



“Ocean Animals”

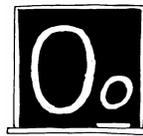
What’s new in our class this week

We are learning songs, rhymes,
and doing activities related to

“Ocean Animals”

This week we will learn words about ocean animals. We will make lists of ocean animals we will talk about. Similar to how you make lists to remind you what to get at the store, we will make lists to help us remember the different ocean animals we are learning.

New Letter



Big “O” and little “o”

Some “O” words we will talk about are
Ocean, **O**ctopus, and **O**range!

Letter Talk

“Letter Talk” is what we
use to help children learn
how to form letters!

Letter Talk for big ‘O’

Make a large circle. Circle
around and close.

Letter Talk for little ‘o’

Make a small circle. Circle
around and close.

Make an “O” using your hand
or arms. You can even draw
letters in sugar or Jell-O
powder sprinkled on a cookie
sheet!

Letters to review

I, F, S, M, A, L, D, R, N, P,
C, V, B, T, H, K, Q and E.

New Concept

Main Idea in Stories

Being able to pick out the main idea of stories is an important concept as your child learns to read and write. If your child can connect parts of a story to his or her life, it is easier for your child to remember. This is an important skill as your child will need to remember more details from the many things he or she learns in school.

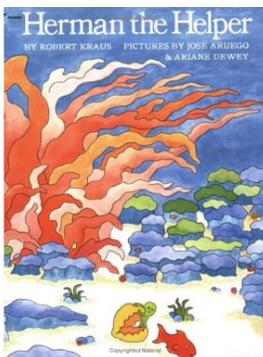
New Songs



“Row, Row, Row Your Boat”

“Down by the Bay”

Revisiting the Book: “Herman the Helper” by Robert Kraus



We will be re-reading “Herman the Helper”, in which Herman the octopus likes to help his family and friends. We will relate this to our own lives by talking about the different things Herman could do with his eight arms to help make things easier in our own houses. We will review the main idea in the story before reading it.

Being able to pick out the main idea is a valuable skill for children as they begin to read and write. You can help your child by asking about the main idea after you read a story. Provide hints if they do not remember.

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Aquarium or Zoo

An aquarium (or zoo) should have a program designed to give families a unique opportunity to encounter dolphins, whales, salt water fish or other ocean water life up close.

Animals are always a great topic for conversations with children. Use this opportunity to encourage language by asking questions and responding to your child's comments.



Also, point out animal names and other familiar words and letters on the written descriptive labels.

If your area does not have a zoo or aquarium with ocean animals, then a local pet shop may have salt-water fish that your child can see up close or even take home! You can discuss colors, size or even eating habits of the fish.

Books related to theme

- "How to Hide an Octopus and Other Sea Creatures" by Ruth Heller
- "Into The A, B, Sea: An Ocean Alphabet Book" by Deborah Lee Rose
- "Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea" by Jan Peck
- "What Lives in a Shell?" by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Try These Tips at Home

Help your child learn: **Main Idea in stories**

- **After you read a story with your child help your child recall one of the important ideas from the story** (What does Herman like to do?). If possible relate the idea to your child's life (What do you do to help around the house?).
- **Tell your child a memorable story from your childhood** (I remember going on a sled on snowy days with my daddy). If possible relate it to something your child can connect with (What did you and daddy do when we had snow last time?).
- **Share with your child a story about their last birthday** (You had a cake with flowers on it when you had your 3rd birthday!). See how many details or important things they can remember from the event.

Teach your child about the letters: **O and o**

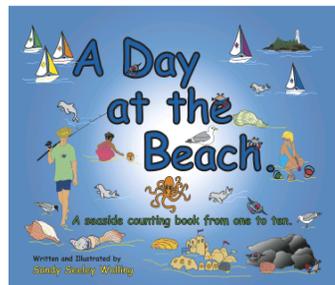
- At the grocery store look for words that have the letter "o" and then help your child read the words.
- Sprinkle some sugar or Jell-O in a cookie sheet and let your child make the letter "O".
- Let your child circle or underline all the words that have the letter "O" in old magazines or newspapers you are finished reading.

Help your child learn more about: **Ocean Animals**

- When you are shopping at the store, look for things that used to live in the ocean. For instance, there should be fish in the seafood section in grocery stores.
- Sing "Down by the Bay" and substitute the names of animals that live in the ocean animals when singing. For example, "Did you ever see a whale with a polka dot tail, down by the bay?"

Book Pick: "A Day at the Beach"

by Sandy Seeley Walling



A seaside counting book from one to ten. This is a delightful book for anyone to read with children. Your child may even surprise you and read some of the pages by themselves. You will discover many things that live in or by the ocean such as seagulls, dolphins, octopus legs, sailboats, and seashells.

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