

DISCOVERY ZONE: SUMMER

Study Investigation:

Globetrotting Treks



Infant Edition



STUDY EXPLANATION



Globetrotting Treks

Children will learn the importance of being part of a growing world community as they engage in activities that inspire curiosity about the world. Infants will start to explore cultural celebrations, geographical wonders, and diversity among us, all designed to build an understanding of and greater connection with the amazing world around us. Infants will adventure through this study, starting to forge the respectful attitudes and mindsets of a global citizen, ready to take on the future!





Educator Questions:

I wonder how I can support children to form connections?

I wonder how I can celebrate friendships?

I wonder how I can showcase diversity to children?

Building Connections

Activity One

Title of Activity: Sea Animal Provocation

Skills Focus: Sense of Community/Fine Motor Skills/Cognitive Growth

Objectives: Children will explore water animals together, manipulating the items and engaging joyfully with their peers and educators.

Materials:

- Shallow plastic bin
- Minimum water level (less than an inch deep)
- Infant safe toy sea animals

Process:

- Put the animals in the shallow water and encourage children to explore.
- Stay beside children while they explore.
- Give the children simple facts about the animals you have added to the provocation.
- Sing the song, "Slippery Fish", showcasing the name of each animal for each line of the song.
- For younger infants, bring the animals close to their eyes, and narrate information with joyful enthusiasm.
- Allow infants to hold the animals, manipulating and exploring their attributes.

Activity Two

Title of Activity: Bear Den

Skill(s) Focus: Sense of Community/Joyful Discovery/Cognitive Skills

Objectives: Children will be encouraged to explore a cozy covered space, mimicking a bear's den.

Materials:

- Small tent or makeshift cover
- Small blankets
- Stuffed teddy bears

Process

- Use a stuffed teddy bear as a puppet to capture the children's attention and talk about where bears live and sleep.
- Set up a small tent or arrange the blankets to create a cozy area that the children can crawl and explore.
- Lay some smaller blankets on the floor and add the teddy bears.
- Encourage the children to crawl inside and share the teddy bears.
- The space can be substituted for the homes of other animals that will resonate with the children, such as a dog's bed, a kitten crate or a lion's den!
- Stay close to the children, showcasing joyful facial expressions and warm voice tones.

Learning Discovery

Activity One

Title of Activity: Sensory Tubes Of Nature

Skills Focus: Fine Motor/Cognitive Growth

Objectives: Infants will be presented with elements of nature within an exploration tube, and will be supported to handle the tubes and observe its contents.

Materials:

- Sensory tube
- Nature loose parts:
 - Infant safe leaves, flowers, bark, pinecones, etc.
- Nature replicas:
 - Toy bugs, animals, plants, etc.

Process:

- Place chunky loose parts from nature, maintaining small parts guidelines, within a closed tube for active exploration by young children.
- Support children to turn the tubes and watch the items move up and down in the tube.
- Narrate the actions as they are completed, such as "You turned the tube the other way and now we see a green leaf!"
- Articulate the names of the items, and identify some of the defining attributes using a joyful, excited tone!
- Educators may support their narration by repeating the poem, "I Spy With My Little Eye...a crinkly green leaf!"

Activity Two

Title of Activity: Mirror Play

Skills Focus: Joyful Discovery/Cognitive Growth

Objectives: Infants will explore toy animals from around the world set on a mirror tray, developing manipulation skills and preliminary language.

Materials:

- Mirror trays
- Infant safe toy animals from around the world:
 - Zebras, elephants, tigers, monkeys, penguins, dolphins, bears, etc.

Process:

- Place animals on a mirror tray, and invite infants to explore.
- Support infants to move the animals, lifting them up and down and pretending they are moving.
- Be playful with the mirror, orienting it in different positions for infants to see their reflections.
- Narrate your actions with the infants, while articulating the names of the animals.

Expressive Language

Activity One

Title of Activity: Stroller Ride

Skills Focus: Vocabulary Development/Joyful Discovery

Objectives: Children will be introduced to new descriptive words as they explore the outdoors.

Materials:

- Stroller

Process:

- Place children into the stroller, ensuring all safety parameters including safety belts, hats, sunscreen, and transition protocol.
- During the walk, make intentional effort to stop and point out different items in nature to the children.
- Discuss the weather and how it feels on our skin, how bright the sunshine may seem, and the sound of the wind.
- Identify flowers, gardens, and animals, and any item that captures the attention of the children.
- Narrate the actions of the elements of nature, such as "I see the bird flying in the sky!"
- Interact joyfully and articulate words clearly.
- Hold younger infants at the window and actively describe the weather and the natural environment.

Activity Two

Title of Activity: Animal Sounds

Skills Focus: Vocabulary Development/Joyful Discovery

Objectives: Infants will learn about the different characteristics of animals and sounds they make, while engaging in opportunities to learn language.

Materials:

- Infant safe toy animals
- Photos of different animals
- A box or cloth bag
-

Process:

- Place the animals and/or photo cards in the box or cloth bag.
- Invite the infants to discover what is in the box by saying with excitement, "I wonder what animals are in this box?"
- With excitement, open the box and take out one animal.
- Describe the animal, encouraging infants to look at you and follow your gaze. Consider the following prompts to engage children:
 - "This elephant has two big ears! Can you say ears?"
 - "Where are your ears? I found mine!"
- Next, mimic the sound of the animal, using facial gestures and body movements as well.

Expressive Language

Activity Two Continued

- Invite older infants to match the animal toy to its corresponding photo.
 - Use gestures and sounds to prompt the infant. "This animal says oink! Where is the other one that says oink?"
- As another option, hide the toy animals in the classroom with the group watching. Put them in plain sight, but in a different spot from where they typically would be.
 - Using the photo cards as cues, invite the group to find and match the different animals.
 - Narrate the actions of infants, offering prompts to encourage them to find the animals, naming the animals and mimicking their sounds.
- Allow younger infants to explore the animals through touch, encouraging them to grab at the toy and hold it. Talk to the infants about the animal, its characteristics and sounds.
- Youngest infants can have the photo card held close to them or placed on the ground in front of them during tummy time. Talk to the infant about the animal. Include familiar animals such as dogs and cats.

Physical Literacy

Activity One

Title of Activity: Parachute Play

Skill(s) Focus: Gross Motor/Engagement in Play/Cause and Effect

Objectives: Infants and educators will joyfully engage with a parachute, celebrating movement.

Materials:

- A small parachute
- Lightweight balls
- Music, optional
- 2 educators, to hold the parachute

Process:

- Introduce the parachute to the group by opening it and laying it on the floor.
- Allow the infants to explore the parachute with you.
- Model how to hold a handle and begin to shake the parachute.
- With your colleague, raise the parachute up and over the infants.
- Continue to play and explore with it.
- Allow infants to run or crawl under the parachute when you raise it up.
- Place the parachute on the ground and allow infants to lay or crawl over it.
- Place balls on the parachute and shake it!
- Encourage infants to stomp their feet with you when you shake the parachute.
- Walk around in a circle with the parachute while the infants lay under it, allowing the infants to follow the movements with their eyes and heads.
- Shake the parachute fast, then slowly with the infants.
- Lay under the parachute with younger infants, allowing them to safely explore with you.
- Play children's songs from around the world, referenced in the Physical Literacy "Around the World Music" lesson.
- For younger infants, sit and hold the infant or sit them in your lap. Engage in the parachute play with them, using hand over hand guidance. Talk to the infant about what they are seeing.

Physical Literacy

Activity Two

Title of Activity: Around the World Music

Skill(s) Focus: Gross Motor Development/Awareness of Cultures/
Language Development/Self-expression

Objectives: Infants will explore body movement using props, while listening to music from around the world.

Materials:

- Music playlist (see below for song suggestions)
- Props such as dancing scarves, infant instruments, etc.

Process:

- Ahead of time, create a playlist using the suggestions below.
- Invite children over as you introduce the props. Allow them to explore the props, saying "I wonder how this can make music?" or "I wonder if we can dance with this?".
- With excitement and anticipation, tell children they will soon hear music from all around the world!
- Dance and move with the children while the music plays.
- Talk to the children about the different types of music they hear. "What instruments do you hear?" or "What voices and languages do you hear?"
- Add in your own favourites from your local culture!
- Invite families to share songs that are special to their family!
- For younger infants, safely sit and hold infants, while gently moving your body to the music.
- Invite infants to safely explore instruments with you.
- Sing facing the infant

Song List:

- "Giro Giro Tondo"- Italy (Similar to "Ring around the Rosie", the song's title means "turn turn around")
- "Frere Jacques"- France (The French version of "Brother John, Are you Sleeping")
- "Rattlin' Bog"- Ireland
- "Kookaburra"- Australia (Kookaburra is a native bird!)
- "De Colores"- Mexico (Translates to, All the Colours)
- "Zhao Pengyou"- China (Mandarin)- (The title translates to "Looking for a Friend". This song is about finding and celebrating new friends!)

Educator Reflections: *optional*

I wonder if I successfully observed and responded to the cues of the children to lead further investigations?

I wonder how I could improve upon my teaching practices in the future?

I wonder what support I may need to better foster child inquiry in my learning environment?

I wonder what went well, and what could be improved upon regarding child-led learning?

Investigation Materials

Building Connections

- Shallow bins
- Toy sea animals
- Small tent/cover
- Stuffed bears

Learning Discovery

- Sensory tube
- Infant safe loose parts from nature (small parts guidelines must be followed)
- Nature replicas:
 - Toy bugs, animals, plants, etc.
- Mirror trays
- Toy animals

Expressive Language

- Strollers
- Toy animals
- Photos of animals
- Box/cloth bag

Physical Literacy

- Parachute
- Music player
- Lightweight balls
- Dancing props
- Music player