

SCHOOL WORK.

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BUSY WORK.

IN answer to the question "What shall the little children do when not before the teacher?" many interesting suggestions have been made. The old direction was, "Have them sit up straight and fold their hands." These suggestions are mainly for ungraded schools, where but little time can be given to providing suitable employment.

1. Show them how to draw the outline of the hand by spreading it out upon the slate and running a pencil around it. Let them exercise their ingenuity by placing rings on the fingers, drawing the nails, etc.

2. Hang a glove up where they can see it, and let them draw that, using the hand as before for a guide. A mitten can be drawn by placing the fingers close together and both mitten and glove can be trimmed to suit their fancy.

3. Give them pressed leaves to draw in the same way, pictures of horses, dogs, cats, etc., cut out of show-bills and advertising cards.

4. Give them a pair of scissors and let them cut out pictures; let them have a little mucilage and paste their pictures in a book.

5. Write some easy words upon the board, and give them a box of letters with which to form the same words at their seats.

6. Place upon the board a few letters, carefully selected with reference to their possible combinations, and let the children build as many words as possible with them, using no other letter, but using each of them as many times as desirable. Sentences may be built in the same way by placing selected words upon the board, and letting them write all the sentences they can make with them.

[It is not in accordance with the principles taught by the prominent educators of to-day, to let small children guess at the spelling of a word. Such an exercise as

building words from disconnected letters would be better suited to older pupils. ED.]

7. Let them have small sticks to form letters and spell short words.

8. Show them how to trace pictures through tissue paper.

9. Write short sentences on the board, and require them to be copied.

10. Have the Roman letters and numbers of the pages in the reading-book copied.

11. Keep picture books, a drawing-slate, sliced animals, blocks, and a small kaleidoscope to lend.

12. Tracing slates may be used with the simple outlines of animals upon cards.

13. Shoe-pegs, coloured and white mixed, may be used in forming designs, also in little arithmetical examples.

14. Boxes of pasteboard letters, costing about twenty-five cents each, with which the children can form lists of words, sentences, fill out blanks left in sentences with words of their own choosing; see which can form the greatest number of words, etc.

15. Some of the designs used at the Kindergarten for pricking, furnish pleasant and profitable employment.

16. Upon pieces of card-board copy examples to be worked, and tables to be filled out words to be copied, or short stories containing the most difficult words in the reading lesson.

17. Have alphabets printed on stiff card-board for each one, taking care that two or more letters are supplied of those most commonly used. The children enjoy forming words and sentences with these. If your class is small, you can print them yourself.

18. Advertising cards, pasted on card-board, and cut into squares or different shaped pieces, may be used in forming pictures.