



Dinosaurs

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

A T-Rex is massive!

Teek, teek, teek! The Microaptor is the smallest dinosaur ever discovered. How fun would it be to dig up dinosaur bones and name a new discovery after your child. With enthusiasm, discover the newly dug up bones of the next velociraptor.

Take turns finding words that rhyme with:

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|--------------|--------------------|
| EGG | (leg, beg) |
| BIG | (dig, fig, jig) |
| LAND | (band, hand, sand) |
| WATER | (daughter) |

Conversation Starters: Want something to talk about with your child in the car? Ask your child one of these questions to begin a conversation about the theme.

1. What sound do you think a pterodactyl makes?
2. What do you think would happen if a person found a pterodactyl nest with baby pterodactyls in it?
3. How do you pterodactyl mom's show their children love without any arms to hug them?

Book Topic & Internet Search

Don't forget that you can help your child create their own books by stapling or taping paper together in the form of a book.

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|---------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| Velociraptor | How many different named dinosaurs exist? | What is the oldest dinosaur? | T-REX |
| Microaptor | What dinosaurs lived in the water? | What dinosaurs laid eggs? | |
| | What dinosaurs loved their families? | | |

DRIVING GAMES

Driving can become a time for games (played with care for safety of course). Pterodactyls fly just like birds. While driving with your child, count the birds you see flying or sitting on wires while you are stopped at a light.

Science allows our young learners to understand the world and how it works. It is very easy to explore and discover. Activities can be created or found.

Go on a dinosaur hunt. Look for anything that could be understood to belong to a dinosaur. For example, on a walk did you see unexplained foot prints? Did you find a bird that seemed to fly faster than the typical bird?

Activity: I am a Paleontologist!

Materials needed: Sensory table, outdoor place for sand, sand clay (recipe and materials below), plastic bones, paint brushes, small plastic dinosaurs, craft sticks, and paper cups or small bowls.

Suggested reading: *Dinosaur Forever* by William Wise

Gather small dinosaurs and small plastic bones.

To make sand clay, an old cooking pot is recommended as the sand is abrasive.

Mix together with an old spoon and place on medium heat:

1 cup sand

1 and a half tsp of cream of tartar

Half cup of cornstarch

Half cup of water

Once ingredients liquify and begin to thicken, remove from heat and allow to cool.

Mold and cover up the small dinosaurs and bones and allow it to harden for 8 hours or overnight. Follow the activity by reading *Dinosaur Forever* allowing discussion as needed. Introducing and talking about the term "Paleontologist".

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Research says movement along with music is the best way for children to develop physical skills, direct energy, stimulate imagination, and encourage creativity. Creative movement uses all of their motor, thinking, and emotion in the form of the body to emulate the wind blowing, how the sun feels on their face, rolling in the grass, or the paint brushing wisped on the back of their hand.

Discuss the fact that dinosaurs and humans never lived together at the same time. So how do we learn about them?
All we know about dinosaurs is from studying their bones.
"Paleontologists" study and learn all about dinosaurs by researching, digging, and studying clues left behind.

Activity: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Materials Needed: Materials from the previous activity

Suggested reading: *Digging up Dinosaurs* by Alik.

Begin by looking through pictures in the book and pointing out differences, similarities, and characteristics of each dinosaur featured.

Ask your child if they would like to be a "Paleontologist" for the day. Show them the tools available and have them predict and brainstorm the items that they believe they will find. Encourage your child to choose a digging tool and begin working on their digging. Have your child gather their findings in a paper cup or small bowl.

Finish the activity by reading and discussing *Digging up Dinosaurs*.



Research
says

Children need a safe environment to develop a sense of trust, providing a healthy foundation for early learners to navigate through complicated situations. It is a child's social interactions such as playing that fosters knowledge of themselves.

Fine Motor Skills

Inquiry, observation, and explanation should involve hands-on activities and opportunities to ask questions, as well as opportunities to explore and investigate. Science, at an early age, should be open-ended and fun to explore.

Activity: Fossils

Materials Needed: Crayola Model Magic Clay, small rolling pins, assorted pasta shapes.

Suggested reading: *Fossils Tell of Long Ago* by Alik.

Begin by reading *Fossils Tell of Long Ago* and allow discussion on fossils. Use Crayola Model Magic and have them use the rollers or their hands to flatten the clay.

Have your child use the assorted shaped pasta to make their own fossils by pressing the items into their model magic. Allow model magic to dry for at least 24 hours.

Critical Thinking

As your child's first and most influential teacher, parents have the awesome responsibility to create opportunities for critical thinking!

Activity: Gummy Dinosaur Rescue

Materials Needed: Ice cube trays, dinosaur gummies, clay tools, trays, or paper plates

Place small dinosaur gummies in ice cube trays and fill with water. Allow to freeze.

Discuss with your young learner the fact that dinosaurs did not survive the ice age. Allow your child to enjoy picking through an ice cube or two to rescue the dinosaurs. Follow on with a discussion on how the world would have been if the dinosaurs had survived the Ice Age, guiding as necessary.

Print has meaning

Print awareness can begin developing during the very early years. Parents, you can help the development of print awareness for your child by reading to them regularly. Allow enough time to go over the cover of the book, title page, and introduction. Use your finger to point to each word as you read focusing on reading direction as well as pictures, verses, and words, enabling your child to understand that words can convey the meaning of a picture.

Activity: D is for Dinosaur

Materials Needed: Alphabet, objects or object cards beginning with the letter D, dinosaur print out, dinosaur stickers or stamps, coloring pencils or crayons

Suggested reading: *Baby Triceratops* by Beth Spanjian.

Begin by reading *Baby Triceratops* allowing discussion throughout. Follow on by reciting the alphabet together pointing to each letter. Write the word "Dinosaur" on a larger piece of paper or dry erase board. Guide your child to focus on the letter "D" and review the beginning sound.

Prompt and encourage your child to think of some words that begin with the letter "D", guiding as necessary to write the words and demonstrating the difference between the upper-case and lower-case letter.

Provide your child with an upper and lower case dotted "D" and have them trace both letters. Once they have successfully traced the letters, provide them with dinosaur stamps or stickers to cover the lines of the letter. You can then complete the activity with providing your child with a dinosaur printout for them to color.

Dancing like a Dinosaur

There is a great sense of satisfaction, freedom, and joy when young learners dance and sing. They are tapping and utilizing intelligence and it feels great! Self-expression through art is an appropriate way to allow children to grow internally, as it strengthens who they are because they are able to connect their emotions and convey what they feel and know through the use of art.

Activity: How am I a little Dinosaur

Materials Needed: Open space

Teach the following adaption to “I’m a little Teapot”. Remember to use humor and not make the song scary, as they are very young and impressionable; keeping it light and fun.

I’m a Mean Old Dinosaur (Tune: I’m a Little Teapot)

I’m a mean old dinosaur,

Big and Tall.

Here is my tail, here is my claw,

When I get all-hungry,

I just grow!

Look out for those snacks... I’m on the prowl.



Research says

Movement along with music is the best way for children to develop physical skills, stimulate imagination, and encourage creativity. Creative movement uses all of their motor, thinking, and emotion in the form of the body to emulate what a dinosaur can do.

The love of participating in an art project/activity is experienced by almost all young children. This love comes when you create an experience that is filled with positivity and freedom of expression. One way is to provide an array of materials for your child to use. Young learners love the feeling of being able to choose what will go where and what they will use items for. Even if sometimes it may be messy, it is great fun and enables the development of organizational skills, problem solving, creativity, and self-expression – worth all the mess!

Activity: Handprint Dino

Materials Needed: Little hands, coloring pencils, crayons, markers, and large white coloring paper

Trace your child’s hands making a dino-like shape (the thumb can be the dinosaur’s head; the middle three fingers represent the plates of the dinosaur’s back and the “pinkie” finger is the dinosaur’s tail). Encourage your children to add facial features with the use of the colored pencils, crayons, and markers as well as sharp spikes on the tail.

UNDERSTANDING MATH IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Children during their early years notice math dimensions and are more open to its concepts. This is the time to explore patterns, navigate space, building block balancing, and comparison strategies. Math can be found in many environments including during snack time. Explore introducing math strategies during snack time, helping your child to make sense of their world beyond school and building on a collation of successful math skills.

Concepts, such as big or small, and charting comparisons, and creating fun math games with numbers from your environment will open your child's mind to numerical skills.

Introduce the basic concepts of measuring using a ruler or tape measurer as well as invite your child to measure non-standard units of measuring such as their hands, feet, or a piece of string.

Activity: Dinosaur Math

Materials Needed: Large open space and flag or ground stake

Initiate a discussion with your child on the size of different dinosaurs, prompting them to use and demonstrate an understanding of bigger or smaller.

Follow on by placing a stake or flag in the ground and having them measure using their feet the different sizes of dinosaurs:

- *Tyrannosaurus Rex* - 45 feet
- *Triceratops* - 30 feet
- *Brachiosaurus* - 90 feet
- *Apatosaurus* - 70 feet
- *Stegosaurus* - 20 feet

Activity: Smaller than a Chicken, Big as a Skyscraper

Materials Needed: Posters or large printouts of different types of dinosaurs, large paper, marker and small dinosaur pictures for graphing

Discuss the size characteristics of some of the types of dinosaurs covered and any others, using posters and printouts as necessary. Follow on by guiding your child to get an accurate interpretation and visualization for the actual size of dinosaurs by comparing the different types of dinosaurs to objects such as tall buildings, skyscrapers or in comparison to animals. Proceed to discuss the smallest of dinosaurs and compare their size to familiar animals such as chickens.

Use the large poster board or a piece of construction paper to graph what dinosaurs preferred eating; for example, "plants" or "meats". Guide the children to make the graph using the smaller pictures of dinosaurs giving examples of what each dinosaur liked to eat and have them glue the dinosaur under the corresponding food type. If appropriate, introduce the terms "carnivore" and "herbivore".

Research says

From experience and research, we know that children who do not develop a foundation of basic motor skills - throwing, catching, kicking, skipping, galloping, etc. are less likely to participate in physical activity on a daily basis.

Playing actively is healthy in so many ways. Active play promotes socialization, gross motor development, problem solving skills, sportsmanship, and more. Get a few children together (2 or 3) and encourage free form play, as well as, organized play such as a game of tag or hide and seek.

Activity: Dino Hide and Seek

Materials Needed: Open space

Be sure to cover the rules of any organized games that you wish to introduce such as hide and seek and adapt the game accordingly. For example, in playing hide and seek, whoever is found first will become extinct or frozen for 20 seconds unless someone else tags them.

Guide and assist as necessary offering imaginative scenarios within the space provided.

Asking children questions and getting to communicate their answers verbally helps develop their thinking skills. Focus on your child as an individual. These questions should benefit and develop his critical thinking skill and his search for knowledge.

Activity: Dino Sensory Dino's

Materials Needed: Different macaroni pasta shells, glue and poster board or construction paper

Provide your young paleontologists with as many different kinds of macaroni as possible, paper, and glue. Encourage them to glue together the pasta shells to make their own dinosaur skeleton on paper, guiding and assisting them as necessary.

Following the completion of the dinosaur skeleton, discuss the types of dinosaur it resembles, going over and researching any facts on that specific dinosaur.