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# **My Amazing Mango Adventure!**

#### **Materials Needed:**

- 1 ripe mango
- Child-safe knife and cutting board (for adult use)
- A large bowl or plate
- Paper towels or a bib (it might get juicy!)
- Large sheet of construction paper
- Non-toxic, washable paint in yellow and red/orange
- A paper plate for the paint
- Optional: A children's book about fruits or tropical places
- Optional: A fun, upbeat song about fruit

# **Lesson Plan Details**

Subject: Science (Botany/Sensory Exploration), Art

Target Age: 3 Years Old

Estimated Time: 30-45 minutes (flexible, follow the child's lead)

# 1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Identify a mango by touching and seeing it.
- Use at least two descriptive words (e.g., "sweet," "soft," "yellow," "juicy") to describe the mango.
- Participate in a mango-themed creative art activity to express their experience.

#### 2. Introduction: The Mystery Fruit! (5 minutes)

- **Activity:** Present the whole, uncut mango to your child. Build excitement by calling it a "mystery fruit" or a "sunshine fruit."
- **Teacher's Script:** "Look what I have! It's a mystery fruit. What do you think is inside? What color is it? Does it feel heavy or light? Let's use our senses to be fruit detectives!"
- **Goal:** Spark curiosity and encourage initial observation and questioning.

## 3. Sensory Exploration: Getting to Know Our Mango (10 minutes)

- Activity: Guide your child through a sensory exploration of the whole mango.
  - **Touch:** Let them hold it. Ask, "Is it smooth or bumpy? Hard or soft?"
  - Sight: Talk about the beautiful colors. "I see red and yellow and a little bit of green, like a sunset!"
  - Smell: Hold it up to their nose. "What does it smell like? It smells so sweet to me!"
- **Teacher's Script:** "You are doing such a great job being a fruit detective! You found out it's smooth, colorful, and smells sweet. Now for the best part... let's see what's inside!"
- **Goal:** Develop vocabulary and sensory processing skills.

## 4. The Big Reveal & Tasting Time (10 minutes)

- **Activity:** Carefully cut the mango (adult only). Show your child the bright orange flesh and the large seed inside. Cut the mango flesh into small, manageable cubes for your child to eat.
- **Teacher's Script:** "Wow! Look at that bright, sunny color inside! Let's try a piece. What does it taste like? Is it sweet? Is it juicy? Do you feel the soft fruit in your mouth?"
- **Goal:** Connect the outside appearance to the inside reality and introduce new tastes and textures. Encourage descriptive language about the taste.

## 5. Creative Application: Mango Masterpiece! (10 minutes)

- Activity: Create "Mango Handprint Art."
  - 1. Pour a little yellow and red/orange paint onto a paper plate.
  - 2. Let your child dip their hand into the paint, getting a mix of the "mango colors."
  - 3. Help them press their handprint firmly onto the construction paper. The shape of the handprint naturally looks a bit like a mango with fingers as leaves/stems.
  - 4. You can make several handprints! While the paint is still wet, you can even talk about how the colors blend together, just like on the real mango skin.
- **Teacher's Script:** "Let's make a piece of art to remember our mango adventure! We'll use our hands and the beautiful mango colors. Look! Your handprint looks like a little mango! We made mango art!"
- **Goal:** Reinforce learning through a fun, creative, and kinesthetic activity. This helps solidify the memory and concepts of color and shape.

### 6. Wrap-Up & Review (5 minutes)

- **Activity:** While the artwork dries, look at it together and talk about the day's adventure. You can sing a simple fruit song or read a book about fruits.
- **Teacher's Script:** "We had so much fun with our mango today! We touched it, smelled it, tasted it, and even made art with its colors! What was your favorite part?"
- **Goal:** Review the experience in a positive and low-pressure way.

# **Differentiation & Inclusivity**

- For a Hesitant Eater: If the child is hesitant to taste the mango, don't force it. Focus on the fun of the other sensory steps and the art project. You can try blending a small piece into a familiar smoothie later on.
- For a High-Energy Child: Add a movement component. Pretend to be a tiny seed, then grow into a big mango tree, reaching for the sun and waving your "branches" (arms).
- **To Extend the Lesson:** You can explore other tropical fruits next time and compare them to the mango. Or, use the mango pit: clean it, let it dry, and use it as a "treasure" or a painting tool.

#### Assessment (Informal Observation)

Observe the child's engagement and participation. Did they:

- Willingly touch and explore the whole fruit?
- Use any words (even simple ones like "yum" or "yellow") to describe the mango?
- Show enthusiasm during the art project?
- Point to their artwork or the fruit when you say the word "mango"?

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