

FISHING ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Fishing Prop Box

To introduce the topic of fishing, create a prop box for the children to explore. Include items they can use independently and let their imaginations take it from there....this would be a wonderful activity to implement outside!!!

- rubber worms
- lake maps
- net
- plastic / paper fish
- tackle box
- bucket
- bobbers
- sunhat / sunglasses/ rubber boots
- pole with string
- lifejacket
- fishing magazines
- camera

Art

Try out Gyotaku - Japanese Fish Printing, obtain real parts of a fish from a local grocery store, or use a plastic replica. Encourage the children to examine parts of the fish and touch it. Children may be more comfortable wearing gloves. Then spread on some paint and make prints! Fish can be rinsed off after and then put in the freezer for next time.

Decorate your own fishing spoons. Buy plain fishing spoons, and paint them any color or design. You could use paint or nail polish and then add a clear coat on top. The hook can be looped off during this process to make it easier to work with. Then try out the creations on the lake, creek or river! Which one will get the most bites?

Gross Motor Play

Play a game of 'Fish Tag'. The 'fish' must hide from its predator by going to the safe spot; box-dock, lily pad- hula hoop, pylon-cattail. The child who is the 'predator' can choose which animal to be while he tries to tag the fish. Fish can stay in their safe spot for five seconds. Once the predator catches a fish, the fish that was caught becomes a predator.

Math

Have the children measure paper or plastic fish. They can record their measurements. Incorporate a game of first catching the fishing using magnets and fishing poles.

Dramatic Play

Set up the dramatic play area with props related to fishing;

- use blocks to create a dock
- mats to represent boats on the water
- fishing poles, string, and magnets on the end
- fish with magnets
- lifejackets, fishing hat, net, rulers

Science

Explore the anatomy of a fish. Provide diagrams, pictures, books, or even a 3D replica of a fish. How about a real fish?

Incorporate an aquarium into the class. Observe the behaviors, anatomy, eating habits, and life cycle of a fish.

Fine Motor

For school age children, setup an activity to learn and practice tying different types of knots.

Nutrition

Enjoy a meal of fish! Try local varieties of fish or feast on your catch of the day!

Serve goldfish crackers, bean dip and straight pretzels. The children can eat using their fishing poles (pretzels) to catch fish with their bait (dip).

Literacy

Check your local library for children's books about fishing. Look for books with information and pictures of fish found in Manitoba. Access online books about fishing.

Media

Watch a professional angler reel in a huge fish! View a video that shows what the underwater environment for a fish looks like!

Visitors

Invite a bait shop owner, fish expert or Conservation Officer to visit your classroom.

What about an avid fisher you know? Friend, grandparent? I'm sure they would have some fish stories to share with the group.

Field trips

Visit a local fish hatchery, pet shop, or aquarium!

Plan an outing to a nearby creek or lake and try out some real fishing!

Explore Fort Whyte's five lakes and do some fishing!!

OTHER FISHING RESOURCES

<p>FortWhyte Alive 1961 McCreary Rd. Winnipeg, MB http://www.fortwhyte.org/activities</p>	<p>-Offers fishing on 4 lakes, with catch and release fishing. Children 12 and under can take home one fish. You can also rent fishing rods and tackle. Fee: \$2 Rod rental: \$5, tackle: \$5</p>
<p>Replica Toy Fish Company www.replicatoyfish.com/main.sc 303-507-5225</p>	<p>-sells toy replicas of fish found in North America</p>
<p>Manitoba Youth Angler www.youthangler.ca</p>	<p>-provides information on the many fishing related programs for youth being offered throughout the province -access to free online fishing games and books for children -offers a program called 'REEL Solutions for Youth'</p>
<p>REEL Solutions for Youth www.youthangler.ca</p>	<p>-a program that travels to a school or community to offer a fishing information program for youth. Helps setup fishing clubs for children in their community.</p>
<p>Manitoba's Family Fishing Weekend</p>	<p>-a weekend event each year to encourage families to get out and fish. -there are no licenses required on this weekend</p>
<p>Catch Fishing http://www.nationalfishingweekcanada.net/eng/home</p>	<p>-very informative site; has fishing tips and regulations, fishing links, and a kids zone -has a free downloadable 48 page booklet with all the basic information about fishing</p>