

Theme: Dinosaurs

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Digging up dinosaur bones: Hide cardboard “bones” in the sand box and let children dig for them.
- Relay race with “dinosaur eggs” on spoons
- Children move around imitating their favorite dinosaurs

Math Activities:

- Cut out 10-20 bone shapes from light brown felt for children to count on the flannel board
- Put numbers on dinosaur shapes for children to line up in numerical order.
- Dino Dominoes: Make some giant dominoes with dinosaur shapes instead of the dots. Children can play dominoes on the floor with these and have lots of fun counting!
- Put a large dinosaur shape on the wall and measure kids against the dinosaur

Science Activities:

- Display fossils and pictures of dinosaur skeletons
- Match pictures of dinosaurs with pictures of the foods they ate (meat eaters vs. plant eaters).
- Dig for fossils in the sand/sensory table; add clay caves, sprigs of greenery for trees, a watering hole, etc.

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Dinosaur puppet show
- Dinosaur puzzles
- Plastic dinosaurs in the block area
- Play-doh – make dinosaurs, dinosaur caves, etc.

Snacks:

- Dinosaur eggs – hardboiled or scrambled eggs
- Dinosaur toast – cut with dinosaur-shaped cookie cutters; cut cheese in dino shapes, too!
- Broccoli and cauliflower “trees”
- Animal crackers
- Apples, oranges, bananas

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

- Field trip to a local museum to see a dinosaur skeleton or exhibit

Songs & Fingerplays:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/6459/dinofingerplays.html>

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/sdinosaur.shtml>

Books:

First Dinosaur Encyclopedia (DK Publishing)

How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends? (Yolen)

Dinosaur Roar! (Stickland)

How Do Dinosaurs Clean Their Rooms? (Yolen)

The Best Book of Dinosaurs (Maynard)

When Dinosaurs Came with Everything (Broach)

How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food? (Yolen)

Danny and the Dinosaur (Hoff)

What Really Happened to the Dinosaurs? (Morris)

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp (Shields)

If Dinosaurs Were Alive Today (Running Press)

My Big Dinosaur Book (Priddy)

How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? (Yolen)

Touch and Feel: Dinosaur (DK Publishing)

Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs (Barton)

How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? (Yolen)

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Saving the Stegosaurus (Stone)

Dinosaurs Before Dark (Osborne)

Detective Dinosaur (Skofield)

Dramatic Play:

- Toy dinosaurs
- Make a cave out of green fabrics and burlap
- Stuff paper bags with wadded-up newspaper to make boulders for your dinosaur jungle
- Cut out a large dinosaur from a refrigerator box; let children help paint it for display in the play area

Art:

- Dinosaur stencils (make some if you don't have access to any)
- Dinosaur rubbings – color over a dinosaur shape to reveal the dinosaur!
- Cut a dinosaur shape from the center of a sheet of cardstock; children color around the dinosaur with markers (be sure to cover your art table first!).
- Dinosaur stamping – cut 6 dinosaur shapes from a foam sheet and glue them to a Styrofoam block; children can stamp dino images onto paper
- Make the paper interesting by painting a sheet of burlap, place a blank sheet of paper on top, roll over it with a rolling pin. This gives the paper visual texture that is nice to use later for the dinosaur stamping activity.
- Dip plastic dinosaurs' feet into paint to make dinosaur tracks onto a sheet of paper.
- Cut a dinosaur shape out of cardstock; let children glue bits of green tissue paper, fabric, trims, sequins, etc., to decorate their dinosaurs

Circle Time Activities:

- Dinosaur types and sizes
- Dinosaur foods
- Fossils and what we learn from them
- What happened to the dinosaurs?
- Field trip to a local museum
- "D" is for dinosaur