



ZIPPITY ZOO HEDGEHOGS!

PRE/POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES



GRADE LEVEL: Pre-Kindergarten

Goal of Zoo Program:

Students will be introduced to world of hedgehogs through shared reading, musical instruments, letter sounds, and a live animal interaction.

Objective of Zoo Program:

- Develop an awareness of books through shared reading.
- Show a steady increase in listening and speaking vocabulary about hedgehogs.
- Observe a living hedgehog to become aware of the physical attributes of hedgehogs.
- Participate in a group movement activity coordinated with the shared reading selection.

Curriculum Guidelines for Pre/Post-Visit Activities:

Classification and Data Collection

- Matches objects that are alike
- Sorts objects into groups by an attribute

Letter Knowledge and Early Word Recognition

- Begins to associate the names of letters with their shapes
- Begins to make some letter/sound matches
- Begins to notice beginning letters in familiar words

Music

- Participates in classroom music activities

Physical Movement

- Begins to participate in group games involving movement

Fine-Motor Development

- Begins to use scissors

Patterns

- Imitates pattern sounds
- Begins to predict what comes next when patterns are extended

Suggested Literature Connections:

A Little Bit of Winter by Paul Stewart

This tale has two main characters, Rabbit and Hedgehog. It begins at the end of fall when Hedgehog has to go and hibernate for the winter. Because he has never seen winter, he asks his forgetful friend Rabbit to save him 'a little bit of winter'. Rabbit endures the long, cold winter by himself and almost forgets to do what Hedgehog had asked. How does Rabbit save 'a little bit of winter'? You'll have to read and find out! This is a nice and cute short story that incorporates the themes of friendship and the changing seasons. A great introduction to the winter that has yet to come, and a story that will be enjoyed by all!



ZIPPITY ZOO HEDGEHOGS GRADE LEVEL: Preschool



Pre-Visit Activities:

Snack Suggestion: Play With Your Food!

You'll need:

- Animal crackers



They say never to play with your food, but here's the exception! Give students an assortment of animal crackers. There are several activities you can do with assorted animal crackers: sort by animal shape, form patterns (elephant, tiger, elephant, tiger, etc.), or "find all of the [pick an animal]."

Activity 1: Going on a Bear Hunt!

Materials

- None needed

Teacher Preparation

- Have students sit in a circle on the floor for this activity.

The school program you will be seeing at the Zoo uses rhythms and sounds as part of its exploration activity. The following activity is a good practice run and good fun!

Going on a Bear Hunt Chant

Goin' on a bear hunt (repeat)

I'm not afraid (repeat)

Got a real good friend (children hug themselves...repeat)

By my side (repeat)

Oh, Oh (repeat)!

What do I see? (repeat)

Oh look! It's ... (each phrase below is a separate verse)

- (Verse 1) some tall grass! (repeat)
- (Verse 2) a tall tree! (repeat)
- (Verse 3) a wide river! (repeat)
- (Verse 4) a deep dark cave! (repeat)

Can't go over it (repeat)

Can't go under it (repeat)

Can't go around it (repeat)

Got to... (each phrase below is a separate verse)

- (Verse 1) go through it (repeat...Make motions with arms like you are clearing a way thru grass)!
- (Verse 2) climb up it (repeat...Make motions with arms like you are climbing up a tree)!
- (Verse 3) swim across it (repeat...pretend to swim)!
- (Verse 4) go in it (repeat...Close your eyes as you pretend to enter the cave)!

After all 4 verses, finish with...

Oh, oh! It's dark in here. (repeat)

I feel something (repeat)

It has lots of hair! (repeat)

It has sharp teeth! (repeat)

It's a bear!! (children love to scream this part)



At this point, increase the speed of your thigh slapping and go in the cave (repeat...Close your eyes as you pretend to enter the cave)!
THEN
swim across the river (repeat...pretend to swim)!
THEN
climb up the tree (repeat...Make motions with arms like you are climbing up a tree)!
THEN
go through the grass (repeat...Make motions with arms like you are clearing a way thru grass)!

Activity 2: My Happy Hedgehog

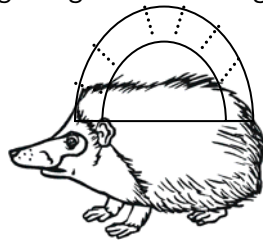
Materials

- Paper plates (1 per student)
- Scissors (1 per student)
- Glue sticks (optional)
- *Hedgehog Craft Sheet* (1 per student)
- Crayons (1 box per group)

Teacher Preparation

- If you would rather not give your students glue sticks to use, you can do the prep work for them. To do so, cut all of the paper plates in half. Cut out the hedgehog figure from the *Hedgehog Craft Sheet*. Glue the paper plate to the back of the hedgehog.

Students will practice their cutting skills while creating their own little happy hedgehog! If you have chosen not to do the optional teacher preparation, have students cut their paper plates in half, cut out the hedgehog, and glue plate to the back of the hedgehog. The hedgehog is now ready for coloring! What color is a hedgehog? (white and brown) To give their hedgehog spines, have your students use scissors to cut a series of slits in the perimeter of the plate. The more cuts, the more it looks like a hedgehog! Plus it's a great way to practice cutting!



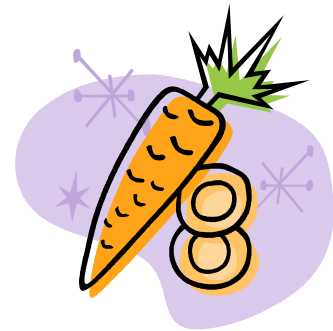
Post-Visit Activities:

Snack Suggestion: Hedgehog Buffet

You'll need any assortment of the following items:

- gummy worms
- slices of fruit (apples, grapes, etc.)
- pieces of veggie (carrots, lettuce, etc.)
- chocolate pudding (supposed to look like their wet cat foot hedgehogs receive)

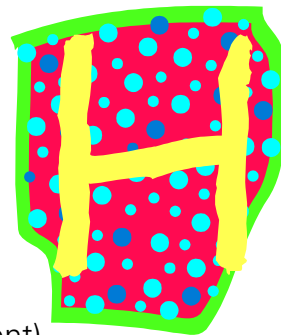
Hedgehogs eat an assortment of things—from crickets to worms to apples! Set up various items (suggested above) in a buffet fashion and have students (pretending to be a hedgehog) move through the Hedgehog Buffet Line to choose their daily diet!



Activity 1: "H" is for Hedgehog!

Materials

- Copies of the attached *Hedgehog Craft Sheet* (1 per student)
- A writing utensil for each student and Crayons (1 box per group)
- Glue sticks (1 per two students)
- A box of uncooked spaghetti (broken in ¼'s) on a paper plate



Teacher Preparation

- Run off copies of the attached *Hedgehog Craft Sheet* (1 per student)
- Break spaghetti pieces into ¼'s and place on plates (1 plate per group)

Have students practice their letter-writing skills with this fun activity that results in a cute craft! Using the attached *Hedgehog Craft Sheet*, have students practice forming the letter H, first using only their finger a few times (using the arrows as guides). As they trace it, have them sound out the letter "H." When they have mastered it, let them use a writing utensil to trace the dotted lines in the H. It may help to demonstrate on the chalkboard, too. Challenge them by asking them to think of any words besides "hedgehog" that start with an H!

To create a more realistic hedgehog, have your students color their hedgehog a color to match the one they saw in the Zoo classroom. Then, place the paper plates of uncooked spaghetti in the center of each group of students. Have students spread glue on to the body of their colored hedgehog. They can then place the dried spaghetti on the glue to make their hedgehog have prickly spines just like real hedgehogs!

Activity 2: Tat Tiddle Tum, Riddle Ree Rum!

Materials

- None

Teacher Preparation

- Get your silly face on!

Get ready to get silly! This activity will have your students roaring with laughter while practicing their rhyming, pattern making, and letter sounds! Begin the activity by giving students a word and asking them to come up with other words that begin with the same letter (even if the words are made up!). For example, you may say, "Fun," and they'll respond with "Rackity" or "Rut" or "Rinky." Let them come up with a string of words before the class tries out a new word! Now for the challenge...Give them a word from the story read in the Zippity Zoo Hedgehog program (examples listed below) and have them come up with a few other words that begin with the same sound. String the words together and recite several times. Once they've got that string of words down, add on another word from the story and have them come up with a few other words that begin with the same sound. Add it on to the first string of words. For example, you begin by saying, "Tum" and they may say "Tiddle Tee Toe." Then you add on, "Diddle" to which they might add, "Dee Do Da!" Put it all together and you have "Tum Tiddle Tee Toe! Diddle Dee Do Da!" Add one beginning word each time and so on to see how long of a pattern that they can form and remember!

Tum (Tum Tee Tum)

Diddle (Diddle Dum)

Click (Clack Clang)

Rat (Tat Ta Tat)

Boom (Boom)



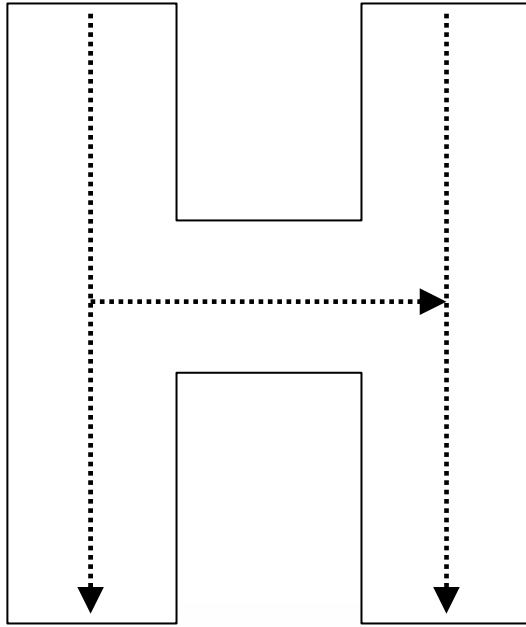
ZIPPITY ZOO HEDGEHOGS GRADE LEVEL: Preschool



Vocabulary:

BAND	a group of people playing music together
CURL	to form into a curved shape
FOREST	a large area of land covered with trees and underbrush
HEDGEHOG	an insect-eating mammal having spiny hairs on the back and sides
SPINES	any of various pointed structures on animals
WOODS	a large and thick collection of growing trees





Hedgehog

