

# Dinosaurs

## Adult Led Focus

- Read the story 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' by Ian Whybrow. Discuss with the children how Harry felt when he left his dinosaurs on the train. Have they ever lost something that was very special to them? How did they feel? What helped them to feel better? What did they do to try to find it? Were they successful?
- Pass a talking object around the circle, maybe a 'dinosaur egg' and ask the children what they would do if they saw a real dinosaur? This is a great way of getting the children to use their imaginations whilst developing their turn taking skills.
- Read 'Harry and the dinosaurs go to school' In small groups, the children can take turns to make up their own dinosaur names, each of them ending in '...saurus'. They could use their own names, their favourite food, their pet's name or something completely different!
- SEAL topic 'Going for goals' Talk about things we are good at and things we would like to get better at
- Think about our Mums when making something for Mother's day on March 31st

## Indoor Enhancements

- Provide this [Dinosaurs Can You Find...? Poster](#) within provision and encourage children to look at it in pairs, asking each other to find different objects in the picture.
- Fill a balloon with water and place a small toy dinosaur inside the balloon too. Once frozen, peel the balloon off, creating a 'dinosaur egg'. Encourage the children to work together to release the dinosaurs from the eggs. This activity is great for problem solving too, as the children try to work out the best way to rescue the baby dinosaurs e.g. squirting the eggs with warm water, holding in your hands until the ice melts etc
- Create a role-play area in the classroom – a dinosaur cave or reading area. Encourage the children to work together in these areas, sharing resources
- Read Gigantosaurus by Jonny Duddle about a dinosaur who cries wolf one too many times
- Read How do dinosaurs eat their food by Jane Yolen (table manners)
- Talk about what makes you angry and what happens when you are angry (shouting, stamping). What can you do to feel better?
- Read dinosaurs love underpants by Claire Freedman. Stop halfway through and ask children what will happen if the dinosaurs keep fighting.

## Outdoor Enhancements

- Use role play masks and props from the Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs story. Encourage the children to work together in groups to act out the story.
- Hide dinosaur-themed soft toys or models around the outdoor area. Encourage the children to work as a team to find them.

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- Play a listening game where one child is blindfolded in the middle of a circle. The other children around the circle take it in turns to say 'It's me, the big T. rex,' or 'It's me the baby dinosaur,' in appropriate squeaky or gruff voice. The blindfolded child guesses who was speaking and where in the room the child was.
- Play a listening and attention game (Kim's game) with the children. Place a number of dinosaur-themed items on a tray and cover with a blanket. Remove one of the objects - Can they say which one has been removed?
- Draw own dinosaurs and encourage children to describe the dinosaur they have designed.
- Play the [Dinosaur Information Matching Game](#) with small groups of children to develop their listening skills.
- Sort dinosaurs in different ways. This could be used to develop children's listening skills, as well as developing their vocabulary.
- Learn dinosaur songs and rhymes.

## Indoor Enhancements

- Have some masks available for the children to use as part of their imaginative play.
- Place dinosaur stones in the sand area to encourage children to talk to each other about the dinosaurs they have found, as well as using them as part of their imaginative play.
- Listen to audio cd's of dinosaur-themed storybooks, along with a hard copy and related props.
- Say the names of different dinosaurs and clap the syllables. Try and think of alliterative names for dinosaurs e.g. Daniel Diplodocus
- Examine a selection of dinosaurs with distinctive features e.g. Triceratops, Stegosaurus. Put them in a feely bag. One child to describe the dinosaur whilst others guess
- Invite children to come to the front and tell the group which is their favourite dinosaur and why.
- Listen to and watch a volcanic eruption. Talk about what is happening.

## Outdoor Enhancements

- Have some masks and dinosaur dressing up available for the children to use as part of their imaginative play. Use the coloured 'wings' for pterodactyls
- Use the Storyteller's chair outside for the children to retell the story to each other.

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- Look at Dinosaur Display Posters with the children. Talk about the different dinosaurs and the way they might move, encouraging them to experiment with different ways of moving.
- Cut out pictures of dinosaurs and make dinosaur jigsaws
- Cover balloons with papier-mache to create 'dinosaur eggs'. The children can tear up the newspaper, brush on the glue and then paint the completed eggs to develop their fine motor skills.
- Make Dinosaur Split Pin Characters to help develop fine motor skills.
- Make dinosaur eggs for snack by using hands to mould a rice krispie/marshmallow mix with hands and leaving to set.
- Read Linus the vegetarian T-Rex by Robert Neubecker. Talk about vegetarian diets and what vegetarian means
- Dance sessions with Rachel on Monday mornings, P.E. with David on Thursday – practising for sports day

## Indoor Enhancements

- Have Pencil Control Sheets and Pencil Control Paths in the writing area.
- Use Cutting Skills Sheets to develop children's effective use of scissors.
- This [Dinosaur Skeleton Cut and Stick Activity Sheet](#) develops both cutting skills and problem solving skills as children try to recreate the skeleton.
- Add pasta to the malleable area for the children to use to create dinosaurs with spikes
- Use playdough mats to put stripes on the velociraptor, horns on the triceratops etc
- Mould volcano shapes in wet sand and sprinkle on red/orange sand or paper for lava

## Outdoor Enhancements

- Fine motor skills – rescuing the dinosaurs from the swamp with tweezers is a great way of developing fine motor skills
- Have some classical music playing outside and encourage the children to move around like different types of dinosaurs. Encourage them to think about which type of dinosaur suits the different tracks. Velociraptor (running fast), Pterodon (swooping) Gigantosaurus (stamping)
- Use coloured gloop in a large activity tray to create a slimy swamp for the small-world dinosaurs to move around in. This will help to develop muscles in the hands, wrists and fingers.

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- Look at some non-fiction books about dinosaurs and teach the children about the features of non-fiction books.
- Model writing simple dinosaur Fact Files with the children.
- Write simple sentences to go alongside pictures of different dinosaurs
- Carry out a 'Name that Dinosaur Activity', which supports children in hearing the initial sounds in words. i.e. which dinosaur begins with a 't' sound?
- Make some papier-mache 'dinosaur eggs' (See Physical Development) and then write instructions about how to take care of them, or draw pictures and write about what might hatch out of them.
- Print out dinosaur footprints with phase 2 and 3 sounds on them. Ask the children to move from one sound to another to add interest to phonics activities.
- Look at some dinosaur names – count the number of letters and break down the words to show children how to say them
- Hide bones with words painted on in the sand. Give the children clipboards and ask them to write out real and nonsense words

## Indoor Enhancements

- In the writing area, have Word Mats, Word Cards and Page Borders available.
- Provide Dinosaur Writing Frames to encourage the children to write down some of the facts they have learnt about the different dinosaurs.
- The children might also enjoy [Dinosaur Fact File Activity Sheets](#), which they can fill in using their knowledge of the dinosaurs. You could also have dinosaur-shaped paper/booklets available for the children to use.
- Provide a variety of fiction and non-fiction dinosaur books in a dinosaur-themed reading den.
- Practise letter formation with this [Dinosaur Themed Letter Writing Activity Sheet](#).
- World book day on 7th March – ask children to dress up in pyjamas and dressing gowns and bring their favourite book.

## Outdoor Enhancements

- Create a reading den outside using blankets and cushions, covered with sheets or tarpaulin. Have a selection of copies of the story available for the children to use.
- Laminate some Alphabet Dinosaur Footprints. The children can use them to build simple words either on the ground or pegged to a washing line.
- Laminate [Alphabet Matching Dinosaur Eggs](#) and hide them around the outdoor area for an alphabet-themed egg hunt.

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- Print out and laminate Dinosaur Numbers 0-10/20. Play ordering games, missing number games, matching and counting games etc.
- Collect a selection of different small-world dinosaurs. These could then be used for a variety of counting, addition and subtraction activities.
- Use [Five Enormous Dinosaurs Counting Song PowerPoint](#), [Song Sheet](#) and [Cut-Outs](#) to help consolidate counting skills.
- This [Complete the Pattern Activity Sheet](#) is a great way to teach children how to copy, continue and even create their own repeating patterns.
- Estimate how many shoes it would take to fill a dinosaur's footprint. Place pairs of children's shoes on the outline.
- Use multilink blocks to measure cardboard cut-out dinosaur feet.
- Print out dinosaur eggs with numbers on. Ask children to add the correct number of pegs.

## Indoor Enhancements

- Have a selection of laminated Size Ordering Pictures or plastic dinosaurs. Start with three of each and encourage the children to sort them into hoops – all of the small creatures in one hoop, the medium sized in another hoop etc.
- Use dinosaur colour by Number Pictures to develop number recognition.
- [Colour by Number Dots](#) will help to develop one-to-one counting skills.
- Help to develop number formation skills with [Dinosaur-Themed Number Formation 1-10 Activity Sheet](#).
- This [Dinosaur-Themed Counting and Matching Puzzle](#) develops both number recognition and counting skills.
- These [Dinosaur-Themed Number Sequencing Photo Puzzles](#) are a lovely way for children to practise ordering numbers.
- Provide a variety of 2D shapes that are cut out of card or paper, for the children to use to create dinosaur pictures. Provide small-world dinosaurs as a stimulus.

## Outdoor Enhancements

- Print out dinosaur themed numbers 0-10/20 from this Dinosaur-themed resource. Ask the children to order them on a washing line outside.
- Play 'What time is it Mr Dinosaur?' with the children, taking giant-sized dinosaur steps.
- Make some Dinosaur footprints and encourage the children to use them to measure different parts of the outdoor area. How many dinosaur footsteps does it take to cross the yard? How many footprints long is the caterpillar?
- Roll out paper or toilet roll to show the heights of different dinosaurs. Compare the heights. Which is the smallest/tallest dinosaur?