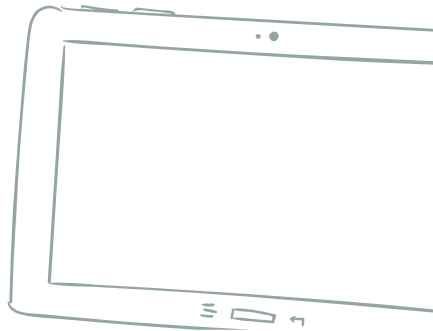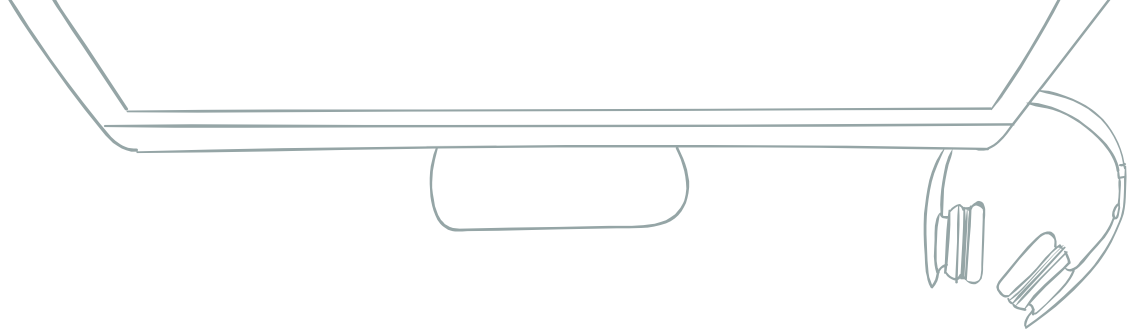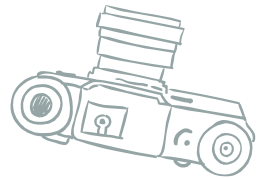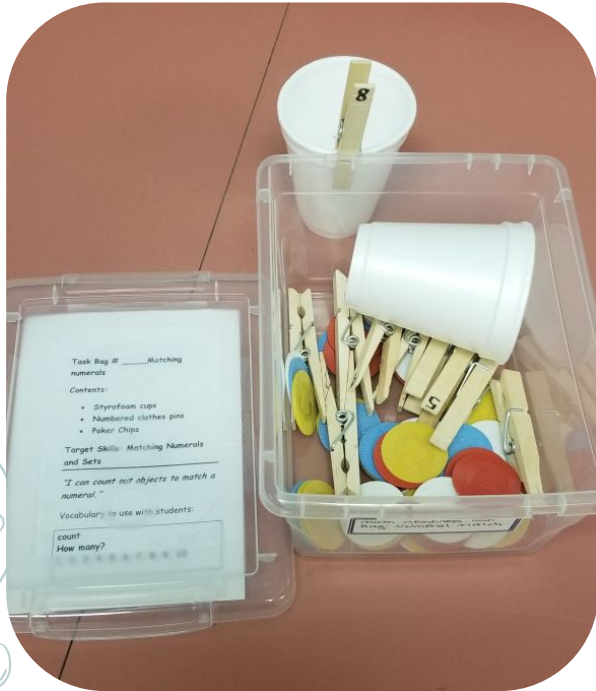# Teaching to Diversity: Task Bag Learning

PSSD Student Support Consultants & Advocacy and Behaviour Consultants

Prairie South Schools 210 — Learning together.

"Inclusion is not simply about physical proximity. It is about intentionally planning for the success of all students."
– Unknown

All About Task Bags

Who: Task bags are for students in PreK to Grade 12 who are working on individualized skills, interests, and eIIP goals. They can be used individually or in small groups.

What: Task bags (or bins, tubs, etc.) are individualized, hands-on activities used to address curricular and eIIP goals.

Where: Task bags can be used for any subject and in the student's classroom!

When: Task bags can be used during centers, for additional practice, during intervention times, and when students have finished their work.
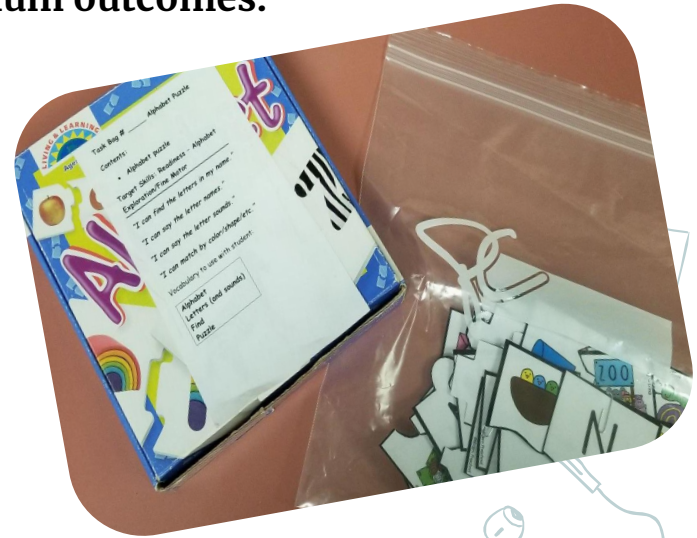
Why Task Bags?

- **Adaptable** to meet individual student's needs.
- Can be **accomplished quickly** (ex. 5-10 minutes to **reinforce** a previously learned skill).
- Can be used in a **variety** of **ways** and **settings** (ex. small groups, classroom centers, etc.).
- **Cost effective** and **easy to make.**
- Focus on student's unique **interests** and **strengths**.
- Foster **communication**.
- Foster hands-on and **play-based** learning.

Why Task Bags?

- Promote student **engagement** by using high-interest materials.
- **Simple to use** and **model** for the students and staff involved in implementation.
- Support **social skill development**, such as sharing, turn taking, and group problem solving when used with peer groups.
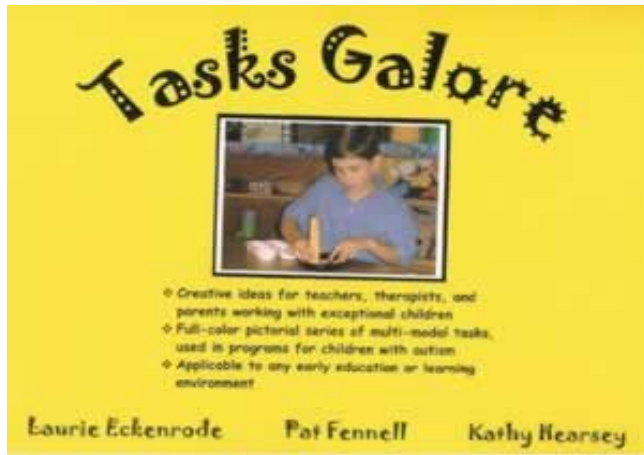- Target individualized **eIIP goals** and/or **curriculum outcomes.**

How of Task Bags

Step 1: Planning and Gathering Items
- What is the goal/skill that the student is to accomplish?
- How does the goal/skill connect to the their eIIP and curriculum outcomes?
- What materials are readily available?
- Purchase any additional needed items (ex. containers, manipulatives, etc.).

How of Task Bags

The potential tasks are endless! We recommend checking out the *Tasks Galore* series, getting creative with unused classroom items, doing an internet search, and following the student's lead/interests. Additional ideas can be found at: http://msgorhamsabcs.ca/inclusive-practices/task-bag-learning/ or on **Connect – Learning – Inclusion – Category: Task Bags.**

How of Task Bags

Step 2: Creating the Task Bags
- Fill each Ziploc bag, bin, etc. with the needed items.
- Complete the task bag template to highlight the skill and target vocabulary for the task.

Template can be found at:
http://msgorhamsabcs.ca/inclusive-practices/task-bag-learning/

Task Bag #_____: Alphabet Puzzle

Contents:
- Alphabet puzzles

Target Skills: Readiness - Alphabet Exploration/Fine Motor

"I can find the letters in my name."

"I can say the letter names."

"I can say the letter sounds."

"I can match by color/shape/etc."

Vocabulary to use with student:

Alphabet
Letters (and sounds)
Find
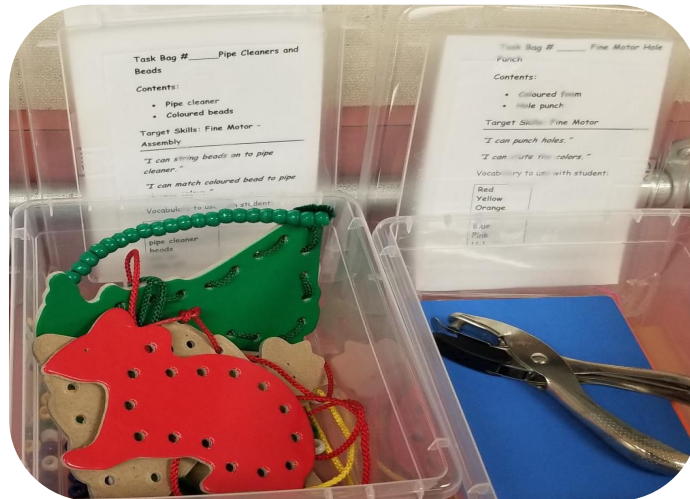Puzzle

Step 3: Store the Task Bags
- Consider storing the task bags in a cupboard that is accessible for the students.
- Add labels to the shelves for the predetermined categories (ex. fine motor, literacy, math, life skills, etc.).
- Ensure each task bag has its corresponding template label.

Step 4: Implementation/Modeling
- When will students use the task bags? (ex. set times, during centers, when they are finished their work, individually or in small groups, etc.).
- Use the task bag with the students, modeling appropriate use and the desired skill and vocabulary.
- If another adult is going to work with the student, model the task bag use a few times.
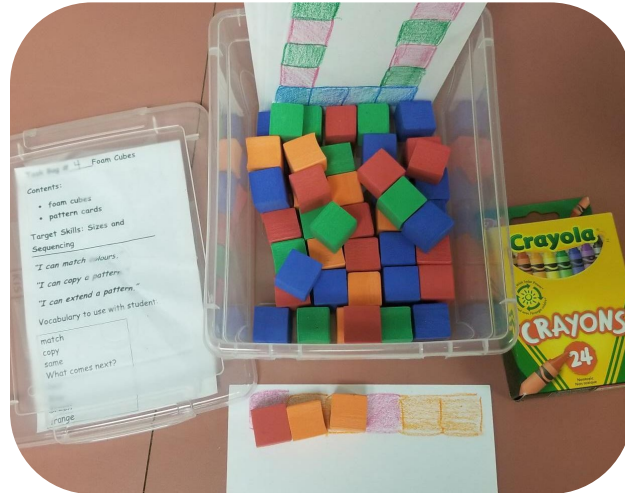
Step 5: Monitor Progress
- How will student success be determined?
- When will the student move to the next skill?
- Have they met the vocabulary and skill requirements listed on the label?

For more information, please refer to our data-taking presentation in this series.

Task Bag Examples

Task Bags: Example Templates

Task Bag #_____: Shaving Cream Alphabet

Contents:

- Lid/tin for drawing
- Paint brush for forming letters
- Shaving cream bottle

Target Skills: Readiness – Alphabet Writing/Sensory Play

"I can tolerate different textures and smells."

"I can use shaving cream to form letters."

"I can say the letters in my name."

"I can name the letters."

Vocabulary to use with student:

Alphabet
Letters
Shaving
Cream
Create

Task Bag #_____: Story Sequencing

Contents:

- Story sequencing cards

Target Skills: Concepts of Print/Story Sequencing

"I can sequence 3 picture cards to tell a story."

Vocabulary to use with student:

First
Next
Last
Story

Task Bag #_____: Numeral Match

Contents:

- Red cups
- Small wooden cubes (9)

Target Skills: Matching Numerals and Sets

"I can count out objects to match a numeral."

Vocabulary to use with students:

Count
How many?
0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Task Bag #_____: Patterning

Contents:

- Yellow, blue, and red pegs
- Blue foam board

Target Skills: Patterning/Sorting by Color/Counting

"I can count."

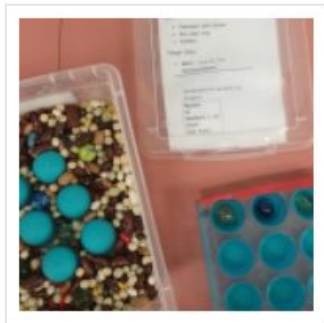*"I can create and copy patterns."*

"I can match like colors."

Vocabulary to use with student:

Count
Numbers
1-10
Red
Yellow
Blue
Pattern

Task Bags: Early Math Skills

1-1 Correspondence

Number Puzzles

Magnetic Numbers

Number Puzzles

Numeral Match Counting

Counting and Turn-Taking
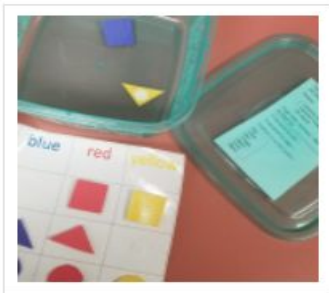
Task Bags: Early Math Skills

Numeral Match Counting

Patterning

Patterning

Color and Shape Matching

Color Matching

Task Bags: Early Literacy Skills

Alphabet Cards

Story Sequencing

Pre-Writing Shapes +Wiki Sticks

Shaving Cream Letters/Names
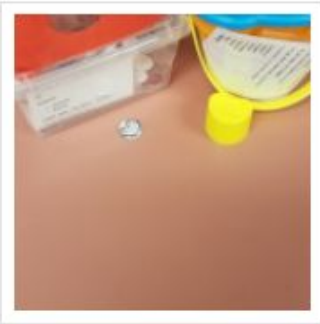

Letter Puzzles

Playdough Letters

Letter Find

Task Bags: Fine Motor Skills

Push-In Buttons and Shapes

Puzzles

Push-In Pom Poms

Lacing and Beading

Pre-Cutting and Pre-Writing Lines

Building Blocks

Task Bags: Fine Motor Skills

Laces, Buttons, Zippers (practice while on the learner)

Push-In and Pull-Out

Grasping Pom Poms

Building

Following Directions

Clothing Sort

Flashlight Assembly

Household Tasks

Potato Head Body Parts

Healthy vs. Unhealthy Foods Sort

Reflection

How could you use task bags in your classroom?

What unused classroom items could be repurposed for a task bag?

When could students use task bags in the day?

Pick a curriculum outcome that could be targeted with task bag learning.

Pick a student's eIIP goal that could be targeted with task bag learning.

Go slow and steady! Start with a few task bags and don't forget the labels!

CREDITS

- ★ For more information, please see the Diversity Series and the Behaviour Learning Cycle on Connect.
- ★ Connect - Learning - Inclusion - Category: Task Bags
- ★ Ms. Gorham's ABCs of Learning: https://msgorhamsabcs.ca/inclusive-practices/task-bag-learning/
- ★ *Tasks Galore* series: https://tasksgalore.com/

Thanks!

Any questions?

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