

On safari

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

On safari

Activity – Take to the road		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Communication and Language Speaking	Listen to the children's talk as they play. Are they able to pretend an object is something else (a plastic plate as a steering wheel, for example)? Do they reflect upon their experiences, ideas and feelings?	Make your own animal identification cards by printing pictures of safari animals onto card and laminating them. Encourage children to tick off the ones they spot on their imaginary safaris.

Activity – Safari sounds		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Expressive Arts and Design Exploring and using media and materials	Can children explore a range of instruments to experiment with making sounds? Are they able to compare the sounds they make to the sound of a real object?	Make up a group safari song, playing percussion to a well-known song, such as 'Down in the jungle'.

Activity – Safari park		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Understanding of the World The World	Do children show an interest in the animals and their habitats? Can they describe the features of environments?	Make simple maps of your safari parks on large pieces of paper. Look at some examples of leaflets from safari parks and theme parks to give them ideas.

Notes

Animal magic

Activity – Animal tracks		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Physical Development Moving and handling	Can the children twist, poke, squeeze and press the materials? Do they select a range of tools to achieve a desired effect?	Cut some potato halves into animal footprint shapes. Dip them in paint and make animal track pictures.

Activity – Number safari		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Mathematics Numbers	Can children count out a small number of objects accurately from a larger group? Are they able to read a numeral card and match that to a quantity of toys?	Invite children to add two groups of animals together for some early addition practice.

Activity – Tall giraffe, long snake		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Literacy Writing	Do children make use of their phonic knowledge as they write their captions? Can they use words other than colours to describe the animals?	Play circle games that encourage children to use descriptive language. For example, pass round a bag of objects and invite each child to pull out an object, says its name and use a word to describe it, such as 'shiny coin' or 'soft toy'.

Notes

African adventure

Activity – Make a mask		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Personal, Social and Emotional Development Making relationships	Do the children make comments and show interest in discussions? Do they talk about the ways in which they celebrate and dress up?	Talk about the ways in which the children celebrate with their own families. Do they dress up, have parties and so on?

Activity – Beautiful beads		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Expressive Arts and Design Exploring and using media and materials	Do the children notice the patterns in the pictures of beads? Do they explore and talk about what the beads are made from?	Make a table-top display of beaded items and jewellery for children to explore.

Activity – Fun with games		
Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Physical Development Moving and handling	Are the children able to move in a controlled manner around the designated space? Can they change direction and dodge others?	Invite parents to come in and talk about traditional playground games that they used to play.

Notes

Activity – Pattern dancing

Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Expressive Arts and Design Being Imaginative	Can the children move in a variety of ways to signify different animals? Can they manipulate the ribbon sticks to express different types of movement?	Play a piece of music with a range of tempos and moods and let the children dance freely with the ribbon sticks. Do they use some of the movements that they have been practising?

Activity – Find the animals

Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Mathematics Shape, Space and Measures	Can the children follow instructions to find the animals? Can they describe where they have found animals?	Go on a minibeast safari and look for camouflaged creatures such as woodlice in damp wood piles and moths on tree bark. Describe where they have found them using positional language.

Activity – Safe and secure

Area of Learning and Development	Look, listen and note	Next steps
Personal, Social and Emotional Development Self-confidence and self-awareness	Do the children listen to each other's comments about their cuddly toys? Do they talk with confidence about their lives at home?	Find out about bird hides and wildlife watching places in your local area and arrange to visit one.

Notes