

Teacher resources:

Dinosaurs



Trinity Stars

YOUNG PERFORMERS AWARDS



Contents

Introduction.....	1
Dinosaur dictionary	2
Activity 1: Dinosaur flashcard fun	3
Activity 2: Dinosaur statues	4
Activity 3: I am a dinosaur	5
Activity 4: Dinosaur memory game.....	6
Activity 5: Scary dinosaur action song.....	7
Activity 6: Colin and Dave's song	8
Activity 7: Dinosaurs	9
Suggested resources.....	10

Useful materials

Flashcards: Dinosaurs	12
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Introduction

Topic: Dinosaurs

Suitable for: Early years

Primary school

Language used:

Dinosaur, T-Rex, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Diplodocus, Velociraptor, large wings, long neck, wide legs, horns, scary, sharp teeth, claws, roar.

Useful materials: Flashcards of 4-6 dinosaurs, 4-6 plastic dinosaurs, colouring pens, coloured card, glue, scissors, paper plates.

Here are some flexible and engaging activities for all Trinity Stars levels. They are designed to encourage five key skill areas that match with early years and primary education curriculums:



Communication



Teamwork



Understanding



Creativity



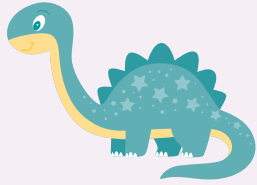
Movement

Teachers can choose and adapt activities based on the needs and learning goals of the children they are working with.





Dinosaur dictionary



Diplodocus
(dip-low-DOCK-us)



Elasmosaurus
(ee-LAZ-moh-saw-rus)



Parasaurolophus
(parr-uh-sor-uh-LOH-fuhss)



Stegosaurus
(STEG-uh-SAW-ruhs)



Triceratops
(try-serra-tops)



Tyrannosaurus Rex
(tie-ran-o-SAWR-us REKS)



Velociraptor
(vih-LOSS-ih-rap-ter)





Activity 1:

Dinosaur flashcard fun

Aim: To encourage children to learn and use dinosaur names.

Skills developed:



Communication: Learning and using dinosaur names.



Understanding: Showing understanding of the names of dinosaurs and what they look like.



Movement: Using the space to show understanding by moving to the correct flashcards.



Creativity: Using imagination to create pictures of dinosaurs.



Teamwork: Supporting each other by listening, repeating and recognising words together.

Materials needed: Flashcards (see [page 12](#)).

How to play:

- 1 Show 4-6 flashcards of dinosaurs and say each word. Ask the children to repeat after you.
- 2 Repeat this activity without saying the words. Encourage the children to call out the names instead.
- 3 Place the flashcards on different walls in the room.
- 4 Choose an image and say the word. Children go to the correct flashcard. Repeat with all flashcards.
- 5 Ask the children to draw a picture of their favourite dinosaur.
- 6 Display these pictures on the wall.





Activity 2:

Dinosaur statues

Aim: To encourage children to explore how dinosaurs might move.

Skills developed:



Communication: Expressing ideas about how dinosaurs move through sound and gesture.



Understanding: Showing understanding of how dinosaurs move.



Movement: Using body language to act out how dinosaurs move.



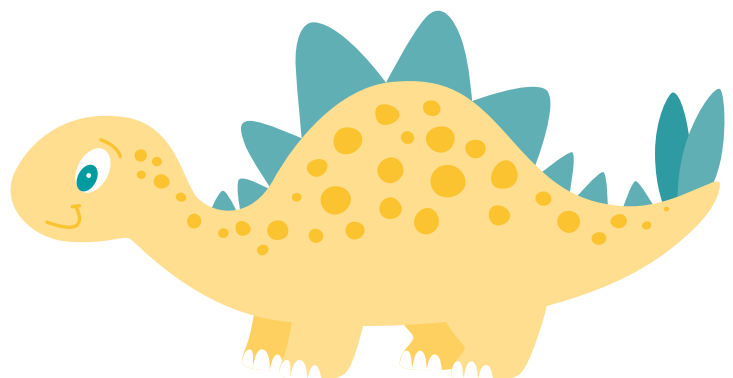
Creativity: Personalising the movements of dinosaurs.



Teamwork: Working together to move around the space and respond to cues.

How to play:

- 1 Ask the children to describe how dinosaurs might move.
- 2 Put on some music and ask the children to move around the room as dinosaurs.
- 3 Next, tell the children that they must stand still when the music stops (do not worry if the children are not completely still).
- 4 Repeat with different dinosaurs.





Activity 3:

I am a dinosaur

Aim: To encourage children to explore dinosaur sounds and movements using language and actions.

Skills developed:



Communication: Expressing ideas about how dinosaurs move and sound through voice and actions.



Understanding: Showing understanding of how dinosaurs sound and move.



Movement: Using body language to act out how dinosaurs move.



Creativity: Personalising the movements and sounds of dinosaurs.



Teamwork: Working together to perform dinosaur movements.

Materials needed: Flashcards (see [page 12](#)), toy dinosaurs.

How to play:

- 1 Show the children four different dinosaurs, one at a time. These can be flashcards or toys. It is important to make sure that the dinosaurs are physically different and move differently. For example:
 - A dinosaur with **sharp teeth** – snapping (Velociraptor)
 - A dinosaur with a **long neck** – stretching (Diplodocus)
 - A dinosaur with **wide legs** – stomping (Stegosaurus)
 - A dinosaur with **horns** – charging (Triceratops)
- 2 Next, hold up each dinosaur again and ask the children to suggest what sound it might make. Produce these sounds together for each dinosaur.
- 3 Pretend to be one of the dinosaurs, making the movements and sounds. Encourage children to be as creative as possible. Repeat this with all the dinosaurs.





Activity 4: Dinosaur memory game

Aim: To encourage children to remember dinosaur names through a fun memory game.

Skills developed:



Communication: Developing language and memory skills through rhyming and repetition.



Understanding: Showing understanding of the names of dinosaurs.



Movement: Using gestures to act out the rhyme.



Creativity: Engaging with the rhyme.



Teamwork: Taking turns and leading in the group activity.

Materials needed: Flashcards (see [page 12](#)) or toy dinosaurs.

How to play:

- 1 Put six toy dinosaurs or flashcards of dinosaurs on a tray.
- 2 Hold up each dinosaur to the class and say the word together.
- 3 Hide the dinosaurs by covering the tray with a cloth.
- 4 Then say: 'Everyone close your eyes.'
(demonstrate and encourage the children to join in)
- 5 Remove one dinosaur secretly and show the dinosaurs again.
Say the second line of the rhyme: 'Can you discover the surprise?'
- 6 Encourage children to call out their answers.
- 7 Show children the missing dinosaur when they guess correctly.
- 8 Put the dinosaur back on the tray. Ask a child to come to the front of the class and become the teacher, repeating the steps.
- 9 Repeat this until every child has had a turn.





Activity 5:

Scary dinosaur action song

Aim: To encourage children to express language and emotions through song and movement.

Skills developed:



Communication: Expressing ideas about dinosaurs through song and movement.



Understanding: Showing understanding of the song.



Movement: Using body language to act out the rhyme.



Creativity: Personalising dinosaur movements and drawings of food choices.




Teamwork: Working together to perform the song and taking turns to share drawings.

How to play:

- 1 Discuss whether the children think dinosaurs are scary or friendly creatures.
- 2 Tell the children that you have a song about a dinosaur who might seem scary but is not!
- 3 Sing two lines together of the song on the right, demonstrating the actions. Ask the children to copy you. Repeat this until you have completed the whole song.
- 4 Now sing the whole song all together. Move around the room and enjoy the actions and facial expressions.
- 5 Give the children a paper plate and ask them to draw some unusual food for a dinosaur to eat. For example, popcorn, chocolate, pizza, salad, strawberries.
- 6 Ask the children to share their drawings.

Song

(Sung to the tune of 'I'm a Little Teapot')



I'm a scary dinosaur
(Make a scary face)

Hear me roar! ROAR!
(Make a roaring sound)


See my sharp teeth
(Point to teeth)

Look at my claws
(Make claws using fingers)

I have a little secret
To whisper in your ear, shhhhhh
(Make a shhhhhh sound)

I only eat carrots
(Mime holding up a carrot and biting it)

So, have no fear!
(Show a big smile)





Activity 6:

Colin and Dave's song

Aim: To encourage children to explore the topic of dinosaurs through song and drawing.

Skills developed:



Communication: Expressing ideas about dinosaurs through song, movement and discussion.



Understanding: Showing understanding of the song.



Movement: Using body language to act out the song.



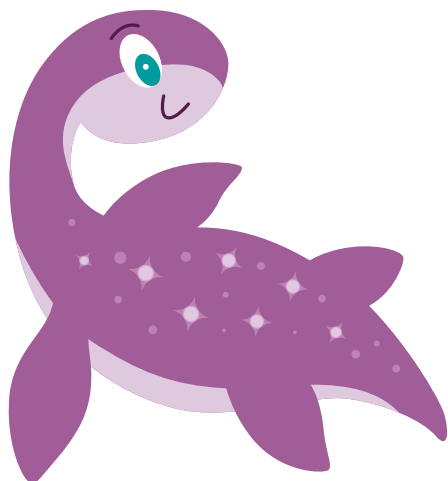
Creativity: Personalising drawings of the song's characters and events.




Teamwork: Working together to sing and perform the song and share artwork.

How to play:


- 1 Sing the following song to the children, to the tune of 'Puff the Magic Dragon'.
- 2 Discuss the song with the children.
- 3 Sing the song again and act it out together.
- 4 Ask the children to draw a picture based on the song and share with the rest of the class.



Song:



Colin the cute dinosaur,
Lives in a cave.
He spends his days walking around
With his brother Dave.
They like to explore the forest,
And swim in the sea.
Sometimes they catch a fish or two
And have them for their tea.
They climb up the mountains
To the very top.
They use their wings to fly back down,
And their claws to stop.
They like to buy their snacks
From the shop in the street.
They share their sweets and sausage rolls
With everyone they meet.
If you're scared of dinosaurs,
You should come and see
Colin and his brother Dave,
They're so cute, and lovely.





Activity 7:

Dinosaurs

Aim: To encourage children to explore dinosaurs through storytelling, movement, and imaginative role-play.

Skills developed:



Communication: Expressing ideas about dinosaurs through storytelling and role-play.



Understanding: Showing understanding of the story.



Movement: Using space and body to act out the story.



Creativity: Personalising responses to the story, including making props.



Teamwork: Working together to act out the story.

How to play:

- 1 Narrate a simple story (either a published one or one you have made up) about dinosaurs. Add background sounds or music to enhance the experience.
- 2 Act this out together with the children.
- 3 You can offer children an opportunity to create their own props to enhance their performance.





Suggested resources with the theme of dinosaurs:

References



- ★ *Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs* – Hughes
- ★ *First Dinosaur Encyclopaedia* – DK
- ★ *Lift the Flap Questions and Answers about Dinosaurs* – Katie Daynes

Nursery rhymes



- ★ 'Ten Little Dinosaurs' – Traditional
- ★ 'Five Enormous Dinosaurs Letting Out a Roar' – Traditional
- ★ 'I'm-a-saurus' – Traditional
- ★ 'Ten Dancing Dinosaurs' – John Foster

Songs



- ★ 'Oh, I do Like to Be Beside the Seaside' – John A Glover-Kind
- ★ 'The Dinosaur Hokey Pokey' – Kidz Parkz
- ★ 'I am a Dinosaur, Hear Me Roar' – Kids Rock Song
- ★ 'The Dinosaur Dance' – Danny Go!
- ★ 'Dinosaur Stomp!' – Patty Shukla
- ★ 'We are the Dinosaurs' – The Laurie Berkner Band
- ★ 'Dinosaur Stomp' – Koo Koo
- ★ 'Going on a Dinosaur Hunt' – (adapted from We're going on a Bear Hunt)

Stories



- ★ *The Littlest Dinosaur* – Michael Foreman
- ★ *Little Dinosaur's Big Race* – Rhiannon Fielding
- ★ *Stomp Chomp Big Roars! Here Come the Dinosaurs!* – Kaye Umansky
- ★ *Welcome to Dinosaur School* – Rose Cobden
- ★ *There's a Dinosaur in Your Book* – Tom Fletcher
- ★ *Peppa's Great Dinosaur Hunt* – Peppa Pig
- ★ *Dear Dinosaur* – Chae Strathie
- ★ *Flip Flap Dinosaurs* – Axel Scheffler
- ★ *The Dinosaur Who Lost His Roar* – Russell Punter
- ★ *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs* – Ian Whybrow
- ★ *Grannysaurus* – David Walliams





Poems



- ★ Dinosauristory – Judith Nocholls
- ★ Stegosaurus – Wendy Larmont
- ★ Ode to an extinct Dinosaur – Doug Macleod
- ★ At the Dinosaur's Party – Trevor Harvey
- ★ Trouble at the Dinosaur Cafe – Brain Moses
- ★ When the dinosaur came to stay – Martyn Wiley
- ★ My pet dinosaur – Charles Thompson
- ★ Who's there? – Max Fatchen
- ★ Problem Solved – Clive Webster
- ★ The Dinosaur Rap – John Foster
- ★ Cloud Dragon – Eric Finney
- ★ The Dinosaur's Dinner – June Crebbin
- ★ Why the Dinosaur died out – John Foster
- ★ Neversaurus – Celia Warren
- ★ So Big! – Max Fatchen

