



Under the Sea

How much fun would it be to dive into an ocean of water to discover a whole new world? Do you have a child who loves to splash in the tub? Does your child turn on every faucet he sees? Your child may be the next under water explorer who finds the discovery of a lifetime! Maybe your child will be a marine biologist who spends his days looking for the next medical miracle. Here are some ideas on how to inspire your child's learning while studying Under the Sea.

Take turns finding words that rhyme with:

FISH	(dish, wish)
SHARK	(bark, dark, park)
STAR	(bar, car, far)
CRAB	(cab, tab)

Conversation Starters: Ask your child one of these questions to begin a conversation about the theme?

1. How does a fish breathe?
2. Describe how you can swim like a fish.
3. Can a fish walk on land?

Book Topic & Internet Search

Don't forget that you can help your child create their own books by stapling or taping paper together in the form of a book.

Hermit Crabs

How big are the biggest fish?

Sand Castles

What Lives in the Lake?

My home is in the sea. Who am I?

What plants live under water?

Ocean Life

OUTSIDE LARGE MOTOR FUN!

Go outside and have fun with your children! The fresh air, nature and freedom of outdoor play is necessary for healthy lungs, muscles and brain development.

1. Go on an "Under the Sea" nature hunt. Look for items that can be found or kept under the water. Bring the items to your bathroom sink to see if they float or sink.
2. Prior to walking out with your young learner go outside and hide some small toy sea creatures.
 - a. Invite your child to go on a mini hike and hunt for sea creatures.
 - b. Allow enough time to name each item your child finds.
3. Find a playground or park. Parents should pretend to be the shark and the children the fish. When the fish want to swim, they run from one part of the playground to another while the parent sharks try to catch them.
4. Almost all children simply love animals. Playing a game of charades will allow for self-expression through movement and enhance your child's awareness and knowledge of different animals.
 - a. On a computer before play, look up what sounds under water animals make
 - b. Practice imitating the underwater animal sounds and making the physical movements.
 - c. with your child choose which underwater animals you should use for your game
 - d. write down each animal you choose, fold each name on a separate piece of paper.
 - e. Place each paper into a sock
 - f. Take turns pulling out one animal name to act out.
 - g. While outside (or in-side if weather does not permit), act out your animal making both the sounds and movement.
 - h. Guess each other's animal. When guess correctly give each other a high 5 and yell out "WOO HOO!"

Making Connections

Children remember new skills and lessons best when they can relate it to real life experiences. Give your child a head start, by helping your child remember details of a fishy nature.

- o Visit your local library to find and read books about the ocean.
- o Engage your child in a discussion asking them questions that be answered in more than one way.
- o Point to illustrations as focus points to talk about creatures, mammals, fish, corals etc...
- o Following the discussion, have your child draw and recall their favorite part of the story. Work together!
- o Cheer on your child upon completion. Have him tell you about his picture.

Geometry at such a young age!

The purpose of teaching geometry is to teach children about space, shapes, and size. By exposing them to basic geometry you are building a strong foundation for the geometric concepts, your future architects and builders will enjoy making creations that work and fit together.

Activity: Fish shape hunt

Materials Needed: paper in different colors and scissors.

Prepare fish shape cut outs of different colored paper. Hide the fish shapes and have a fish shape hunt.

The more people hunting the more fun.

Have your child select a colored fish shape, walk around the room looking for a matching toy or object that matches the color or shape,

Talk about the shapes and attributes for the object pairs.

MATH & SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Beginning math and science skills include classifying, sorting by attributes, theorizing, planning, estimating and identifying. Each of these skills actually begins in very young infants when they play in their environment. Discussing each activity as you set-up, play, and clean-up you are reinforcing your child's love of learning.

Artsy or Fishy?

Why incorporate art into learning? Art is actually an amazing tool for education in the early years. Working on an art project encourages creative thought, motor control, problem solving, pre-reading skills and so many others. With the Materials: paper bags, newspaper, rubber bands, googly eyes, markers, glitter, and the book *Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea* by Jan Peck start to read.

Activity: Deep Blue Sea

Discuss the story. Stop after each page and ask questions.

After the story, go back and have your child retell a part of the story pointing to the illustrations.

Work together to create paper bag "fish" puppet.

Use a brown paper bag and have your child stuff it with tissue paper or newspaper. Use a rubber band to close the top, which will be the tail fin.

Allow plenty of time to decorate your fish.

Once the fish is complete, encourage your child to role-play or create a puppet show creating their own fishy story.

Learning and Loving our Letters!

Make the activity and experience fun for our young learners to ensure a love of learning. Activities such as playing with magnetic letters will promote letter recognition and a math skill called one to one correspondence.

Activity: Mapping

Materials Needed: Magnet letters, small/individual white board, and handwriting paper.

Suggested reading: *Rainbow Fish ABC Book* by Marcus Pfister.

After reading *Rainbow Fish ABC Book* by Marcus Pfister, match the magnetic letters with the letters and words in book. Together recite the alphabet while you point to each letter while reading.

Using words from the book, say the beginning sounds and have your child show you the letter that makes the sound.

Write a word on a lathe piece of handwriting paper and have your child look for all the matching letters and put them in correct order.

Fine Motor Skills

What are fine motor skills? Well Fine motor skills are the muscles children use when they create a picture of color for your birthday or pick up that pencil to write you a letter. Fine motor development activities are key during the early years. By strengthening fine motor muscles, you are helping your child learn to write. Be ready to use those hands and fingers.

- Create a shark with clay
- Climb a climber pretend it's a ship
- Take the time to go fishing
- Practice using scissors, cut lines with a variety of angles, cut figures with curves and angles, cut clay with blunt scissors
- Trace over simple curved and straight-line figures.
- Go A-head! Color that favorite coloring book page.

Mobiles are great fun to make and to hang and watch. While creating a mobile, children learn about balance, colors, shapes and sizes. They learn to control fine muscles in their hands, and they learn about air movement and light abstraction. What a fun way to discover some new vocabulary.

Activity: Creating an Ocean of fun in our home

Materials Needed: Heavy construction paper, scissors, colored pencils, crayons, sea animal pictures, string, and a small plastic hanger.

Together, color pictures of sea animals and or corals.

Have your child cut the pictures out and glue each one to heavy construction paper.

Help punch holes and tie them to a clothes hanger to make the mobile.

Review names and facts about the sea creatures hanging.

Then hang your creation on a low enough ceiling where the artwork can be admired.

Time for Fun!

Children of any age learn best by doing. The same applies for measuring time.

Materials Needed: Calendar.

Everyday cross off each day at bedtime showing that the day is over.

In the morning before the day begins, go over the calendar and say the month, day of the week, number and year.

Mention the date of yesterday and what tomorrow will be.

Have family birthdays marked on the calendar.

Have special events marked on the calendar.

Hang an analog clock in your child's bedroom – write the numbers counting by 5 on a small piece of paper and hang the home-made numbers next to the numbers on the clock they represent. For example: next to the number 1 on the clock hang the home-made number 5 and next to the number 2 on the clock hang the number 10, etc.

Get a little dirty with
your child and have some
fun laughing.

Activity: Waving in the Ocean!

What your child will take away is the spirit of the moment and the knowledge of the experience. You can help them to feel accomplished and loved. Guide, help, assist as needed.

Materials Needed: Once clean small plastic bottle with lid, blue food coloring, baby oil or vegetable oil, super glue and water.

Suggested reading: *Ocean* by Ron Hirschi.

Begin with getting your supplies ready, being careful to hold the super glue. Fill the plastic bottle with water. Then have your child tint the water with a few drops of blue food coloring. Next, have a dropper or use a spoon to add some vegetable oil or baby oil to the bottle.

Seal the bottle by placing a little bit of the super glue on the inside of the lid and close tightly. Then finish by having your child shake the bottle and have them discuss how they have their very own wave machine. Be sure to discuss and use books to allow for conversation on the waves and the ocean.

References

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