

# **Tiny Tots! Ocean Explorers**

## **Theme #1: Whales and Dolphins!**

### **Day 1 What is a Whale?**

**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**

To Start off the set of 4 junior naturalist theme sets, the first theme focuses on Whales and Dolphins! All Dolphins are Whales but not all Whales are Dolphins. Instructors are to focus on marine mammals, and all their wonders such as size, communication and movement.

#### **Learning Focus**

**life science 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 What is a mammal? (marine mammal lab station)**

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Marine Mammal picture/toy sorting station (from marine mammal lab supplies)
- examples such as fur patch, milk carton, fake egg

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in characteristics of a mammal and categorizing marine and land mammals. They will also use sensory touch to experience and learn these characteristics. The five main ones to cover but aren't limited to:

- Hair

- Milk Drinkers
- Air Breathers
- Live Birth
- Warm Blooded

### **Storytime- Tiny Tots Dolphins and whale's book section**

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation: If they are old enough and engaged, If a Dolphin were a Fish. a book that compares differences between marine mammals and fish

### **Activity #2 Whale coloring craft (matching/sorting)**

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Large Whale Laminates
- Whale Coloring book sheets
- Whale cutouts
- Popsicle sticks

Jr Naturalists will color and identify different kinds of whales. They will color whales on a popsicle stick and match them to larger laminates to differentiate the different kinds of whales. They can even color a background for the whale to swim and play in.

### **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 Sounds of Dolphins and Whales

**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

Day 2 of Whales and Dolphins! Jr Naturalists will focus on the sounds and communications of whales and dolphins. Instructors will go over echolocation, play the sounds of dolphins and whales for kids, and test their memory on who makes what sound.

### Learning Focus

**Properties and characteristics of living things 1.1 Identify characteristics of a greater variety of animals and plants and demonstrate an increased ability 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 Whale Sounds

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Phone or iPad
- Rock speaker
- Whale picture laminates

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in listening to different whales. Explaining the different types of whales, baleen and toothed whales, and why they make different sounds. Encourage the kids to mimic the sounds and play Guess the whale!

**Storytime- Tiny Tots Dolphins and Whales book section**

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation- Wendell the Narwal, a book about sounds in the ocean

## **Activity #2 Echolocation**

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Echolocation programs materials (in Sahn)
- Tuning forks and water tray

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists in a demonstration of echolocation and how dolphins use echolocation and how it would work with us as humans. Use the forks and allow mom and Jr naturalist to play with and experience high pitched sounds with tuning forks. Explain how it works in the water compared to air.

### **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 How big is a Whale??

**Time:** 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

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

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

**Location:** Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

### Overview of Activity

Week 3 of Whales and Dolphins! Jr Naturalists will focus on the size of whales! They will gain visual examples throughout OI and see whale size for themselves through string size.

### Learning Focus

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!
- Super simple songs! - on Spotify
- Announcing the activities!
- Two activities, with Storytime in between

### Activity #1 Whale String!

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Courtyard or playscape
- Different size whale string
- Whale pictures

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in visual whale size so to point out the orcas above in chambers, grey sea our grey whale in Samueli, and even our fin whale jawbones and sperm whale jawbone. Have parents and Jr naturalists pull string and see the different sizes of whales! Each string will be approx. sizes of different whales.

### Storytime- Tiny Tots dolphins and whales book selection

- 10-minute run time

- Recommendation- How deep is the sea, or a whale of a tale. Goes over types of whales and shows whale size,
- **Activity #2 Whale chalk**
- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Courtyard or playscape
- Chalk box
- Whale string

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists in drawing their own whales and seeing the difference in size from their perspective and draw themselves to compare. Draw different types of whales \*use the rope/string for reference.

### **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 is a great day to use the whale heart and compare sizes between our hearts, blue whale hearts and other sizes of hearts from other animals.

## Day 4 Whale movements

**Time:** 1 hour (about 45 minutes for activities)

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

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

**Location:** Chambers Artifact Gallery/ allotted facility

### Overview of Activity

Week 4 of Whales and Dolphins! Jr Naturalists will focus on the behavior of whales and dolphins. Instructors will introduce the idea of migration for food or mating, and other behaviors like scratching and socialization.

### Learning Focus

**Properties and characteristics of living things 1.2 Indicate greater knowledge of body parts and processes (e.g., eating, sleeping, breathing, walking) in 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 Whale Behaviors

- 10-minute run time

Materials:

- Breath patterns demonstration
- Grey Whale vs blue whale feeding
- Confetti or bubble machine
- Wooden fish/ amphipod equivalent toys

Instructors will lead the Jr Naturalists in Whale behaviors focusing on mimicking movement such as going up and down to breathe, fluking etc, the littles will also learn the idea of feeding

between a grey whale vs a blue whale how grey's bottom trawl and blues filter feed. The activity goes with paper confetti or bubbles and the kids must catch the bubbles with their open arms like blue whales while greys have to pick up the fish or \*amphipods\* that are scattered on the ground.

### **Storytime-Tiny Tots Whales and dolphins book selection**

- 10-minute run time
- Recommendation- If you want to see a whale. The Story focuses on whale watching and the little parts to it all on how to do it right in the narrators' eyes. Introduces what kind of behaviors to look for.

### **Activity #2 Dolphin Simon says/ whale feeding**

- 15-minute run time

Materials:

- Large open space
- Stickers for reinforcement
- Chalk and public programs corn hole bags

Instructors will lead Jr Naturalists in a game of Simon says having to do with Whale behaviors. Some behaviors include:

- Feeding strategies blue vs Grey (greys go DOWN, blues go UP)
- Breach like a whale (jump)
- Fluke out the water (stand on one leg, the other kicked out behind you)
- Catch a bubble (puff out cheeks)

If the general group is too young, draw your best whale on the ground with a large belly or head! Use beanbags or other various items to feed the whale! and they can toss them over from a distance, draw two or three whales if needed.

### **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 is a great day to follow the activities in whatever the kids enjoy most, have them try it all but then if they want to keep feeding like whales or play Simon says play it out until the class is over.