Activity Title: Groundhog Finger Puppet

Objectives:

1. Motor skills and coordination
2. Following instructions
3. Sharing of cultural/historical traditions

Materials:

For the finger puppet:
- Brown, black and white craft foam
- Wiggly eyes
- Scissors
- Groundhog puppet template
  (attached at bottom)

For the pop-up cup:
- Styrofoam cups
- Popsicle sticks
- Green paint
- Paper bowl or plate
- Paintbrushes
- Pen

Methods:

Facilitator Preparation

1. Print and cut out template stencils that participants can use to trace. Each pair should have their own set of stencils.
2. Make a groundhog finger puppet to use as a model during the activity.
3. Cover working area with newspaper to avoid a mess!
4. Pour some green paint on a plate or in a bowl.
5. Pair each child with an adult and have them sit together at the craft table.
Intergenerational Participants

Puppet:

1. Have the pairs trace an outline the stencils onto the foam. Body, head and paws should be traced onto brown foam; teeth should be white and the nose should be on black. Pairs should work together to trace the different parts.
2. Adults should then cut out the foam shapes, starting with the body then teeth and nose.
3. Meanwhile, children can place a thin line of glue around one of the brown “body” ovals leaving a gap at the bottom, and stick the other oval on top.
4. Have pairs work together to glue the two feet pieces and headpiece to the top oval.
5. Glue two wiggly eye, nose and teeth to the head.
6. Glue the end of a popsicle stick to the back of the puppet and leave to dry.
7. Once the puppet is dry, details can be added using a black pen.

Pop-out cup:

1. While the groundhog puppet is drying, pairs should paint the cup green and leave to dry. (One can hold the cup while the other paints it).
2. Once the cup is dry, children can cut slits in the top of the cup to make it look "grassy".
3. Adults then carefully poke a small hole in the bottom of the cup using a pen.
4. Slide the popsicle stick into the hole, so that your groundhog sits in the cup. Slide the popsicle stick up and down so your groundhog pops in and out!

Special Considerations

- The activity can be done as two separate activities; groundhog puppet one day and the pop out cup another day.
- The foam pieces are pretty small so know if any of the adult participants have a hard time cutting small things! Offer to help if needed.
Key Conversation/ Facilitation Questions

- When is Groundhog Day each year?
- What is the name of the famous groundhog? Where does he live?
- What does it mean if the groundhog sees its shadow? What does it mean if he doesn’t?
- How is a shadow formed?
- Ask adults if they have any memories about groundhog days in the past.
- What are groundhogs?
- What are some other wild animals you can see in yards?

Extensions and Themed Activities

- Downward extensions
  - Use a printout of a groundhog cartoon to glue to the popsicle stick instead to make the activity much easier and shorter.
  - Have the foam shapes already cut and divided for each pair to use.
  - Instead of painting the cup, the activity can be shortened by using a green maker to color it.

- Related Activities
  - Make a groundhog mask using a paper plate, markers, and scissors.
  - Shadow Tracing: One child "poses" while his or her partner traces the outline of the shadow on the pavement with a piece of sidewalk chalk.
  - Take turns making shadow puppets on the wall using a flashlight.
  - Have adults take turns reading poems about groundhogs.
  - Sing-a-long to some groundhog day songs.
Groundhog Finger Puppet Template