

discovery time

Dinosaur Dig

Parents and caregivers, extend Discovery Time into your home. Share these fingerplays and activities with young children. **The letter for this theme is D.**

Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs lived long ago.
Some walked,
(*Stomp in place*)
Some swam,
(*Pretend to swim*)
Some flew, you know!
(*Flap arms at sides*)
Some were big.
(*Hold hand high*)
Some were small.
(*Hold hand low*)
Some were gigantic—
(*Stretch arms out wide*)
V-e-r-y tall!
(*Reach arms up high*)

Dino Ditty

(*Tune: "Do Wah Diddy Diddy" by Manfred Mann*)
Here he comes just a stomping with his feet,
(*Stomp*)
Singing, "Dino ditty, ditty dum ditty do."
(*Clap*)
Searching all around for something good to eat,
(*Hand over brow*)
Singing, "Dino ditty, ditty dum ditty do."
(*Clap*)
He's huge. (*Echo*) He's strong. (*Echo*)
(*Stretch out arms; then bend elbows and make fist*)
He's huge, he's strong, won't be hungry very long.
(*Repeat arm motions; then shake finger "no."*)
"Dino ditty, ditty dum ditty do."
(*Clap*)
"Dino ditty, ditty dum ditty do."
(*Clap*)

Long, Long Ago

Long, long ago,
When the earth was new,
(*Make circle with arms*)
Dinosaurs walked,
(*Walk in place*)
and swam, and flew.
(*Swim in place, flap your arms*)
Allosaurus, Triceratops, Apatasaurus, too.
Iguanodon, Tyrannosaurus, to name a few.
Long, long ago,
When the earth was new,
(*Make circle with arms*)
Huge dinosaurs lived,
(*Reach arms above your head*)
And small ones too.
(*Put hands low to the ground*)

I'm A Mean Old Dinosaur

(*Tune: "I'm a Little Teapot"*)
I'm a mean old dinosaur,
(*Make a mean face*)
Big and tall.
(*Reach high and wide*)
Here is my tail
(*Point to an imaginary tail*)
And here is my claw.
(*Curl fingers on one hand*)
When I get all hungry,
(*Rub tummy*)
I just growl.
(*Growl*)
Look out kids –
(*Hands over eyes looking*)
I'm on the prowl!
(*Lunge left and right*)



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Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities.

- **Talking:** Tell stories or ask your kids about their day during mealtimes. Let playful discussion and improvisation occur.
- **Singing:** Encourage your child to sing, and sing along with him. Even if you sing off key, your own singing is the best way to use music as a teaching tool for him. For some children, singing as they read will be the activity that will make reading become a fun and enjoyable activity.
- **Reading:** You may get tired of reading the same story over and over again, but it can help your child become a reader. Rereading also gives her a chance to connect the words she sees on the page with the words she hears.
- **Writing:** Reading and writing, when taught in tandem, have a greater effect on your child's literacy. Have him start a journal, write down what he did that day, and read it to you.
- **Playing:** Bedtime stories still rock! A good old-fashioned pillow fight, before the lights go out, can create long-lasting memories for both you and your child.

family literacy tip

Foster Curiosity

According to one study, children whose parents encouraged them to ask questions were more likely to succeed in science. Curiosity also drives creativity. [...] Here's one simple trick to raising curious kids: pay attention to their questions. [...] In the information age, the answer to many "Why?" questions is in our pocket. When kids stump you—as mine regularly do me—it's easier than ever to say, "I don't know. Let's look it up!" But before going online or to the bookshelf, first ask your child, "What do you think?"

Kris, Deborah Farmer. "Let's Find Out!": Three Tips for Raising Curious Kids." PBS, *Public Broadcasting Service*, 29 Mar. 2016, www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2016/03/lets-find-three-tips-raising-curious-kids/. Accessed 4 Nov. 2018.



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