

Word Recognition

Early Learning Content Standards

Identify own name in print (*English Language Arts I.5*).

Recognize and name some upper and lower case letters in addition to those in first name (*Language Arts I.6*).

Identify matching sounds and recognize rhymes in familiar poems, songs, and words (*English Language Arts I.1*).

Hear sounds in words by isolating syllables of a word using snapping, clapping, or rhythmic movement (e.g. cat, ap-ple) (*Language Arts I.2*).

Dinosaur Alphabet Game

For this activity, you will need many “dinosaur bones.” The bones can be shapes cut from paper or poster-board, cardboard tubes painted white, or any other suitable material. Be creative!

On each bone, write a letter of the alphabet. Before the class arrives, hide the dinosaur bones throughout the classroom space.

Tell the children they are going to be paleontologists hunting for dinosaur bones. Show the children one of the bones so they know what they look like.

When the children are ready, release them to find as many bones as they can (like an Easter egg hunt). Collect all the bones in a basket or box.

Once all the bones have been hidden, have the children reconvene as a group. One by one, pull out the bones and help the children identify the letters.

For example, “Here is one of the bones you found. Look! There is a letter of the alphabet on it. Does anyone know what letter this is?”

Identify the letter on the bone and have the children repeat it. Continue exploring the letters for as long as time and interest allow.

Dinosaur Word Practice

Provide each child with a copy of the dinosaur writing page included in this material. Help the children use context to determine the printed word on the page.

Point to the word on the page and ask the children, “What does this say?”

Many of them will say, “dinosaur,” once they see the picture. Ask the children, “How do you know it says ‘dinosaur’?”

Help the children recognize that the picture of the dinosaur on the page corresponds with the printed word. Help them to understand that they used the picture as a context clue to find meaning.

For example, “You saw the picture of the dinosaur and you knew how to read the word.”

Have the children trace the letters and write the word “dinosaur” with a pencil. Allow the children to color or decorate their dinosaur with art supplies.

Dinosaur Reading

For this activity, you will need a book (or books) about dinosaurs. There are many dinosaur books at the local library. If possible, choose a book that focuses on letters of the alphabet or rhyming, as these are important skills to practice. (*Dinosaur ROAR!* is a good rhyming book as are any of the *How Do Dinosaurs...* series by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague).

Read the story (or stories) to the children. Highlight rhyming words in the story and allow the children to repeat them (“Hat, cat. Those words rhyme!”).

Also, whenever possible, select words from the story to practice syllables. For example, “This is a Stegosaurus. Let’s count the sounds! Steg-o-saur-us (*clapping on each syllable*).”

Dino Cave Rhyme Game

Practice rhyming with this fun game.

Mark off an area of the play space as the Dinosaur's cave (a large circle on the floor with tape is easiest).

Select one child to be the "dangerous dinosaur." This child is "it" and stands inside the circle. Help this child recite the dinosaur challenge aloud for the group.

Standing inside the circle, the dinosaur says, "Are you fast? Are you brave? Come inside my dino cave!"

When the child (dinosaur) says this, all the other children run into the circle (cave) and back out as quickly as possible. The dinosaur tags as many children as possible.

Any child who is tagged stays inside the circle and becomes a dinosaur.

For the next round, all the children in the circle (dinosaurs) recite the rhyme together "Are you fast? Are you brave? Come inside my dino cave!"

Then the remaining children run in and out of the circle again. Continue until all the children have been tagged and are in the circle. Recite the rhyme each round, giving the children many opportunities to say rhyming phrases. Play as long as time and interest allow.

Materials Needed Today

You will need

1. A variety of dinosaur books
2. Sand (or other dry materials); a tub or container
3. Paper or posterboard; markers or letter stickers/labels
4. Tape or other means to mark space on the floor
5. A variety of alphabet materials, the names of the children in print

Name Paleontology

Cut shapes out of paper or cardboard to represent dinosaur eggs. Write each child's name on 2 eggs. One dinosaur egg will be given to the child and the other will be hidden.

Fill a large tub or container with sand. If the activity is indoors, or if sand is undesirable, use uncooked pasta, beans, or other dry materials. Hide the dinosaur eggs (with children's names) by burying them.

Tell the children they will be digging for dinosaur eggs. Give each child an egg with their name on it. Then allow the children to sift through the sand (or beans or pasta) and find all the buried eggs. As the children find eggs, help the children match the name on the buried egg with the name on their egg.

For example, "Look! You found an egg! Does it match the egg in your hand?" Once they find the egg that has their name, have the child keep the 2 matching eggs. Help them re-bury eggs with other names ("throw it back" if it is someone else's name).

Things to Do at Morning Circle Time:

- Acknowledge the day of the week, date, and weather
- Sing songs, Recite Rhymes
- Read a story
- Acknowledge "Who is here today?"; Help the children introduce themselves and others

Circle Time Activity

Dinosaur Song

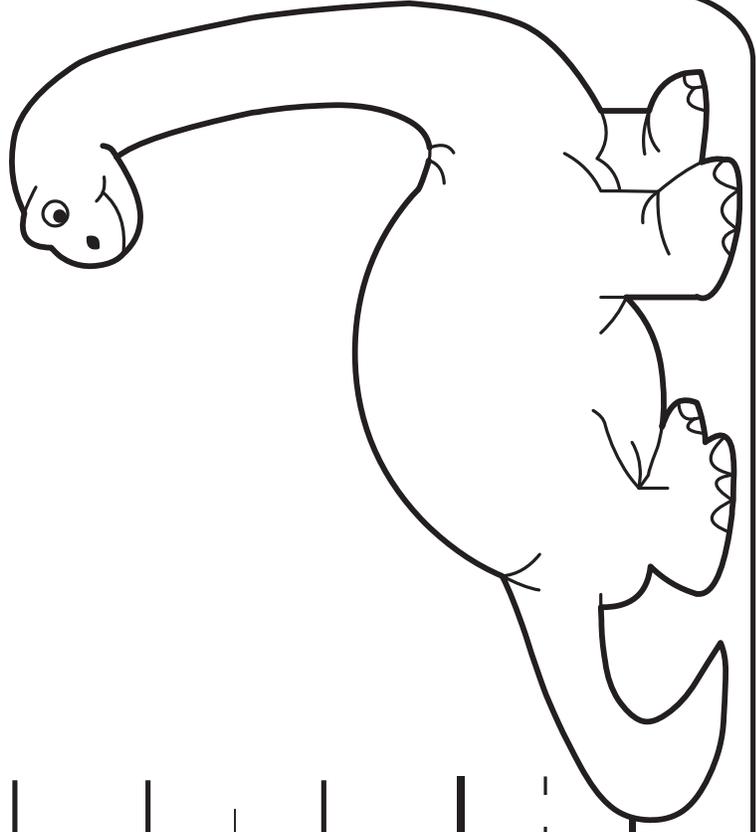
(to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a mean old dinosaur *(Make a mean frown)*
 Big and tall. *(Stretch arms high and wide)*
 Here is my tail, *(Point to imaginary tail)*
 And here is my claw. *(Curl fingers on one hand)*
 When I get all hungry, *(Rub tummy)*
 I just growl. *(Growl the word "growl" with hands round mouth)*
 Look out kids . . . *(Reach out arms)*
 I'm on the prowl. *(Lunge left and right)*

dinosaur

dinosaur

dinosaur



Dinosaur Handprint Craft Instructions

Here is a fun art activity related to dinosaurs.

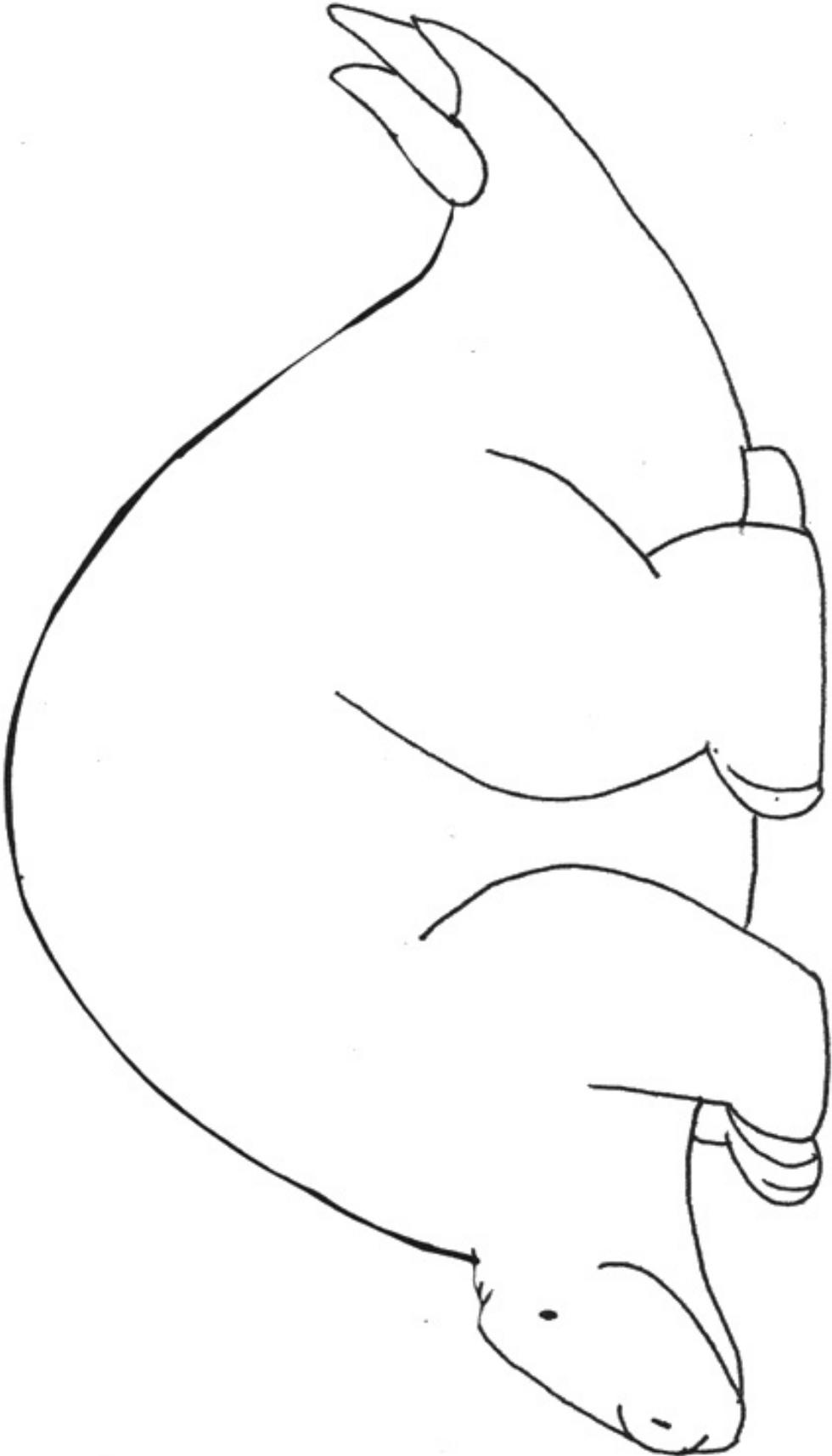
Provide each child with a copy of the Dinosaur Handprint Template (included with these materials).

The children will dip their hand in paint, and make handprints on the page. Help each child put handprints on the dinosaur with the bottom of the hand (heel of the hand) touching the dinosaur's back. Fingers should be outstretched and pointing upward. The child's handprints will form the spikes/plates on the dinosaur's back.

Allow the children to choose their colors if possible, and decorate the rest of the dinosaur's body



Dinosaur Handprint Template



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God will protect us.

God is our strength.

God can do mighty things.

Game

Use a bed sheet (or parachute, if available) to help the children reenact the story.

Help two children hold the four corners of the sheet as it rests on the floor in front of the children. Have the children line up single file at one side of the sheet. The first child in line will play the part of Moses and stretch out his hand. Once the first child in line has stretched out his hand, the two children holding the sheet will quickly raise the sheet high above their heads. As the sheet parachutes above them, the children will run under the sheet to the other side. If children are under the sheet when it comes down, they are out of the game. Have children take turns being the first one in line and playing the part of Moses.

Memory Verse

Share the weekly verse with the children. Repeat it many times, and help children to repeat after you.

Verse: Exodus 15:2
"The Lord is my strength."

Story

The Miracle at the Red Sea

Read to story of the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14-15) to the children. Use a children's bible with pictures. Include the use of props, role play, or other elements to hold the children's interest.

Discuss the story with the children and ask questions as interest and time allows.

*** A suggested children's bible is *The Jesus Storybook: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Look for the story called "God Makes a Way."

Art

Make heart rubbings. You will need several heart shapes cut out of cardboard, craft foam, or stiff paper.

Place the heart shapes under a piece of white paper. Use the side of some crayons to gently color all over the paper. The outline of the hearts under the paper should be visible as you draw over them.

Remind the children of the story, in which God protects Moses and his friends because He loves them so much. Tell the children that their heart picture can remind them of God's love for them.