

# FROGS & OTHER FUNNY CREATURES

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Play “leap frog” indoors or out
- Do the math activity (frog jumping contest) indoors or outdoors
- Play a version of “duck-duck-goose” by changing the words to “ribbit, ribbit, JUMP!”
- Jumping Lily Pads: Cut out lily pads (laminated!) and scatter them on the floor or put them in a line or circle. Let children jump from one pad to the other.
- You can use these same lily pads to play musical chairs.

## Math Activities:

- Count the frogs – use flannel ones on a flannel board, paper frogs, plastic frogs—whatever you have at hand.
- Using a couple of real frogs (if you have them), have a frog jumping contest! Measure the distance each frog can jump!
- Let children pretend to be frogs and jump—measure how far each one can jump, or how many jumps it takes to reach a designated point (a line of tape across the floor?).

## Science Activities:

- You can get frog dissecting kits at many school supply stores or online. Older children might enjoy this activity; younger children may not.
- Let children examine pictures of different types of frogs and discuss their likenesses and differences.
- Examine pictures of other “funny creatures” (such as salamanders, etc.) and discuss their attributes.

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Match game: Prepare several frog pictures/shapes (two of a kind) and let children match them.
- Sort paper frogs by their colors, sizes, etc.

## Snacks:

- Frogs-on-a-log: Put white raisins on a celery stick smeared with a little cream cheese or peanut butter.
- Toad-in-the-Hole: Cut a hole in the center of a piece of bread. Fry an egg in the hole.
- Spread a clean white sheet on the floor and let children sit around the outside of the sheet. Put a hot air popcorn popper in the center of the sheet, with the top off, and let the popcorn pop! Children will get a kick out of watching it go everywhere (the sheet will catch it), and they can pretend the popcorn kernels are little frogs! They can eat the popcorn for snack.
- If the children like popcorn, you can put some into small zip-close bags and add melted butter and a different seasoning to each bag. Shake ‘em up and let the children decide which flavor they like best. Some flavors to try include dry ranch dip mix, cinnamon, garlic salt, etc.

## Songs & Fingerplays:

“5 Little Speckled Frogs”

(Google “frog fingerplays” and you’ll get a whole bunch of websites with frog fingerplays and action songs!)

## Books:

Face to Face with Frogs, by Mark Moffett  
From Tadpole to Frog by Wendy Pfeffer and Holly Keller  
The Icky Sticky Frog by Dawn Bentley and Salina Yoon  
Days with Frog and Toad, by Arnold Lobel (and other Frog and Toad books by Arnold Lobel)  
Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan and Byron Barton  
The Frog Who Wanted to See the Sea, by Guy Billout  
The Wide-Mouthed Frog, by Keith Faulkner  
A Frog in the Bog by Karma Wilson and Joan Rankin  
A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog by Mercer Mayer  
The Calls of Frogs and Toads, by Lang Elliott  
A Frog Thing by Eric Drachman  
Red-eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley and Nic Bishop  
Finklehopper Frog, by Irene Livingston and Brian Lies  
Frog Goes to Dinner by Mercer Mayer  
Too Many Frogs by Sandy Asher and Keith Graves  
If You Hopped Like a Frog, by David Schwartz & James Warhol  
Frogs, by Gail Gibbons  
Frog, Where Are You? by Mercer Mayer

## Dramatic Play:

Let the children cut out some paper frogs and make headbands by gluing the frog onto ribbons that can be tied around their heads. Children can pretend to be frogs and hop around the room!

## Art:

- Color frogs in different colors and display them around the room, on the fridge, the window, or a bulletin board. Make a mobile and hang over the snack table.
- Make frog puppets!
- What do frogs eat? Color or draw pictures of frog food.
- Where do frogs live? Color or draw pictures of frog habitats.
- Got plastic frogs? Let children dip their feet in paint and “dab” them onto a big sheet of paper to make “frog art”!
- Give children a large cutout of a frog and let them glue an assortment of green tissue papers, etc., onto the frog.
- Make lily pads out of tie-dyed coffee filters for your frogs!

## Circle Time Activities:

Tell a few “strange-but-true” stories about frogs. See <http://allaboutfrogs.org/weird/weird.html>.

Tell frog jokes. See <http://www.froggyville.com/index.php>.

Discuss the differences between toads and frogs, talk about the life cycle of frogs and other funny creatures. See <http://www.amphi.com/~tlcf/bender/web1/ebsg1frog.htm> or <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/amphibians/books/froglifecycle/>

Listen to frog sounds on the computer! Check out this website:  
<http://www.naturesound.com/frogs/frogs.html>. Let children try to imitate frog sounds.

Read books about frogs.

You can have several toy frogs or pictures of frogs for children to hold up as you tell about them.

Open the encyclopedia and see what you can discover about frogs. This will get children interested in looking up various topics in the encyclopedia and teach them how to use it. Develop their natural curiosity for learning new things!