

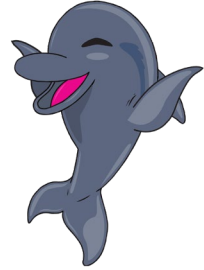
Learning Experiences

Cognitive Development

The development of problem solving and thinking skills, which help children to explore and understand the world around them.



Donny Dolphin



In the story of Donny the Dolphin, Donny tells the Imagineland kids that dolphins swim together as a group. A group of dolphins is called a 'pod'.

Research, as a class, what other groups of animals are called? Make a list of what you discover.

See if there are any funny ones!

Share the illustrations in the Donny the Dolphin story with the children.

Ask the children to count the number of dolphins they can see on the pages where Donny appears with his dolphin friends.

The Imagineland kids explain to Donny that they nod their heads as a way of acknowledging they understand what has been said to them.

Ask the class group if this is something they also do? What other non-verbal cues do they use? Perhaps a thumbs up!

For the rest of the day, record the number of times class members nod their heads or use a thumbs up or other types of non-verbal cue.

As a class investigate the types of environments that Dolphins live in.

Ask the following questions of the children. Do you think they like warm or cold water? Do they live in salt or fresh water?

Create a dolphin fact wall to share with families.

Learning Experiences

Language Development

The development of language and communication skills. Essential for interacting with and understanding others, including speech, body language, signs and symbols.



Donny Dolphin



In Donny the Dolphin's story there are many rhyming words. As you read the story to the children ask them to listen out for the rhyming words.

Make a list of the words they identify. Play or read the story again and ask the children to clap each time they hear a rhyming word.

Donny the Dolphin explains to the Imagineland kids that dolphins communicate in different ways.

Some of these ways are non-verbal. Eg. slapping their tails and flapping their fins, to say hello.

Ask the children, what non-verbal actions do they use to say hello?
Eg. Wave and smile.

Donny the Dolphin explains how he and the other dolphins communicate using different sounds. They whistle, trill, click and squeak.

Research, as a class, the different sounds dolphins make. As the children listen to these dolphin sounds, ask them to try and decipher what they think the dolphins may be trying to say to one another.

In the story of Donny the Dolphin there are words that sound the same, but are spelt differently. The words are 'see' and 'sea.'

As a class discuss the letters and sounds in these words. What other words have the same sounds? Eg. tree and tea.

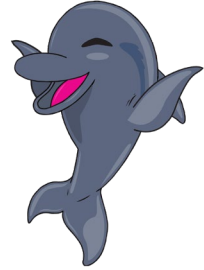
Learning Experiences

Physical Development

The development of fine and gross motor skills allow children to use and control their bodies to complete tasks and activities.



Donny Dolphin



In the story, Donny explains the different ways that dolphins move through the water.

As a class research and watch real dolphins in their natural habitat. If children have access to a pool and can swim competently, ask them to see if they can replicate some of the dolphin's movements.

They can discuss and share with their families.

In real life, dolphins have a special skill. They are able to stay under water for up to 15 minutes at a time. As humans, we can learn to control our breathing. It is a great skill to learn that helps calm the mind and body.

Practice breathing techniques, meditation, and yoga movements with the children.

Dolphins can travel up to 80 miles or 128 kilometres in one day. Explain the concept of this distance to the children/class.

Think of ways to measure the many kilometres children, families and teachers move in a day. This could be recorded and a challenge created around the distances family members/class mates travel in a day or week.

Dolphins are a unique shape with their tails and fins.

Use fine drawing and painting materials, ask the class to draw or paint a dolphin, with its tail and fins.

Learning Experiences

Social & Emotional Development

The development of social and emotional skills required to form; and sustain positive relationships and manage and express emotions. Children start to understand who they are, what they are feeling, and how to interact with others.



Donny Dolphin



Although Donny the Dolphin and the Imagineland kids look and communicate differently, they also are accepting of each other.

Discuss this concept with the children/class. In pairs, ask the children to complete a portrait of each other, recognizing their differences and similarities, eg. hair and eye colour, etc.

In the story, Donny and the Imagineland kids share a friendly smile and enjoy speaking with each other.

Ask the class, how would it make them feel if someone was not friendly to them? Would they feel confused, sad?

Donny the Dolphin and the Imagineland kids were happy to meet one another.

Ask the children to reflect on this and share their own experiences of a time when they made a new friend. How did they feel?

The Imagineland kids smile and say 'hello' to greet people.

As a class, learn in a different language another way to say 'hello.' Eg. 'Bonjour' is French for 'hello'.

Try saying 'hello' in a new language each week.