



Go Fish!

Reinforce a variety of skills with a classroom fishing pond.

Use a wading pool or an empty box covered in blue paper. To create fishing rods, attach a string to the end of a wooden dowel and tie a magnet to the end. Then stock your “pond” with fish! Make multiple copies of the pattern, cut them out, and attach a paper clip to each fish’s “nose.” Have children use the magnetic rod to catch their fish in a variety of ways. Practice number or alphabet recognition by labeling the fish with letters and numerals; then challenge children to go fishing in alphabetical or numerical order. Practice colors by copying the pattern onto different-colored paper and having children sort the fish they catch.

Standards

- Uses manual coordination to control tools and manipulate objects
- Knows that magnets can be used to make some things move without being touched

Fishy Patterns

Create a school of fish to reinforce the concept of patterning.

For inspiration, read aloud *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss (Random House, 1960). Then make multiple copies of the fish pattern (you may want to reduce in size or make copies in different sizes). Either copy the fish onto different colors of paper or invite children to color the fish. Have students sort the fish by size and color. Begin a pattern with the fish, such as red fish, blue fish, red fish, blue fish. Ask students to identify the pattern (AB/AB) and then continue it. Challenge students to create other AB/AB patterns, such as green fish, purple fish, green fish, purple fish. Explore other patterns in the same way, such as ABB/ABB, ABC/ABC, and ABA/ABA. Next, introduce other kinds of fish, such as fish with stripes and

Standards

- Understands and repeats simple patterns
- Sorts and groups objects by attributes, such as shape, size, and color

colored spots. Encourage children to create patterns such as solid, solid, striped, solid, solid, striped.

Fishy Camouflage

Children explore how camouflage works, with a collaborative underwater scene.

Discuss the idea of camouflage with children and explain how some fish camouflage to blend in with their underwater environment. Spread out a large sheet of craft paper and invite children to work together to create an underwater scene. You might show pictures of a coral reef to spark ideas. Have children use crayons, markers, paints, and colored tissue paper. Then provide children with copies of the fish patterns (you may want to reduce in size). Invite children to decorate several fish to blend in with the environment they created and glue them to different parts of the scene.

Standards

- Knows that animals have features that help them live in different environments
- Experiments with a variety of colors and textures in art



Book Links

- A Fish Out of Water*** by Helen Marion Palmer (Beginner Books, 1961). An overfed fish outgrows his bowl, a cooking pot, and even the bathtub!
- Swimmy*** by Leo Lionni (Pantheon, 1963). In this classic tale of cooperation, Swimmy teaches a school of fish how to ward off predators.
- Ten Little Fish*** by Audrey Wood (Blue Sky Press, 2004). Go under the sea with this charming counting book.