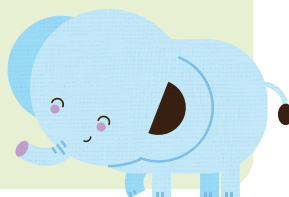


THIS MONTH'S THEME Little Zoo

Get ready to unleash some wild fun with the *Little Zoo* baby theme! We're bringing the animal kingdom to the classroom with songs, stories and activities that babies will love. Immerse your little one in a world of animal sounds, colorful visuals and tactile experiences that spark curiosity and boost brain power. Think of it as a mini zoo adventure! Plus, they'll develop social, emotional and motor skills while building relationships. Who knew learning could be this wild?



Sing and dance at home with theme-based music!



Play & Learn at Home

Encourage different types of play with objects you can find at home or in nature. Below are three activities you can try at home related to the same type of play.

Look

How does the child respond to sound cues throughout the day?

Young Infant

While the child is propped up, show them the scarves. Play a song and hide the scarves in a tissue box. Each time the song makes a sound, like "pop," pull out a scarf from the box. Repeat and observe how the child reacts.

Older Infant

Play a song and invite the child to hold an empty tissue box while you put scarves inside of it. As the song plays, encourage the child to pull out the scarves from the box.

Young Toddler

Set out a tissue box filled with scarves. Play a song. Explore dancing freely, listening for the sound, like "pop," then invite the child to pull out one scarf. Resume dancing and pull out the next scarf when the sound is heard.

How does the child move in response to the music and the puppet?

Young Infant

Help the child sit with support. Play a song and bounce your head along with the movement of the sock puppet during the song. Repeat with another movement.

Older Infant

Help the child pull up and stand by holding onto a chair. Move the sock puppet, and bounce and bend knees to the music like a jumping joey. Encourage the child to mimic you in response to the music.

Young Toddler

Use the sock puppet to say, "Hello," and invite the child to dance with them. Encourage the child to mimic the puppet's movements, and observe how they transition between sitting, standing and walking.

What does the child do when a desired object disappears?

Young Infant

While the child is on their tummy, touch a stuffed animal to their cheek. Repeat by touching the child's head, arms and leg. Observe their reaction to the sensory stimulation.

Older Infant

Tuck the stuffed animal under your arm and begin making lion sounds. Partially hide the stuffed animal under a blanket. Play peek-a-boo and "roar" when the animal is found. Repeat.

Young Toddler

Hide the stuffed animal under the blanket and invite the child to search for the "lost lion." Pat the blanket together to help them search. When found, "roar" and repeat the search.

READ EVERY DAY

Establish a reading routine to bond with your child through stories. Reading to your baby can help establish a predictable daily routine while also promoting brain activity, early literacy skills and language development.

Try this: Read with expression by using your voice, facial expressions and body language to bring the story to life.

How:

- Use a soothing, animated tone that varies in pitch to express excitement, surprise, calmness or comfort.
- Emphasize words to highlight key concepts.
- Utilize facial expressions, including smiles, raised eyebrows and exaggerated expressions, to match the story's mood.
- Point to illustrations to connect words with images.

Tip of the Month: Keep books around: Put books in multiple places around your home, like on shelves or in baskets.

BOOKS & NURSERY RHYMES



The Animal Pokey
by Janice Behrens



Baby Zoo Animals
by New Holland Publishers



Peek-a-Boo Zoo!
by Jane Cabrera

POP GOES THE WEASEL

All around the mulberry bush,
The monkey chased the weasel.
The monkey thought 'twas all in fun,
Pop goes the weasel!

Reminders and Upcoming Information

