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Preschool Theme Kits

THE BEACH



BOX CONTENTS

BOOKS

A House for Hermit Crab

Eric Carle

The Seashore Book

Charlotte Zolotow

Starfish

Edith Hurd

Harry by the Sea

Gene Zion

At the Beach

Anne Rockwell

Henry and Mudge and the

Forever Sea (Book with CD)

Cynthia Rylant

D.W. All Wet

Marc Brown

Seashore Babies

Kathy Darling

Down by the Bay

Raffi

DVD

The Magic School Bus Takes a Dive

TOY

**Adventures of Crusty the Crab
Childcraft Magnet Set**

ADULT RESOURCES

Mudworks

Mary Ann Kohl

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS -
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

Welcome to *The Beach* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

Related Activities

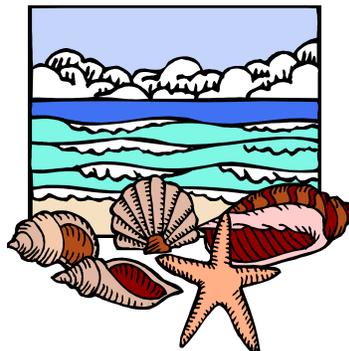
FOR YOU: a copy of these activities is available in back of this notebook.

-Fun and Games-

BEACH CREATIONS *

On large sheets of paper, the children can create their own beach scene(s). Let them use different media for this project: sand, tissue or construction paper ripped in strips, shells and small pebbles. Children can also make cut outs of fish, starfish, and octopi. Use glue to attach these creations to the large paper.

Alternative: Have the children color with crayons (pressing hard); then paint over with blue water color paint.



MINI SAND BOX OR SAND TABLE

Create a small sand table using a large plastic bin, available from most home improvement stores (like an under-the-bed box). Fill halfway with play sand and put in shells, small shovels, buckets, and small toys. *Alternatives:* use large buckets or large, edged cookie sheets, partially full of sand.

SAND PICTURES **

Let the children use glue and paint brushes to paint their names, pictures or designs on sheets of construction paper. Then have them sprinkle pinches of sand over the glue. Wait a few moments before shaking off the excess.

CRUSTY THE CRAB Magnet Set

This set, included in this kit, comes with two stories: *Crusty the Purple Shore Crab* and *I Went Swimming*. You can set up a magnet board with a seashore/ tide pool scene, or use a large cookie sheet, to tell the stories. Let the children spend time retelling the story(ies) when you are done.

Be sure and use the vocabulary: shore crab, sculpin, sea anemone, octopus, seastar, mussels, limpet, and periwinkle. It's easy, because each creature is pictured with its name.

Suggested Activities:

- Make an octopus, using one sheet of construction paper, cutting up one side for legs. Glue on Cheerios for suction cups (!).
- Play Crab Tag – like regular tag except you walk sideways.
- Make a Tide Pool Book. Let each child have a page. This will be good after reading some of the other books included in this kit.

MUDWORKS

One of the reasons we love going to the beach so much is the tactile experience: feet in the cool wet sand, hands in the surf, rocks and sand, sun and wind.

Mudworks has lots of wonderful tactile experiences for young children. For many of the “recipes” there are no definite expected outcomes: they are for free exploration and creativity.

Ingredients and materials are easy to collect: flour, salt, cream of tartar, cooking oil, food coloring, dried tempera paint, cornstarch, bread slices, oatmeal, cotton balls, etc. The recipes for playdough, clay, and other modeling materials are easy to follow, even with children helping.

Another good medium for children, that you have to purchase, is plaster of paris. Fun activities to use with the Beach theme are Sand Cast (p. 68) and Mosaic Sand Cast (p. 69). The book advises quick clean up with plaster of paris as it sets up quickly, and cautions you not to wash plaster of paris down the drain. Wipe utensils with paper and rinse well at an outside faucet.

A different “messy” medium is papier-mache, which only calls for newspaper, a flour-sugar-water paste, and a balloon, jar or lightbulb for the form (p. 86-96).

These are anyone-can-do-it activities. You will probably want a large plastic tablecloth or sheeting to cover your work space. Wipe up well after each use and you’re ready for the next time.

FIELD TRIP

Of course, the best way to experience the beach is to go there! If parents or other adults can help, take the children for an afternoon. Take a towel apiece, some small buckets, water and a snack. Don’t forget to use the sunscreen and to talk about leaving the living beach creatures where you found them. Some public beaches ask us to leave all shells, rocks, etc on the beach.

Extension: You could make a class book about what you see and do there.

Beach Theme Kit

Questions or Suggestions:

Call the Youth Services Dept.
at (360) 384-3150

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

FIVE LITTLE SEASHELLS

Hold up hand with five fingers. With other hand, “swish away” the shells.

Five little seashells lying on the shore
Swish went the waves and then
There were four.

Four little seashells, pretty as can be
Swish went the waves and then
There were three.

Three little seashells all pearly new,
Swish went the waves and then
There were two.

Two little seashells, shining in the sun,
Swish went the waves and then
There was one.

CRABS ARE CRAWLING

Sung to tune of Frere Jacques

Crabs are crawling,
Crabs are crawling
On the rocks, on the rocks.
Watch out for their pinchers,
Watch out for their pinchers,
Snap, snap, snap
Snap, snap, snap!

This could be a full body rhyme too.

AT THE BEACH

Full body rhyme, suit actions to words.

Ocean breezes blowing
Our feet kick and splash!
Ocean waves breaking
On rocks with a crash.

Boys finding seashells
Girls digging sand,
Friends building castles
As high as they can.

I stretch my arms out wide
As far as they can reach
O, my! What fun
On this day at the beach.



One little seashell left all alone;
I picked it up, put it in my pocket,
And then there were none.

Alternative: Make seashells from construction paper, give one to each child and read poem. Or use real shells, displayed on a tray.

*With hands, scuttle ‘crab’ up and down arm
Crab crawls on other arm
Threaten with hands like pinchers*

Snap fingers or clap hands.

ONCE I CAUGHT A FISH ALIVE

Traditional

One two three four five
Count on fingers.
Once I caught a fish alive
Place hands on top of each other, thumbs out, swimming.
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
Count fingers.
Then I let him go again.
“Throw” fish back.

Why did I let him go?
Because he bit my finger so.
Shake hand.
Which one did he bite?
The little finger on the right.
Grab hold of little finger on right hand.

**Activities courtesy of the Early Childhood Office of the Seattle Public Library.*

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How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.