

Dinosaurs

Use this chart for observation and assessment focusing on the theme of 'Dinosaurs'

Digging up dinosaur facts

Activity – Name that dinosaur		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Communication and Language Speaking	Are children able to speak clearly and confidently and show awareness of the listener?	Make time for children to discuss shared experiences and talk to each other. Ask them to think of questions that they could ask each other about dinosaurs to find out more.

Activity – Dinosaur dig		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Mathematics Numerical patterns	How do children find the sum of two numbers? Do they use objects, fingers or counting aloud?	Let children use calculators during their play with numbers one to nine. Provide games and activities that offer opportunities for number recognition. Make number lines available so that children can refer to them. Provide opportunities for children to separate the objects into equal and unequal groups.

Activity – Where, when and how?		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Understanding of the World The natural world	Can children recall any facts about dinosaurs? Are they able to tell you any names, what they would eat, where they lived? Are they able to form letters to write a sentence? Are they able to speak in a group?	Encourage the children to use fact books with an adult to gain more knowledge and information. Encourage them to form letters correctly and reinforce this with different writing activities.

Notes

Step back in time

Activity – Land of the dinosaurs		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Personal, Social and Emotional Development Building relationships	Do children develop stories through their role play? Do they form relationships with each other as they play alongside each other or co-operatively?	Provide more props for role play and encourage children to extend their play as dinosaurs, and make up a story to support their play.

Activity – Dinosaur masks		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Expressive Arts and Design Creating with materials	Are children able to select appropriate materials for their dinosaur mask? Note whether they are able to use scissors and other tools correctly with good control.	Provide a variety of textured materials and dinosaur templates for children to experiment with during free play. Put up the children’s work around the setting or create a dinosaur display.

Activity – Design a mini ‘dinosaur land’		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Expressive Arts and Design Creating with materials	What materials do children use? What effects do they create? Do they get involved with their peers? Do they suggest ideas and share them with their peers? Do they use suitable tools to create things?	Provide resources and materials from the natural environment so that children can make their own choices to express their ideas further in activities. Support children in expressing their opinions and introduce language such as ‘like’, ‘dislike’, ‘prefer’ and ‘disagree’.

Notes

Jurassic art

Activity – Dinosaur craft		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Physical Development Fine motor skills	How well do children use tools to construct? Do they have a controlled and steady hand? Listen to their ideas about what features they are going to add to their dinosaur.	Offer children a variety of tools to help them explore and steady their hand and eye co-ordination. Include left-handed tools, especially scissors. Make a variety of materials available.

Activity – Fossil fun		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Expressive Arts and Design Creating with materials	How do children use the tools? Provide the clay tools on a subsequent occasion for children to use independently with clay or dough. Have the children mastered their use?	Give children time to plan their own simple project to design and make different animals using modelling clay or dough and the tools..

Activity – Sculpt-o-saurus		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Personal, Social and Emotional Development Managing self	How do children use the materials to structure their ideas? Do they work well together in a team? Do they communicate with their peers? Do they express their ideas?	Plan activities that require further collaboration as a team.

Notes

