

begun last class will be added to the scene, and then other creatures and different kinds of plants can be added, as well. Before beginning the creative work, discuss *Scripture Talk* with the children. Then read **Genesis 7:1-24**, or continue with the story as begun in a Bible story book.

Step 2: Adding to the Scene

Spread **mural paper** in the area where the ark is to be displayed. Assuming that the rain has not yet begun in the story, and the ark is still standing on dry ground, the paper will serve as the ground on which to attach flowers and trees, etc. Have the children **paint the “ground”** before adding flowers and trees.

Ask the children to **contribute suggestions for developing the scene** further: the ground covering (grass, trees, flowers), other creatures (birds, bugs). They may suggest adding clouds, and since the rain has not yet begun, perhaps a sun, as well. Discuss potential problems: how to make the flowers stand up, how to suspend the birds or clouds in the sky, what to use to make tree trunks.

Although the ark may still be under construction at this point, discussing plans for the scene around the ark allows the children to begin to create the components to add to the scene while the ark is being finished.

To **complete the ark**, continue to divide off small groups to help with its construction and with the painting. Then it should be placed in position in the designated display area so the **complete scene can be developed around it**.

Then, as they are completed, begin adding animals and other components to the scene.

Step 3: Getting to Work

Point out the **construction materials** you have gathered: toilet paper rolls, drinking straws, cotton batting, modeling clay, string and tacks, etc. Challenge the children to think of ways they could use the materials to create such items as trees, flowers, clouds, birds. Could the toilet paper rolls be used for tree trunks, the drinking straws for flower stems, the cotton batting for clouds, the string and tacks for hanging the birds and clouds, and the modeling clay for making supports to hold the flowers?

Avoid making samples of flowers, trees or other items. **Leave it to the children to discover ways of using the materials to create them.** Remind them to complete unfinished animals begun last class. More animals may also be needed.

