

Rice Dig

What should be included:

- Dinosaur shape board
- Shape pieces
- Shape design cards
- Tub of rice
- Table cloth
- Exercise ball
- Air pump
- ???? (stuff for exercise ball)
- Book – *The Cat in the Hat*

Play Plan:

- **Rice Dig** – To begin, spread out the table cloth and dump the rice from the bag into the plastic container. Let your child have a little time to explore the rice (your child may want to get some of his/her small toys to hide/find in the rice -this is what we do with your child at preschool 😊). When you feel your child is ready for directed play using the rice, try the following activities:
 - **Dinosaur Dig** - Hide the shape pieces in the rice and give your child the dinosaur shape board and a shape design card. Then have your child dig in the tub of rice to find the correct color and shape of the pieces he/she needs to make his/her dinosaur board match the shape design card. Continue this process so that your child has a chance to work through several shape design cards.
 - **Fill an Order** – Hide the shape pieces in the rice and then give your child **verbal directions** of what shape pieces you want him/her to find in the rice. You can make your “order” as easy or hard as you think would be the correct challenge for your child. Example: (easy order) “I would like 3 blue shapes.” (a little more challenging order) “I would like 2 red shapes and 3 yellow shapes” or “I would like 5 blue circles”. (Challenging order) “I would like 2 yellow triangles, 2 red circles and 2 green triangles.”

**Note: You can refresh his/her memory as he/she continues to dig if the directions are forgotten, however, the goal is for your child to be able to carry out 2-3 step directions without being reminded.*

Book Activity:

- Read the book **The Cat In The Hat** and help your child enjoy all the silly things that happen in this book. Then try some of the following:
 - ***Before you begin this activity** - help your child understand what we mean when we say two words **RHyme**. Tell them that rhyming words are words with the same **ENDING SOUND** and then give them some examples (cat/bat – they both end with the sound “at”, top/hop – they both end with the sound “op”, boy/toy – they both end with the sound “oy”, etc.).
- **Rhyming Sort** – Start by laying out 1 of the rhyming pictures and then take the word cards out of that baggy. Name the object in the picture and then say the word on each of the cards and see which of the words rhyme with the object in the picture. If the word rhymes with the picture, lay that word (and all the other words in that baggy that rhyme with the picture) under the picture.
 - Continue the sort by placing another rhyme picture beside the first picture and once again take the word cards out of the bag. Then pick up the word cards under the 1ST rhyme picture and mix the two groups of words together. Now say one word at a time and lay it under the rhyme picture it rhymes with – continue until all the words are placed under a rhyme picture.
 - If your child understands rhyming, you can continue to add rhyming pictures and their cards to the 2 rhyming pictures you have already worked through. If your child is still learning to rhyme pick up those two rhyming pictures and take out a new rhyme picture and using just the word cards from that baggy say each word and place it under the rhyming picture. *Then add another rhyme picture just as you did before (can even be one of the pictures you already used – may help your child to hear the rhyming if he/she is already familiar with the words and picture).
 - If you feel like your child is ready, you can look at all the words he/she has sorted under the rhyming pictures. Show your child the **“letters” that repeat at the end** of each word under one of the rhyming pictures and then see if your child can name the repeating letters at the end of each word under the other rhyming pictures.
- **Rhyming Memory Puzzles** – Lay out the puzzle pieces (PICTURE DOWN) in one of the bags and then remove the puzzle pieces from the other bag (ONE AT A TIME) and hand it to your child. Then he/she gets to choose one of the puzzle pieces over and see if it rhymes with the puzzle piece in his/her hand. If it rhymes put the two puzzle pieces together and lay it over to the side, if it doesn't rhyme turn that puzzle piece back over and choose another one –

continue this until your child locates the puzzle piece that rhymes with the one he/she is holding.

Big Body Movement:

First just let your child practice throwing the ball up and catching it in the frog mitt. Also let your child practice catching the ball in the frog mitt when you throw it to him/her. When you feel your child is ready to play some games with the mitt and ball, you can try the following:

- **Dice Roll**
 - Let your child roll the dice, count how many dots are on the side looking up and then have your child catch the ball that many times (it does not have to be that many times in a row). Try this game with you throwing the ball to your child, as well as, letting the child throw the ball up himself/herself and catch it.
- **Stop and Throw**
 - You pick a number (say it out loud so your child will know what number you are going to throw the ball on) and then you and your child count to that number and when you say the number you picked – stop counting and throw the ball to your child. Next let your child pick the number and you count together until the chosen number is said – stop counting and your child will throw the ball back to you.
 - You pick a letter (say it out loud so your child will know what letter you are going to throw the ball on) and then you and your child say the alphabet to that letter and when you say the letter you picked – saying the alphabet and throw the ball to your child. Next let your child pick a letter and you and your child say the alphabet until the chosen letter is said – stop saying the alphabet and your child will throw the ball back to you.

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊!