

Tiny Tots! Ocean Explorers

Theme #2: Sharks!

Day 1 So Many Sharks!

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

This month's theme is all about Sharks! Talking about the amazing advantages and types of sharks! Main activities include shark fin headband, shark texture coloring, what sharks eat and how they smell. A focus for this month is to remove the stigma of sharks being dangerous and scary. While some can be scary, focus on their importance in the ecosystem and how cool and interesting they can be.

***Throughout this theme, 10 min of the last bit of class is to go look at the sharks! If possible, to fill up time and reinforce sharks being our friends, going to visit and see them.**

Learning Focus

1.1 Identify characteristics of a variety of animals and plants, including appearance (inside and outside) and behavior, and begin to categorize them.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super simple songs on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 shark headband!

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Shark headband pieces (caudal fin, head band, overhead band, dorsal fin)

Instructors will let the Jr naturalists color the pieces and when finished can staple the headband and can lead the new Jr naturalist sharks on a shark conga line. Engage the parents if they want to color the shark headband with the Jr naturalists and even make their own as well. Make sure to talk about the differences between sharks and other species like marine mammals. An example being the difference between a caudal fin and a fluke.

Storytime- Tiny Tots Sharks book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation- life the Flap Sharks - Introduce different sharks and change shark culture from being a scary animal and encourage a cool and amazing perspective on sharks!

Activity #2 Shark viewing

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Access to Sahm peanut tank or surf science tank
- Shark teeth display and shark egg cases

Jr Naturalists will take a tour (shark conga line) and enjoy viewing our sharks! They are only to view, not to touch and they are to enjoy the other side of Sahm if they wish to. A good use of time is to ask parents to assist Jr naturalists with the bubble if the sharks are too much or need a different activity. If you are in surf-science encourages the idea of sharks being less scary and more important to the ecosystem like their role as bottom feeders.

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.

Day 2 Banana Sharks

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (! Toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

Week 4 of Sharks! Will focus on shark senses like shark smell, and shark's electro sense ability (**ELECTRORECEPTION- used through the dots on their nose ampullae of Lorenzini**). They can work up to smelling like a shark and using scratch and sniff stickers use their sense of smell to figure out different smells.

Learning Focus

1.2 Begin to indicate knowledge of body parts and processes (e.g., eating, sleeping, breathing, walking) in humans and other animals. 2 humans and other animals.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super simple songs! - found on Spotify with iPad upstairs connect with rock speaker
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 banana shark / energy stick

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Beakers filled with various smells/ different oils (public programs materials)
- Note cards with what the smell is
- Energy circuit stick

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in a comparison between a shark's ability to smell and our ability to smell. They will work their way up between 3 beakers, the first one being the shark's

ability to smell and the last one being a human's ability to smell. Sharks can smell one part per 10 million parts of water. So that's one drop of blood to an Olympic sized pool. Different sharks have different ranges. If there's enough time and the kids are capable and interested, have them use and explain electrical currents and how sharks use it to find food.

Storytime-Tiny Tots Shark book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation- shark peek a boo! Or If sharks disappeared.

Activity #2 Scratch and sniff sticker sensory play

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Scratch and sniff stickers
- Shark fin headbands if they would like

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists in a sensory play with smell. They will hand out different scratch and smell stickers and encourage them to smell and use their senses to understand the different smells and to smell like a shark for example, can they smell it from a distance? We have so many smells and sharks can smell so much better!

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.

- This day's activity

Day 3 Shark Skin

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

Week 2 Will focus on Shark skin texture. Sharks are covered in dermal denticles which are scales that are lined in one direction, from head to tail. These dermal denticles are closer related to teeth rather than fish scales and help with less resistance when swimming. The texture and color pattern of different sharks is what Jr Naturalists will focus on, experiencing a new feeling to their idea of skin.

Learning Focus

2.1 Demonstrate awareness that objects and materials can change; explore and describe changes in objects and materials (rearrangement of parts; change in color, shape, texture, temperature).

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super Simple Songs on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 coloring skin textures

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Blank paper
- Shark coloring pages
- crayons
- Different textured mats (rubber mat, sandpaper mat, and scaly mat)

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in coloring and using different surfaces to experience different skin textures. They will color over the textures to match and keep their shark drawings. A demonstration of shark skin would also be helpful.

Storytime- Tiny Tots Sharks book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation- Gilbert or smiley the shark

Activity #2 shark skin touch comparison

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Compare different textures with:
- Rubber fish
- Shark tooth
- Shark skin
- Dried out sea star

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists into touching other animal objects such as urchin tests, shells, and lobster molts. The general direction is to remove fear of other textures and to introduce specific textures like spikey, and smooth compared to what they already know. This would be a good time to bring out a sensory box full of the nontoxic orbeez and shells and rubber toys to have the kids play in. (bin and orbeez located in tiny tots cabinet).

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.

Day 4 What does a Shark eat!?

Time: 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

Group Size: 1-15 toddlers (1 toddler requires 1 parent)

Grade Levels: pre-school/kindergarten (age 2-4)

Location: Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

Overview of Activity

Week 3 of Sharks focuses on what different sharks eat! Jr Naturalists are to focus on the differences between bottom feeders, filter feeders and crunchers. The difference in sharks and how they feed will bring awareness of sharks' necessity in the food chain and bring a new light to sharks not being so scary.

Learning Focus

2.1 Record observations or findings in various ways, with adult assistance, including pictures, words (dictated to adults), charts, journals, models, and photos.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Super simple songs! - on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Feed the Shark!

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Shark feeding boxes
- Little sharks, fish and toys!

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in feeding the boxed sharks focusing on counting and other things sharks can eat like trash and various snacks. If the shark box is unavailable, draw your best shark with chalk! And feed them that way. Bringing out the shark stomach is also a good visual to use during this activity.

Storytime- Tiny Tots Sharks book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Goes over the importance of sharks in the environment and food chain
- Recommendation- If sharks disappeared/gilbert

Activity #2 shark jaws!

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Education department shark jaws and sheets

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists in learning about shark jaws and expanding on how they eat in learning the different hand signs. If they are too young, the kids can look at the different shark jaws and touch and then can play with the shark boxes.

Extended play!

To finish out the hour, Jr Naturalists can engage in extended play time to play more of the activities or play in the playscape or use the provided toys.