

Theme: Turtles

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Crawl/walk like a turtle – this can be more fun with a throw pillow on your back! Try to keep the pillow from falling off!
- Pretend to be turtles crawling to the ark

Math Activities:

- Using turtle shaped cutouts, put numbers on the backs of the turtles and corresponding “spots” on another set of turtles. This makes a fun memory game!
- Measure paper turtles with a measuring tape. Record the lengths on a chart or graph.
- How many turtles fit on the log? Use paper frog cutouts and line them up on a yard stick or ruler.

Science Activities:

- Does any child in your program have a pet turtle? Let him/her bring the turtle to show-and-tell.
- Print out a picture of a turtle’s anatomy for the children to see.
- Let children follow along as you watch the Snapping Turtle Train on http://www.chelydra.org/snapping_turtle_train.html

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Turtle Bingo – Use turtle-shaped pieces on a regular bingo card or use buttons to put over a bingo card consisting of different turtle pictures—or the same turtle shape in different colors.
- In the sand/water table, put plastic frogs for the children to play with. Add an assortment of aquarium rocks and grass to make it interesting.
- See <http://www.prekinders.com/pondlifeunit.htm>

Snacks:

- Dip caramel (put on a toothpick) into warm chocolate, then place on waxed paper to dry. The chocolate forms a “shell” around the caramel. Yum!
- Let the children squeeze chocolate “shell” topping on their scoop of ice cream for a fun snack.
- Pigs-in-a-blanket (turtles in a shell?)
- Turtle-shaped sugar cookies – decorate with green and brown sprinkles
- Raw fruit and veggies

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

- Is there an Aquarium near you? Arrange for a field trip. How about a pet store?
- Put up pictures of turtles around the room. You can print some off the internet if you don’t have access to posters, or you can simply display books about turtles.

Songs & Fingerplays:

“I’m bringing home a baby red eared turtle, won’t my mommy want to call him Myrtle, I’m bringing home a baby red eared turtle, Ooh! He’s slippery!”
<http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschoolsongs.html>
<http://www.prekinders.com/pondlifeunit.htm>

Books: Turtles in My Sandbox, by J. K. Curtis

How the Turtle Got Its Shell, by J. Fontes et al.

Look Out for Turtles! By M. Berger

Franklin book series

One Tiny Turtle, by N. Davies

Baby Turtle's Tale, by E. J. McGuinness

Turtle Summer: A Journal for My Daughter, by M. A. Monroe

Turtle's Race With Beaver, by J. & J. Bruchac et al.

The Turtle and the Monkey, by P. Galdone

What Newt Could Do for the Turtle, by J. London

Sea Turtle Journey: The Story of a Loggerhead Turtle, by L. A. Jay & K. Lee

Emma's Turtle, by Eve Bunting & Marsha Winborn

Turtle Splash! Countdown at the Pond, by C. Falwell

Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories, by Dr. Seuss

Old Turtle, by D. Wood & C. K. Chee

Squishy Turtle and Friends, by R. Priddy

A Boy and a Turtle, by L. Lite & K. C. Fox

The Rabbit and the Turtle, by Eric Carle

Frogs, Toads & Turtles, by D. Burns

Shelley, the Hyperactive Turtle, by D. M. Moss

My Pet Turtle (Blue's Clues), by D. Reber

Dramatic Play:

- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles pajamas and costumes
- Baskets to use as "shells" on their heads
- Laundry baskets to use as "shells" over their bodies—children can crouch down under the laundry basket to pretend they're turtles!



*Turtle clip art from
<http://www.fotosearch.com>*

Art:

- Let children "draw" a turtle onto black paper with liquid glue; spread sand over the glue the same as you would do with glitter; shake off the sand.
- Children paint a small paper plate green, then glue on construction paper or felt "feet".
- Cut out large turtle shapes and let children decorate their turtles, color on them with markers, etc.



- Turtle stamping – Let children dip their plastic turtles in paint and "stamp" onto paper.
- Create turtle puppets by coloring turtle shapes, cutting them out, and taping them to craft sticks; children can make up stories to tell each other with their turtle puppets

Circle Time Activities:

- What kind of turtle do I have? Types of turtles. See <http://www.allturtles.com/species.php>
- Pet turtles – how to take care of them. See <http://www.allturtles.com/caresheets.php> and http://www.chelydra.org/snapping_turtle_buy_sell.html
- Read a book about Turtles from the list above or from your local library. Ask the kids to tell you the story in their own words. If it's a story that's new to them, let them look at the pictures and make up the story. Afterwards, you can read it to them and they can compare their story to the one written in the book.
- Cut out large turtle pictures and laminate them. Place them around the semi-circle for children to sit on during story time. See http://www.chelydra.org/turtle_royalty_free_photograph_prints.html and http://www.allturtles.com/your_turtles/index.php for cool pictures!
- Watch Felix the turtle on a live cam! <http://www.felixcam.com/>
- "T" is for Turtle! Give children plenty of practice writing the letter "T", discussing its sounds; make cards for the letters spelling the word "turtle" and let the children put them in order; trace the letter "T" with their fingers in the sand. For extra tactile stimulation, cut the letter out of different textured fabrics and glue them onto a poster board. Children can trace each letter and discuss the way the fabric feels—soft, hard, scratchy, slick, rough, smooth
- For some really cool clip art, visit <http://www.fotosearch.com> and search for turtle clip art.