

Teaching Resources | Teacher Training



The new way to do
outdoor learning

Dinosaurs | EYFS

BEE GREEN AND ONLY PRINT IF YOU HIVE TO :)

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What is in this pack?

- **9 Mudtastic ideas for taking your dinosaur-mad Muddy Puddlers outside, whatever the weather.**
- **Hints and tips on how to make your practice more sustainable using only what mother nature gives us.**
- **A Muddy home learning ideas sheet so the fun can continue at home!**

Preparation and safety

Each season, nature will bring you the resources that you need. However, if you do not have a natural setting or lack certain natural items, try to collect these in advance of your sessions. Make a habit of going out for a walk at weekends – you'll improve your own physical and mental health, which is good for you, and you'll collect your missing items. You can also encourage parents to get collecting through your newsletters! Make your world one big healthy, Muddy community. You will get an idea of the types of resources that you need each season. The only resource that you may need to buy is air-drying clay.

Weather wise, we will provide you with ideas for all types of weather. The only time that we advise you NOT to go outside is on extremely windy days and during thunderstorms. Otherwise, there's no excuses - get yourself out there!

Always risk assess with the children present. As you enter the natural environment, spend 30 seconds talking about the dangers that the weather conditions may present, such as slippery surfaces and hot sun. If possible, offer the children a solution to any issues, such as seeking out a safe, shady area if the sun is too hot. Keep sticks low and only use stones no bigger than the palm of the children's hands. remind them to use feet first then hands when collecting from the floor and wash hands thoroughly after.

Curriculum Objectives

Children use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately

Children add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer using quantities and objects.

Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.

Children make observations of animals and plants.

Children safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

Cross-curricula Objectives

Children represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

Children talk about the features of their own immediate environment.

Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems.

New to our Muddy World?

Please visit our website under 'members' for safety info

"The world is but a canvas to the imagination." ~ Henry David Thoreau

Pre-historic paint

Explain to the children that paint is a very new invention, but that people have always enjoyed painting. Ask children to go on a colour hunt around your space to find as many different colours and shades as they can. Encourage them to look closely at all the different areas of your space - even in mostly green areas you can find a rainbow of colour, if you know where to look. Think small flowers, berries, moss and lichen.

If it is sustainable, ask the children to collect items to make "paint" of various colours with by grinding your colourful finds with a small amount of water. Children can then create a Muddy masterpiece with their paint mixes - this can be done on paper or on rocks (by grinding the ingredients into a paste and using a trusty stick as a paint brush) or by creating a collage on a grassy area.

Dinosaur camouflage

Build a den together using the materials you can find in your outdoor space.

You could pretend you're a dinosaur building a cosy nest - or that the big scary dinosaurs are hungry and looking for a nice child-sized treat!

Talk about how you are going to make sure that you are not seen by using natural materials and blending colour with the background.

Dinosaur masks

Prepare each child a headband or full mask using recycled paper or card (an ideal way to reuse children's "masterpieces" that didn't quite make the cut for the fridge door!) or by weaving found natural fibres (this could be an activity in itself depending on the skills and patience of your children.)

Next, prepare some simple natural glue by adding water to flour to achieve the desired consistency and adding a little salt to preserve.

Now ask the children to design a dinosaur mask using found natural items - as always being mindful to gather sustainably. You could use pointy leaves to create spines or teeth, small flexible twigs to create a nose - let their imagination go wild!

Games and Fact Building

Egg thief - developing number sense

Begin by asking the children to work in teams to build a great nest for their dinosaur eggs from natural waste they find - e.g. stick, moss, dead leaves etc. Now the children need to fill their nests with a number of eggs - this could be linked to your number of the week.

Now nominate a Oviraptor (this could be an adult or child depending on the level of challenge you want to create). The nesting dinosaurs close their eyes while the Oviraptor steals some of their eggs. The dinosaurs then have to figure out how many of their eggs have been stolen. This is a great game for developing the understanding of subitising, number bonds or addition and subtraction skills. To support children's thinking, you could draw a number frame with charcoal, chalk or with a stick in mud in the centre with stones inside to model the number bonds visually.

T-Rex phonics

Begin by writing your target letters or sounds around your space - you can do this with chalk or natural charcoal, marker pen on leaves, mud paint... whatever Muddy way you like. You can do this your self prior to the session or ask the children to help as a writing activity.

Now ask the children to move around the space at speed as a T-Rex (or any other carnivorous hungry dinosaur they would like). Next you, or a child, shouts out a dinosaur name and the children must run and find the sounds that they hear written around the space (this can focus on initial sounds or target phonemes within words depending on the stage of the children's learning.)

Designer Dino

Define the terms herbivore and carnivore to the children and give examples of common animals that fit into these two categories. Take some time to explore the features of known animals (you can introduce dinosaurs at this point if the children have enough prior knowledge). You can talk about size, special skills, teeth and lifestyle and how they are suited to the type of food they eat.

Now ask the children to design a dinosaur using natural materials they find - they could draw or build their dinosaur - the most important thing is that they can talk about the similarities and differences between the two types of dinosaur.

If it is appropriate in your setting you could go on a nature walk and discuss the different animals you see - how do we know what this animals eats? How could we find out if we don't already know?

Role Play & Drama

We're going on a dino-hunt!

Grab a camera and ask the children to find the clues that dinosaurs have been stomping around in your space. It could be a broken branch, a huge puddle that could be a dinosaur footprint, some scratch marks on the wall or leaves that have been munching by a hungry herbivore - they will come up with lots of their own ideas.

Now we need to design a structure that will catch it! You could weave a net from long grass or other foliage, make a dino-jail from sticks and logs, create a sticky mud pit - and don't forget about the bait a nice big juicy pile of leaves!

Dino-Diner

Dino-diner

Create a cafe for all your hungry prehistoric critters. Ask the children to think about what might be on the menu for the different dinosaurs they have learned about and how they would like to serve them. Does your dinosaur need a big or small plate? Does their table need to be high or low? You can use mud, clay, sticks and plants to create culinary perfection.

Dinosaur Disco!

Get on your dancing shoes and dance the dinosaur way. Go foraging for some prehistoric instruments from nature's band - think stick and logs for drums and grass whistles. Try playing your instruments together, quickly and slowly, loud and quiet etc.

Now get moving think about the different dinosaurs you have learned about about think about how what makes them special and turn this into a dance move - swish your tail to the beat like a diplodocus, shake your head like a T-Rex, shake your spines like a stegosaurus, wave your short arms like a velociraptor - let your imagination run wild and dance to the beat of your own drum.

Family Fun Activities

The most
important thing
in the world is
family and
love.” –John
Wooden

Your Muddy task :)

- Make bird feeders using lard and porridge oats. Stick them to trees and give those birds a full belly. Can you mould it into the shape of a dinosaur?
- Go on a Muddy walk together - pretend you're on a dinosaur hunt and look for any clues you can see that dinosaurs have been here - broken branches, footprint puddles, dino poop mud piles...
- Visit your local elderly care home with some of your amazing art work.
- Write letters to local neighbours - check in and say Hi.



“To us, family means putting your
arms around each other and
being there.” –Barbara Bush