

Nursery adult-led activities for home learning Week 32 18-05-20 Theme: Dinosaurs

Hello everyone,

I hope you had a good week last week and enjoyed our 'Farm' activities. This week we are going to be looking at 'Dinosaurs' - always a popular subject with young children! I know that many of you will have some dinosaur toys which will be really helpful for this week's activities, but if you don't I have suggested some alternatives.

This week is the last week of planning before half term, when we will have a break for a week, returning to school activities on Tuesday 2nd June (as Monday 1st June is an INSET day). As you will be aware, the Government are suggesting that schools reopen after half term for all Nursery children as well as Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Mrs Delany-White sent out a questionnaire during the week asking parents whether they intend to send their children back to school after half term so we can gauge numbers when planning smaller class groups, so please reply to this if you have not yet done so. We are still working out what new procedures we will need to put in place to keep the children and ourselves safe, so please be prepared for the fact that the school experience will be different for your child after the half term holiday. We will let you have more details about our plans once we have more information to work with.

I have included some additional maths, colouring, cutting and pencil control activities which you can use to supplement this week's activities if you wish. I have also included some information about Jesus' mother Mary- as we are in the month of May we would usually focus on Mary at school and end the term with our whole-school May procession in honour of Mary. Sadly we are unable to do that this year but this does give us an opportunity to learn about Mary at home. There is an information PowerPoint about May devotions and a colouring picture of Mary to use if you wish.

As always, please continue to spend as much time as you can reading stories to your child and talking about them- asking your child to suggest what might happen next and why, or to tell you about their favourite characters or what they would do in the same situation. I have included some dinosaur-themed story videos for each day of the week.

If your child is in the 'Ladybirds' groups and is due to start Reception in September, there are new letters to learn for Phonics and the ongoing name writing activities at the end of the planning sheet for them.

I hope you enjoy trying these activities. Please feel free to include other children in them if that makes it easier for your family. If there is anything you are finding difficult or you would like some advice about what to do please contact me, either via Tapestry or the new class email nursery@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Good luck!

Mrs Fiona Semple

Area of Learning	Activity	Comments
Communication and Language/ Understanding the World/ Literacy	<p>What do we know about dinosaurs?</p> <p>Resources- paper, pencil, toy dinosaurs, food in the kitchen.</p>	<p>This week we are learning about dinosaurs. Lots of the children already know a lot about dinosaurs, so I'm sure the dinosaur activities will be popular! Dinosaurs have long and complicated names, but it's amazing how many dinosaurs young children can name. Make a list with your child of all the dinosaurs they know, and see what they can tell you about each kind of dinosaur. Ask them if we can see dinosaurs now, and if they know why not? Where do baby dinosaurs come from? What do dinosaurs eat? If your child doesn't know anything about dinosaurs yet then you could find out about them together- each day I am including a short clip from the CBeebies programme 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures', but there are many more episodes that can be found via CBeebies or YouTube.</p> <p>Following on from last week's work on food and farming, see if your child knows what their dinosaurs eat. Introduce the terms 'herbivore' for plant-eating dinosaurs, and 'carnivore' for meat-eating dinosaurs. Have another look in your kitchen, as you did last week. Could your child choose some foods they would include in a picnic for a herbivore dinosaur and a carnivore dinosaur?</p> <p>Here is the first short dinosaur information film- 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures- Stegosaurus' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1OG4SxKjxU&safe=true</p> <p>Here is a dinosaur story to enjoy- 'Stomp, dinosaur, stomp': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxiYyXlc3Co&safe=true</p>
Communication and Language/ Understanding the World/ Expressive Arts and Design/ Literacy	<p>Make a dinosaur world and dinosaur eggs</p> <p>Resources: Toy dinosaurs, large box or tray, water, balloons or equivalent containers</p>	<p>Today we are going to get creative and have some fun building a dinosaur habitat. You may have a suitable area outside where your child can dig, or you may prefer to use a container such as a shoe box, seed tray or washing up bowl. Go outside to the garden or another outdoor space and work with your child to create a 'dinosaur world' for their dinosaurs to play in. Your child could include some soil or compost, some rocks and stones, sand, a water area (in an empty plastic tub or equivalent) so that the dinosaurs can drink, wash or swim. Sticks, twigs, leaves and grass could be used to provide food and shelter. I'm looking forward to seeing some great photos here! If your child doesn't have any toy dinosaurs perhaps you could help them make some simple dinosaur shapes with playdough, or draw or print dinosaur pictures and stick them onto pebbles or pieces of Duplo. Another fun science-themed activity is to make frozen dinosaur eggs. This works best with balloons to make the correct shape, although you could use other containers such as paper cups or empty yogurt pots. Put small toy dinosaurs or toy bones in the balloon or container and top up with water, then tie the balloons and freeze. The balloons will give egg-shaped ice cubes with the dinosaurs inside, whereas the other containers will give different shapes. You can then challenge your child to work out how they can get the dinosaurs out of the eggs!</p> <p>Another dinosaur film- 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures- Diplodocus': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpic3BvhkTM&safe=true</p> <p>A dinosaur story- 'How to grow a dinosaur': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtP9Ja9xMgQ&safe=true</p>
Communication and Language/ Literacy/ Understanding	<p>Make a fossil experiment/ Make a</p>	<p>Today we are going to try a science experiment to make our own dinosaur fossils. Before you start, explain to your child that dinosaur bones are sometimes found in the ground, and they are so old that they have turned to stone and are called 'fossils'. Watch this short video about a dinosaur skeleton being excavated and reconstructed: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8xm3tM5KNo&safe=true. If you have the ingredients, try the Make a dinosaur</p>

<p>the World/ Expressive Arts and Design</p>	<p>dinosaur skeleton</p> <p>Resources: Ingredients- see sheet. Dinosaur toys. Dry pasta and glue.</p>	<p>fossil science experiment. If you don't have any small dinosaur toys to use in the experiment you could use dry pasta to be the dinosaur bones. If you don't have the ingredients for the experiment you could use salt dough (One cup plain flour/ half a cup water/ half a cup table salt- mix, use and then dry out the finished dough in a very low oven), or even playdough. If you have fossils that have been baked as in the experiment or with salt dough, you could then hide them in compost or sand and let your child be a palaeontologist and do some excavation! Another lovely craft activity involving fossils is to make a pasta dinosaur skeleton- have a look at the Pasta dinosaur skeleton example to give you the idea, and there is also a Pasta dinosaur skeleton template you could print and use as the framework for a pasta dinosaur picture. You may feel confident enough to design your own various dinosaur templates for your child to use- they look really effective on dark paper, or you could even get your child to paint a background on paper or card and then glue their dinosaur skeleton on to it!</p> <p>Here's today's dinosaur information video- 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures- Triceratops': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rldH848s6qE&safe=true</p> <p>Here's another dinosaur story- 'Tyrannosaurus Drip': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfv9GLmaUM&safe=true</p>
<p>Communication and Language/ Mathematics/ Understanding the World/ Literacy/ Physical Development</p>	<p>Dinosaur footprints</p> <p>Resources: Paper, scissors, pencil</p>	<p>Today we are going to make some dinosaur footprints, which can then be used for lots of learning activities of your choice. Have a look at the Dinosaur footprint pattern and either print or draw the footprints on paper, and work with your child to cut them out. Make as many as you can, as they can be used for lots of things, and it's great cutting practice! When you have your collection of footprints then there are lots of ways they can be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a trail of dinosaur footprints around the house or garden with dinosaurs to find or the fossils you made. • Write the letters of your child's name on footprints and ask them to order the letters correctly. • Write numbers to 10 or 20 on the footprints and ask your child to order them or put the correct number of toy dinosaurs on the footprints, or randomly place the numbers around and ask your child to stand on the correct number as you call it out. • Write the Phonics letters your child has been learning on the footprints. Scatter them around the room and ask your child to go and stand on each letter as you call it out. • If your child is beginning to read, see if you or they can make simple CVC words with the letters on the footprints. <p>You may have other ideas of your own, so have some fun with the footprints!</p> <p>Today's information video- 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures- Tyrannosaurus Rex': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH_dOscj9FU</p> <p>Today's dinosaur story- 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWoopkMgLqM&safe=true</p>
<p>Communication and Language/ Literacy/ Understanding the World/</p>	<p>Build a dinosaur</p> <p>Resources: junk</p>	<p>Today's dinosaur story has a strong environmental theme all about looking after our planet. Watch the story video first- it's called 'Dinosaurs and all that rubbish': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oUxR437_d0. Talk about the story with your child, about the fact that the dinosaurs had to wake up and clean up the earth after the people made such a mess and spoiled it. Talk with your child about what sort of things we can do to keep our world beautiful for ourselves and the animals and plants- not dropping litter, re-using and recycling, growing plants, walking and cycling instead of driving etc.</p>

Physical Development/ Expressive Arts and Design	modelling materials, paint	<p>Today's challenge is to re-use some junk materials such as empty boxes, plastic bottles and yogurt pots to create a model dinosaur. If you have other children this would be a great opportunity to involve everyone in the family, and see if you can create the biggest dinosaur you can! I know that some of you love the challenge of a junk model, so I'm already excited about seeing the photos!</p> <p>Your child may enjoy testing their dinosaur knowledge with another interactive guessing game- Dinosaur guess who interactive PowerPoint</p> <p>Here's today's dinosaur information video- 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures- Ornithocheirus': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcHX0sn4BQ</p>
-----------------------------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

If your child has a 'ladybird' name label and is therefore due to start Reception in September, there are a couple of extra activities for them here:

1. Name writing challenge.

This challenge is ongoing from last week and will be continuing all term.

Ideally, I would like all of the Ladybirds group to be able to write their name independently before they move into Reception. Quite a few of the children already can write their names, and some can copy it carefully when they look at the letters. If your child is not quite there yet, then please help them to practise every day. Write their name out for them and place it around the house so they keep seeing it- start with a capital letter and then write the other letters in lower case e.g. 'Mary', 'Joseph', not 'MARY', 'JOSEPH'. Check that they are holding their pen or pencil correctly before they start to write. At first, write their name for them and ask them to trace over it with a highlighter or a pen/pencil in a different colour. Once they can do this accurately, then move on to looking at the name and copying the letters. Once your child can form the letters independently then move on to letting them have a go at writing their name without looking at the name card, and then using the name card to check whether they got all the letters and in the correct order. When they achieve this, please think of a special treat to reward them for their hard work!

Some children will find this quite easy and will soon manage to write their name independently, others may take several weeks or months to master it. A little bit of practice every day will really help to speed up the process though, and I'm sure your child will be very proud once they achieve this important milestone.

2. Phonics for reading and writing.

During the Summer term we begin to learn individual letters and then start blending them together to make simple words for the children to read. We don't learn the letters in alphabetical order, but in an order which means we can start building words to read very quickly. When we introduce a new letter we tell the children the name of the letter, we look at the shape of the letter and how it is written (grapheme), and then tell the children the sound the letter makes (phoneme). It is the letter sounds (phonemes) that are important for reading words, rather than the letter names.

This week I would like the children to learn to recognise the letters 'g', 'o' and 'u'. If you have lower-case alphabet flashcards or magnetic letters then please feel free to use those, or write the letters on pieces of paper or card and keep them to use for letter recognition. Learn 1 new letter each day,

as well as revising previously learned letters and playing games to reinforce them such as asking your child to point to each letter quickly when asked, or placing the letter cards at different points in the room and asking your child to run to them when asked.

When teaching children how to read words we say each phoneme (letter sound) individually and then together (blending), and also look at whole words and break them down into individual sounds (segmenting). Blending is the most important skill for reading- segmenting is useful when children begin to want to write words independently. You could use magnetic letters or write words for your child to read, or draw pictures and see if they can match the word to the picture (this will be easier once your child has learned a few more letters). You could also look at the website Phonicsplay (www.phonicsplay.co.uk). This is a site we use in school, and access for parents is free during the school closures. Three good games to start with are 'Buried Treasure', 'Dragon's Den' and 'Picnic on Pluto'. Your child has begun learning the Phase 2 letters, and you can set the letters your child knows so that the game includes only the letters they recognise. Children have to try to read the 2 or 3 letter words and decide if they are real words or 'fake' words, and then sort them into the correct place. Have a play of the games yourself, and when you feel confident, try them with your child. Once we have learned a few more letters then the CBeebies 'Alphablocks' games will also be helpful.

If your child is keen, please also encourage them to have a go at writing the letters too. A letter formation guide sheet can be found in the folder of work for this week.

We use the 'Letters and Sounds' synthetic phonics scheme in school, supported by the 'Jolly Phonics' songs to help the children remember the letters and the sounds they make.

The song for 'g' can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XE3aGue3IXM&safe=true>

The song for 'o' can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBzaueX80_8

The song for 'u' can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLxj0fYntmo>

If you are unsure of the sound each letter makes in English then please see <https://www.jollylearning.co.uk/resource-bank-old/learn-the-letter-sounds/>. Please ensure you look at the first set of letters which give the sounds in British English. If you click on the letter, you can hear it being pronounced correctly.

We don't cover all of the sounds in the scheme in Nursery- we look at the 25 individual letters that have their own phoneme (letter sound). If you would like any more assistance with how to introduce letters then please get in touch with me via the class email address.