



Activity Plan

1. Activity name

Sand table with dinosaurs

2. Materials

Water table
Wet sand
Plastic eggs
Bucket
Small dinosaurs
Variety of large dinosaurs
Plastic plants, trees, and leaves
Bark
Moss
Dinosaur mobile
Tarp and duct tape

3. Environmental arrangement

Tarp is spread on the floor under the water table. The corners of the tarp are taped to the floor with duct tape. Fill the table with wet sand and hide eggs with small dinosaurs in them before the activity begins. Hang mobile above the sand table.

4. Sequence of steps

Beginning

The interventionist shows the children the bucket of dinosaurs to play with in the sand table. One child passes out dinosaurs, and children discuss names of dinosaurs. The interventionist asks children to help remove the cover on the texture table.

Middle

The children engage in imaginary play with dinosaurs. The children can make dinosaur sounds to communicate between dinosaurs. The children find eggs, inside of which are baby dinosaurs, in the sand. The children arrange plastic trees, bark, leaves, and moss in the sand to create a dinosaur habitat.

End

The interventionist gives a 5-minute warning that activity will end. The children return dinosaurs to the bucket and place the cover on the table. The interventionist reviews with the children how they played with the dinosaurs in the sand.

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5. Embedded learning opportunities

Learns/practices fine motor skills
Explores sand and found objects
Grasps various eggs, dinosaurs, and habitat props
Holds half of egg with one hand while other hand pulls it apart

Learns/practices cognitive skills
Maintains participation
Groups dinosaurs to categories (colors, size)
Counts dinosaurs
Demonstrates understanding of spatial concepts (in and next to)

Learns/practices social-communication skills
Labels the dinosaurs using descriptive words
Uses conversational turn-taking (asks questions about the dinosaurs)
Asks peers their color preference of vehicle

Learns/practices social skills
Responds to request to begin/finish the activity
Takes turns playing with a desired dinosaur
Greet and invites new peers to join in and play
Remains with the group during the activity
Assists with cleanup

6. Planned variations

1. The interventionist includes wind-up dinosaurs.
2. The interventionist makes the sand table a "Dinosaur Dig" table. Small bones and rocks are buried in the sand that have fossilized plants embedded in them. The interventionist provides a small shovel, paint brushes, and magnifying glasses. The interventionist hangs a poster near the table with different types of bones buried for the children to make comparisons.

7. Vocabulary

Dinosaur sounds (grrr, rrrr)
Natural materials (leaves, bark, moss, tree, sand)
Dinosaur names (Tyrannosaurus Rex, Duckbill, Brontosaurus, Triceratops, Brachiosaurus)
Parts of dinosaurs (beak, claws, legs)
Actions (run, fly, jump, play, fight, share)

8. Peer interaction opportunities

The interventionist gives one child the bucket of dinosaurs to pass out to his or her peers at the beginning of the activity and to collect at the end of the activity.
The interventionist allows only four children at one time to play at the table, with two on each side of it.
The interventionist encourages children to imitate their peers' actions with dinosaurs.

9. Caregiver involvement

Children can take a field trip to a natural history museum.

Caregiver could supply items for the sand table, such as sand and small dinosaurs.

Caregiver could suggest other items for the sand table that would interest the child.

Caregiver could observe and collect data during the activity.

Interventionist can contact a professor or a geology class and ask if a student might be willing to make a presentation to the interventionist's classroom to show children paleontological tools and pictures of digs where dinosaur fossils are found.

Interventionist can check out books from the library about dinosaurs and read them during story time.