

Elmo is excited to play a messy scientific game show called "What Happens Next?" with Oscar as the host! With the help of his adult friends on Sesame Street, Elmo learns lots of new things about what would happen next if, for example, Slimy jumps into a little mud pool from a low diving board and then from a high board. Would there be a little splash or a big splash? Elmo uses fun scientific words such as hypothesis when making guesses about what would happen next. He has a great time observing, making guesses, and checking to see if his hypothesis is correct!

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES: To learn about Physical Science, experimentation, cause & effect, position & motion.

While You’re Watching... Ask Children:

- What makes a bigger splash, jumping in mud or jumping in water?
- How many ways can you make a mud pie?
- Have you ever made your own mud on a hot summer day?
**READ:**

*Mud*

By Mary Lyn Lyn Ray and Lauren Stringer (Illustrator)

As winter melts into spring, the frozen earth turns into magnificent mud. This story is an ode to muddy hands and feet, brown earth, and new grass. Simple text and exuberant illustrations will make children and their grown-up friends want to sink their feet into gooey, gloppy, mucky, magnificent mud.

**Other Recommended Books:**

*Mud Puddle* by Robert N. Munsch, Sami Sumolainen (Illustrator)

*This House is Made of Mudd: Esta Casa Esta Hecha de Lodo* by Ken Buchanan, Patricia Hinton Davison (Translator)

*Mud Pie Annie* by Sue Buchanan, Dana Schafer and Joy Allen (Illustrator)

*Mud Soup* by Judith Head, Judy Jarret (Illustrator)

**DO:**

*Senufo Mud Painting*

Turn dirt into art! Senufo Mud Painting is an interesting way to decorate your clothes using mud! The technique is used by the Senufo people of West Africa. The mud patterns help the Senufo blend in with their surroundings, and the designs are usually made to look like animals found in their environment.

**Materials**

- a plain white t-shirt, or thick paper
- acrylic paint and paint brushes
- a small amount of mud filtered through a strainer

Put down newspapers so you have a working space that can be dirtied. Mix your strained mud into cups of various colors of paint. Using stencils, brushes, fingers, or any other interesting object, paint designs onto your t-shirt or paper. The Senufo usually make animal or landscape designs but you can make any shapes or patterns you like. Let the t-shirt or paper dry overnight, then shake off the excess mud, rinse in cold water and hang dry.