

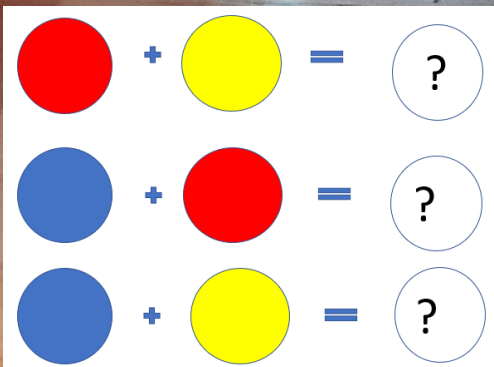
Teaching Languages in Early Childhood

~ Learning Japanese with a colour project

The Kindergarten students learnt Japanese colour words through engagement in a project about colour. Through a combination of intentional teaching, modelling, demonstration, play and interactive activities, their knowledge was developed in an integrated manner *from a variety of related and repeated experiences* (Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines, 2014, p.3). The first step was explicit teaching using flashcards which was then reinforced with active learning by singing and playing a memory game and a fishing game. Digital learning through exploration of the ELLA* 2 iPad app *The Polyglots at the Beach* provided opportunities for students to further hear and use these Japanese colour words.

Once this new vocabulary was familiar, the Japanese teacher brought the students together in a circle to observe a science experiment in which two cups of coloured water were mixed. The students were delighted by the creation of the secondary colours. The teacher delivered the experiment in simple repetitive Japanese.

Using the science skills of prediction and observation, the students were then encouraged to communicate what they saw and replicate the experiment independently with pipettes and cups of coloured water. Learning was further integrated with literature as a book about the famous Japanese dot artist Yayoi Kusama was read and the students tested colour mixing in that style with cotton buds.



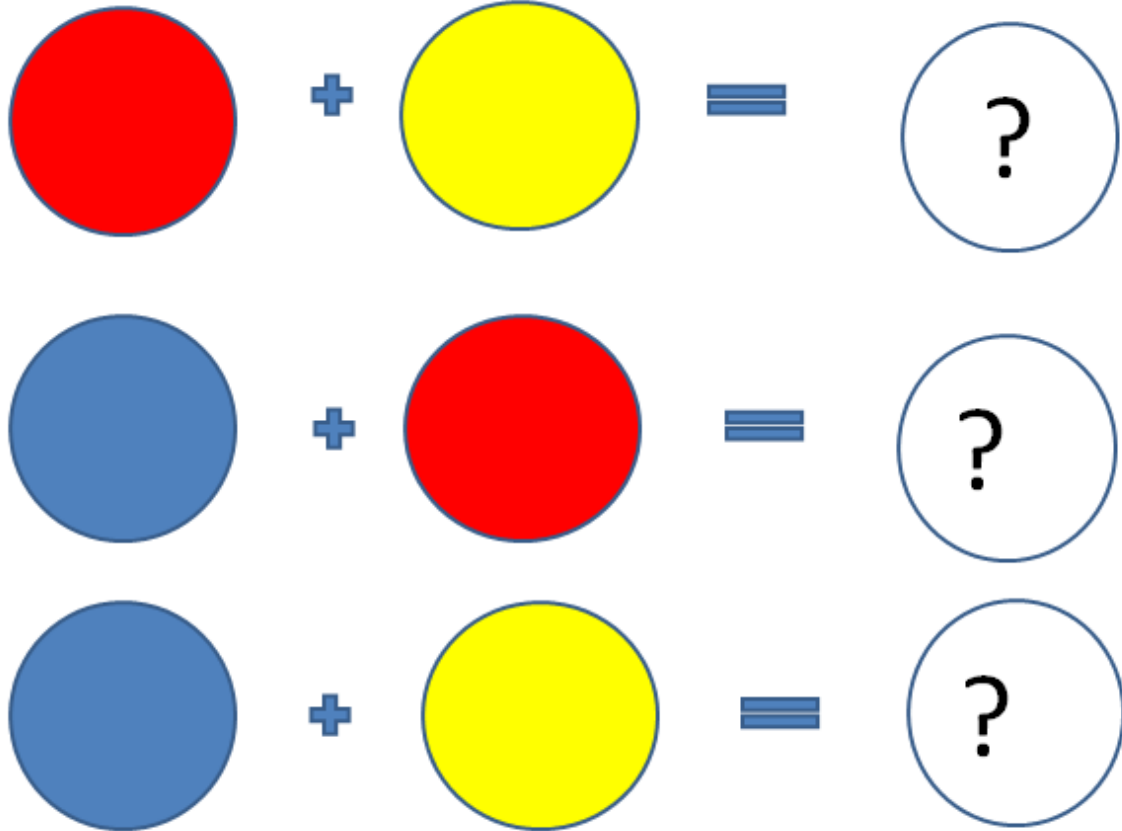
Kiito to ao makes midori!



*ELLA (Early Language Learning App) by Education Services Australia ella.edu.au

PowerPoint Slide

Script –The teacher only spoke in Japanese during the demonstration. The students were encouraged to give responses in Japanese if they could or in English



あかときいろでなにいろですか。What do red and yellow make?

ちやいろでしょう。I think it's brown.

あかときいろでオレンジです。Red and yellow make orange.

あおとあかでなにいろですか。What do blue and red make?

あおとあかでむらさきです。Blue and red make purple.

あおときいろでなにいろですか。What do blue and yellow make?

あおときいろでみどりです。Blue and yellow make green.