

Tiny Tots! Ocean explorers

Theme #4: Tide pool Friends!

Day 1 Sea Stars!

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 of Jr Naturalist focuses on the adventurous wonders of tide pools. Week 1 of Tidepool Friends! starts the month off with Sea Stars and the external anatomy of sea stars and how they compare to humans through sensory and physical play.

***Throughout this Theme, 10 min of the last bit of class is to go look and touch sea stars. (Look at who is using the facility and make time throughout the class time if possible) ***

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!
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Sea star Yoga

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Surfboard Mats??
- Pictures of Sea Stars in poses

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in a 10-minute yoga session while explaining the various parts of a sea star. Using the pictures of different sea star poses, describe where you would find the distinct parts of the star in comparison to our anatomy mostly focusing on:

- Rays (arms)
- Mouth (everything hole! anus etc.)
- Stomach
- Tube feet

Storytime- Tiny Tots Tidepools book Selection

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation – star of the sea, a day in a life of a sea star and generalizes all the unique things a sea star does

Activity #2 Suction Crawl

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Varying suction cup sizes
- Cones for suction cup travel direction

Jr Naturalists will use suction cups with handles to experience tube feet like a sea star and will take turns using the suction cups to crawl from one end of the room to the other understanding hydraulic pressure.

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 Tides!

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 of Tide pool Friends! Goes over a general understanding of how tides work with the sun and moon. They will also get introduced to the difference in high and low tide animals.

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!
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Build a Tidepool

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Sand Bins
- Rocks and shells

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in an introduction to all the tide pool animals. Main objective is to introduce the idea of change of animals when the tide changes and introduce the idea of subtidal (submerged environment) and intertidal (high and low tide change)

Repetition of these animals:

- Muscles
- Limpets
- Snails
- Hermit crabs
- Crabs

- Sea hare
- Octopus
- Barnacles

Storytime-Tiny Tots Tidepools Book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation- The Tide Pool Waits, focuses on the changes in animals and how they are affected by the tide

Activity #2 Tide Pool Hopscotch

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Tide pool animals and foam board with hopscotch tape
- If the littles can be trusted, can be substituted with tidepool animals and chalk outside

Jr Naturalists will be learning how to respectfully tidepool with hopscotch, while Identifying tide pool animals along the way. The animals will change depending on the low and high tide, and what you're able to see. Jr Naturalists will hopefully learn how to walk around tide pools.

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 3 Tides part 2!

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 Tide pool Friends! Reenforces last week's focus on tide pools and makes more connection in a physical sensory relationship and gives the chance to make personal connection to tide pools.

Learning Focus

1.4 Indicate knowledge of the difference between animate objects (animals, people) and inanimate objects. For example, expect animate objects to initiate movement and to have different insides than inanimate objects.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

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

Activity #1 Build your own Tide Pool #2/ Breakwater/harbor walk

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Sand Bins
- Rocks and Shells
- Water or Orbees bin

Instructors will lead a build a tidepool just like before just in this one we are adding water to the tidepool encouraging kids to feel the different textures of the sand when its wet and dry and what the different animals they will see.

Repetition of these animals:

- Muscles
- Limpets
- Snails
- Hermit crabs
- Crabs
- Sea hare
- Octopus
- Barnacles

*If the kids don't seem so interested in the water, take them for a walk along the rails of the Maddie James seaside learning center and look for animals along the side of the dock. You can spot all kinds of fish and walk them down to see the spirit or even the breakwater and talk about all the animals that live in the area.

Storytime- Tiny Tots tidepools Book selection

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation - On the beach goes over a general interactive look on animals on the beach reinforcing what they have been learning.

Activity #2 Playscape Guessing Game

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Playscape
- List of playscape animals

Jr Naturalists will be reinforcing their tide pool animals by playing a guessing game on the playscape. The kids will pick a sea animal and go touch the animal on the playscape while either instructor or Jr Naturalist counts down from 10 with their eyes closed and back turned. When the time is up the counter will pick an animal of their choosing and turn around, if anyone is touching said animal they are out or lose the round (no one needs to sit out of the game after every round its just for fun!)

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 House for Hermit Crab

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 4 of Tide pool Friends! Will finish the month off with a fan favorite tide pool resident, hermit crabs! Jr Naturalists will learn about their shell behaviors, and how a habitat is more than just a place to live, but a home.

Learning Focus

(48 months) Changes in living things, 2.1 observe and explore changes and growth in humans, animals, and plants, and demonstrate an understanding that living things change over time, grow in size, and other capacities as they grow.

Introduction

5 min Introduction to the program includes

- Welcoming the Jr naturalists with a **song** and setting the mood for learning!
- Ocean Motion (hokey pokey)
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

Activity #1 Shell sorting and size matching

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- HFH shell sorting posters and shell boxes
- White boards

Instructors will Lead the Jr Naturalists In shell sorting and shape identifying while drawing out the shape to reinforce the different types of shells.

Storytime- A House for Hermit Crab

- 10-minute run time
- - A House for Hermit Crab describes the personalization and growth of a little Hermit Crab. The journey Hermit Crab makes to make his habitat his own, Helps Jr Naturalists understand what a habitat can mean for a Human and for an animal.

Activity #2 Hermit Crab Viewing and Touch!

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Separated Hermit crabs in a clear bin for viewing and touching
- Access to the bubble experience and Sahm kiosk tanks

Jr Naturalists will further their ideas on Habitats and will experience a peek into the habitat of some of our ocean friends hands on by viewing some hermit crab shells and actual hermit crabs, and with our bubble viewing.

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.