

EEP Family Connect

May, 2016



Theme: Dinosaurs!

Only the very biggest and most scary-looking lizards, DINOSAURS, could have such an impact on the preschool set. Is it the fact that we can't see them anymore? That they really lived long ago? That they really had all those teeth and giant tails? Whatever it is, most preschoolers will stop action to look at, talk about, and interact with dinosaurs on some level! Sometimes we are fortunate enough to find a museum that is hosting an exhibit offering an up-close with dinos but aside from that, there are books and occasionally a great movie to bring us up-close-and-personal with our ferocious friends of yesteryear. Since backyard jaunts and breezy walks will not provide any sightings, we really do need to focus on pretend and of course, books. It's an opportunity to make some noise, stomp around a bit and be terrible (in a good way!). Who knows? Maybe there *were* some dinosaurs that showed kindness, shared and talked about their feelings...then again, that's where pretend can really come in!

Here's to roaring, stomping, gallivanting families of dinosaurs *connecting* together...



Talk with me!


















Here are some words I am learning over the next two weeks. If you happen to see any of these in books, or in stores or when we're out and about, point them out to me! Remember, even though I might be younger, I can still learn the other words too!

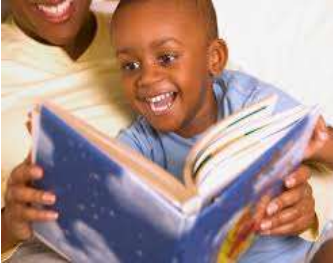
Developmentally Younger

-  Dinosaur
-  T Rex
-  Teeth
-  Head
-  Neck
-  Tail
-  Feet
-  Legs
-  Eggs
-  Baby dinosaurs
-  Long (necks and tails)
-  Enormous (very big!)
-  Fight
-  Mean
-  Roar
-  Nice
-  Horns
-  Sharp (teeth, horns, spikes...)
-  Fly, swim, eat, sleep
-  Hungry

-  Tired
-  Scared
-  Strong
-  Stomp

Developmentally Older

-  Apatosaurus (used to be called brontosaurus)
-  Pterodactyl (the one with wings)
-  Stegosaurus (the one with plates on top and spikes on its tail)
-  Triceratops (the one with horns)
-  A long time ago
-  Extinct
-  Hatch
-  Spikes
-  Claws
-  Plates
-  Meat, plants (as different food sources); a carnivore eats meat! Yikes!
-  Volcano (and of course, lava! Hot!)
-  Fierce (mean, they fight a lot)
-  Paleontologist
-  Fossil
-  Museum
-  Skeleton



Read with me!

Books are a wonderful way for me to learn. I can look at the pictures with you and you can show me things on the pages. Sometimes the stories are too long for me to listen to but if you TELL me what's going on, I can probably listen for longer. I also will benefit from hearing the words over and over and over... Here are some of the books we'll be reading:

How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight

By Jane Yolen



"How do dinosaurs say goodnight? Does a dinosaur throw his teddy bear all about? Does a dinosaur roar? No, dinosaurs don't...they give a big kiss. They turn out the light. They tuck in their tails. They whisper, 'Good night!'" This could be a great way to help with common bedtime issues. There are beautifully illustrated dinosaurs on every page with their names as well to help us learn. Such long and funny names they have!

How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?

By Jane Yolen



Another adorable one for families, especially if there are eating issues at home. It takes tricky meal-times & gently teaches some manners in a fun, dinosaur-loving way!

Snore, Dinosaur, Snore!

By John Bendall-Brunello



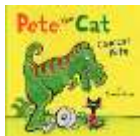
This one is great for action words. It begins with three baby dinosaurs waking up in a colorful, crowded jungle. One yawns; another stretches; the last calls, "Wake up!" Almost every page has this same 3-word format. Soon, they try to wake up Mom, who insists on snoring. The babies' actions escalate from "tickle, claw, and elbow" to "swing, jump, bounce," at which point Mom rolls into a pond and finally stops snoring. Although they have been persistent and, perhaps a little rough, everyone knows it is all in good fun as Mom, smiling, chases her three laughing babies with three scary-happy roars. Be sure to model the actions as you go and have your child try some, too. Love those happy endings!

Bones, Bones, Dinosaurs Bones

By Byron Barton



This one is LOADED with great vocabulary and a step-by-step story of how bones go from the field to the museum. Here are just some of the words you could bring to life with your voice and actions: dinosaur bones, looking for, carrying, shovels, found some, digging, put in the truck, heavy, museum, putting it together, foot, head, teeth, sharp, body, tail, T-Rex, big, huge, and little.



Does your child just love Pete the Cat??? *Cavecat Pete* is pretty cute!



Play with me!

When you play with me, I love it. When I get your full attention, I feel really special. We can build something, go somewhere, make something or just play around with the toys I have. No matter what, I'll be learning about all kinds of things. Remember, just being with YOU makes it really fun. Let's play!



I wonder about what's under the ground. We could dig in the dirt in the yard with a little spoon and a cup. Maybe we'll see a worm, a rock or maybe even a dinosaur bone! The important thing is that you are *with* me. It doesn't matter what we do as long as you sit with me, play alongside of me, and talk with me.



How about playing with our plastic dinosaurs? A blue piece of paper could be our ancient ocean, a place where they go to swim. A pile of my blocks (the red ones would be nice) could be the prehistoric mountains they climb. We could even try and name the dinosaurs. We could have our dinosaurs eat, sleep, swim in the water and maybe even kiss.



Another fun idea to do with my plastic dinosaurs would be to give them some dinosaur "mud." We could use play dough and let them stomp around in the mud making footprints and tail prints. We could talk about how the footprints look funny. Maybe we could even play a game? I make the footprints of one of my dinosaurs and you try and guess which one made the prints!



It seems like it's likely to rain some again. I love to go on walks with you. Even if we get wet or take an umbrella that would be fun. Dinosaurs had big feet. They probably walked around like this: Stomp! Stomp! Stomp! Let's get wet! Let's stomp in the puddles like dinosaurs. That would be so fun!



I love to hear you talk. I love to hear you tell me make-believe stories. When we cuddle at bedtime, if you would hold me close and tell me a story, that's as silly as you want to make it, I'd love it. You can tell me the same story over and over and over. I won't get tired of it. I love to hear you *talk to me*.



Bath time for the dinosaurs would be fun. If you have some small containers that we could put water in and take outside (when it's not raining), we could pretend to give the dinosaurs a bath, or a 'real' ocean to swim in. I would like that.



Dinosaurs liked leaves. Some of them ate them, others hid in them. It would be fun to take my dinosaurs outside and you could show me how to hide them in the leaves. We could make the plant eaters hide from T-Rex. We could pile up grass around them and make them eat, eat, eat. Sit with me and let's do it together. That's what I really like...it's just to be with you.



Sing with me!

Singing little songs with me may seem silly, but it's good for me to hear the words over and over. I might even sing along with you or add a little word here or there. Try singing when you hold me, or when I'm in the tub at night or how about in the car when we're going places? Here are some of the songs/chants we'll be singing:

“10 Big Dinosaurs”

(Tune: “10 Little Indians”)

1 big, 2 big, 3 big dinosaurs,
4 big, 5 big, 6 big dinosaurs,
7 big, 8 big, 9 big dinosaurs,
10 big dinosaurs!

They all lived a long, long time ago.

(Stretch arms wide!)

They all lived a long, long time ago.

They all lived a long, long time ago.

Now there are no more

(Shake head and hands as if to say, “all gone!”)

“All Around the Swamp”

(Tune: “The Wheels on the Bus”)

Best with some pix of the relevant dinos!

The Pterodactyl's wings went FLAP, FLAP, FLAP,
FLAP, FLAP, FLAP,
FLAP, FLAP, FLAP.

The Pterodactyl's wings went FLAP, FLAP, FLAP,
All around the swamp.

Repeat with other verses:

The Tyrannosaurus' Rex went GRRR, GRRR, GRRR,

The Triceratops's horns went POKE, POKE, POKE

The Apatosaurus' mouth went MUNCH, MUNCH, MUNCH,

The Stegosaurus' tail went SPIKE, SPIKE, SPIKE.

“I'd like to be a Dinosaur”

Tune: “Mary had a Little Lamb”)

I'd like to be a dinosaur, dinosaur, dinosaur.

And if I was a dinosaur, I'd want to be a..._____*

(*Let your child name a dinosaur he/she would like to be. Have a book with some basic dinosaurs shown and let them pick!)



Pull me close...

I'm little but I have lots of feelings. Sometimes I cry because I'm tired and I don't even know why. Sometimes I laugh and feel giggly and it's good to hear you laugh and tell me you feel happy too. But sometimes when I'm mad I need you to help me know what that's called. Pull me close and tell me. There might even be times when you're mad about something I've done. Noticing that and telling me how you feel helps me to understand that we ALL have feelings and that all feelings are okay.



I love to play with my dinos. Sometimes it's so hard to share them! My teachers say they understand. Then they remind me that sharing is one of the things that we learned that friends do!

- * Friends share.
- * Friends play together.
- * Friends help each other.



You can have MORE than ONE friend. That's what Twiggie the Turtle says. We could all play together! If you just have one toy, you'll need to take turns or share. But that's OK. If a new friend comes over to watch, you could invite her to play. You could say, "Do you wanna play dinos with us?" That could make that friend feel VERY good!



We don't always have to share, my teachers say. If you don't share, the other person might feel bad though. My teacher didn't share her dino bones with me on purpose. I felt a little sad! Later when I didn't want to share with my friend, she said, "Remember when I didn't share my dino bones? How did it feel?" I did remember how it felt. Yucky! She was proud of me and said I'm learning about how other people feel. That's called EMPATHY.



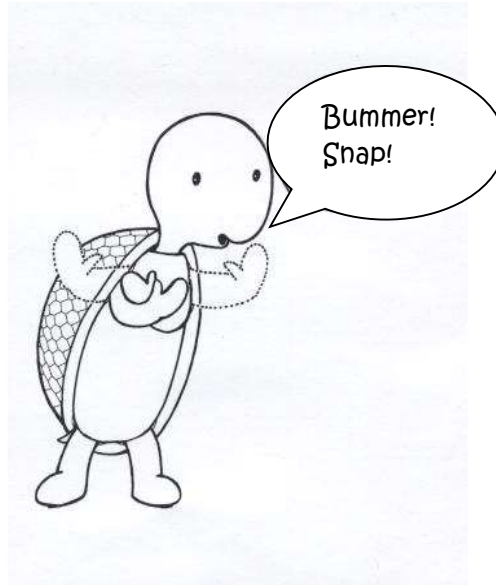
I love when you talk out loud about what's going on inside you, the feelings you're having. "Oh, I'm so upset. I have a problem. I can't find my jacket. It's frustrating." This helps me know that even mommies and daddies have problems and big feelings and how to handle them.



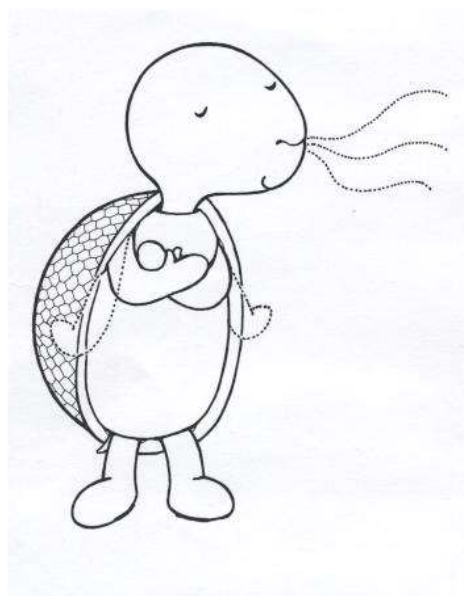
When I'm very upset (or very tired or getting sick) I can't listen very well at all. My feelings are just TOO big! I probably won't even be able to "Do Turtle" then. Help me "Do Turtle" when I'm feeling just a little upset. Sometimes we say "Bummer! Snap!" at school. Could we keep the "Turtle" pictures with Bummer! Snap! on the fridge so I can see them when I need a reminder?

Doing Turtle!

1.



2.



3.

