

Dramatic Play Plan

Dinosaurs

- MATERIALS**
- ✓ Sand Area (Sand Box)
 - ✓ Plastic Easter Eggs
 - ✓ Small plastic Dinosaurs (to hide in the eggs)
 - ✓ Sand Sifter
 - ✓ Fake Bones
 - ✓ Shovels
 - ✓ Magnifying glass
 - ✓ Brushes (to dust off bones)

SETUP

1. Designate the sand area and place plastic dinosaurs, bones, and eggs in the sand
2. Set up table as “lab area” to examine what they find in the sand box

STATIONS:

- Diggers
- Cleaners
- Scientists

***Intro:** “Once upon a time dinosaurs ruled the world. They existed way before people were even on earth. There were all different kinds of dinosaurs. Some that were herbivores and only ate plants while others that were carnivores and only ate meat. Some were friendly dinosaurs and some were very mean and scary but they all lived together until one day a giant meteor came and crashed into the earth. The meteor crash was so big that it killed all of the dinosaurs and now all we have left of them are their bones that are buried deep in the earth.*

Today we’re going to be paleontologists, which are scientists who look for dinosaur bones and clues about dinosaurs when they were alive in the sand. Diggers dig for bones in the sand while cleaners clean off the bones very carefully so that the scientists can look at the bones in the laboratory with their magnifying glasses.”

ACTIVITY 1 – DISCUSSION

- Discuss what everyone knows about dinosaurs. Where they lived, what they did, the different kinds, etc.
- What are some of the names of the dinosaurs that we are looking for?
 - What kind of clues do you think they left behind in the sand?
 - EXPANSION: “I think I saw a dinosaur the other day!”

ACTIVITY 2 – DIGGING FOR BONES

- Diggers dig for bones using shovels and sand sifters
- Call over the diggers when they find bones or dinosaur eggs with dinosaurs inside
- Cleaners carefully brush off the sand from the bones and bring them to the scientists in the lab
- EXPANSION: “Oh no, the bone cracked a little bit! Why do you think that happened? What should we do?”

ACTIVITY 3 – EXAMINING THE BONES

- Scientists look at the eggs, shells and bones using the magnifying glass
- Talk with the cleaners and diggers to guess what they’re looking for (i.e. what type of dinosaur, how old it is, where it lived, etc.)
- EXPANSION: “How can you tell if a dinosaur bone is really old? This one looks older and this one looks younger.”