

ACTIVITIES

Ocean Sensory Bag (Babies/Toddlers)

Premake resealable plastic bags filled with blue hair gel, glitter or sequins, and foam fish/sea creatures. Double bag them and add tape for safety. During or after storytime, little ones explore different textures, shapes, and colors mess free!



Image source: Joelle Wake of Whiting Public Library, Whiting, IN

Glow-in-the-Dark Sensory Bins (Babies/Toddlers)

A few days before the program, make glow-in-the-dark rice by adding 2 ounces of glow paint and 2 tbsp of water to every cup of uncooked rice. Mix well inside a plastic bag, then spread the rice onto a baking sheet to dry. When dry, place in bins with plastic sea creatures. After storytime, turn off lights and let toddlers fish out ocean toys from the glowing rice. For babies, place the glow rice and smaller toys into sealed plastic bags or sensory bottles. Black lights are optional, but they increase the glow.

Shark Feeding (Babies/Toddlers/Preschool)

Cut a large, open-mouthed shark out of cardboard or poster board, and tape it to the floor. For babies, use masking tape to make a large circle of “shark teeth” on the floor. Toddlers/preschoolers can toss “food” into the shark’s mouth, while babies/toddlers can crawl/walk into the mouth.



Image source: Shutterstock

GAME/ACTIVITY

No Bones About It: Octopus Science Experiment (Toddlers)

Octopuses don't have bones! That's how they squeeze into tiny places. Draw an outline of an octopus on a resealable plastic bag and fill it with water. Cut a small hole in a paper bowl or cardboard box and demonstrate how the octopus squeezes through. Then tape popsicle sticks to the bag. If the octopus had "bones," could it still squeeze through the hole? Make this a science demonstration, or double bag (and tape) the octopus before letting toddlers play at squeezing it through the hole.

Pin the Legs on the Octopus (Toddlers/Preschool)

Place an octopus silhouette on a felt board and have children add felt octopus legs. For a larger version, tape an octopus silhouette to the wall and have children add legs cut out of construction paper (with tape on the back).

Paper Plate Fish (Toddlers/Preschool)

Children cut a triangle out of a paper plate and attach it to the opposite side as a tail fin (glue or staples). Decorate as desired.

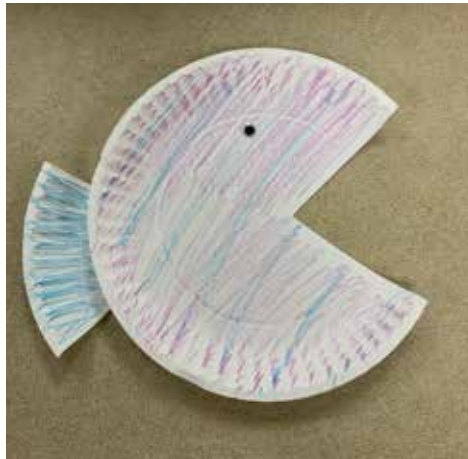


Image source: Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX

Sea Stars Craft (Toddlers/Preschool)

Children fill in sea star silhouettes with circle stamps or colored sticky dots. After decorating them, cut out the sea stars and glue onto colored paper (optional). Preschoolers may want to cut them out themselves. You can also bring in dried sea stars for fun sensory play.

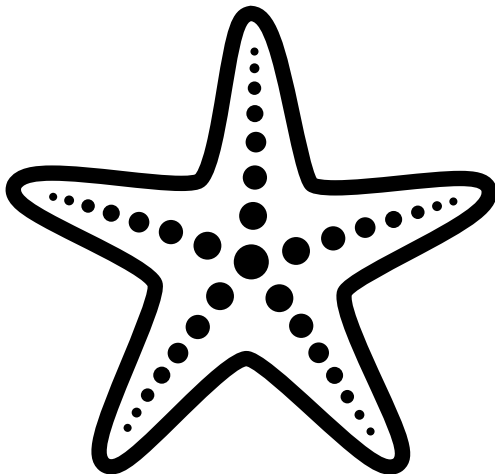


Image source: Shutterstock



Image source: Kara Reiman of Maine State Library, Augusta, ME

GAME/ACTIVITY

CD Fish Craft (Toddlers/Preschool)

Turn an old CD into a fish by adding adhesive rhinestone stickers and paper fins! Paper fins can be made out of a variety of simple shapes.



Image source: Aimee Steinbrueker of Mead Public Library, Sheboygan, WI

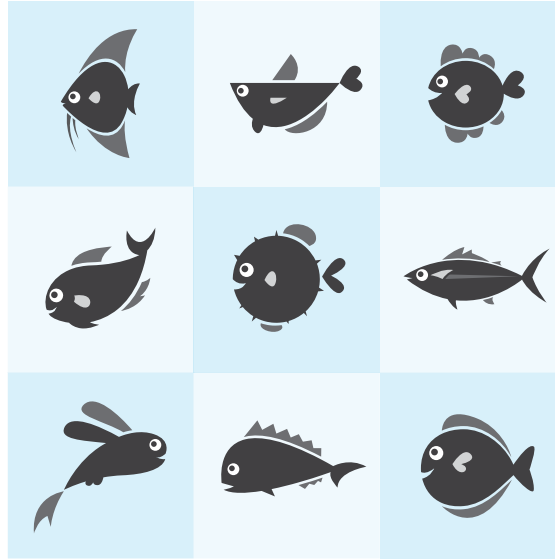


Image source: Shutterstock

Shark Fin Storytime Props (Toddlers/Preschool)

Glue shark fin silhouettes on the end of popsicle sticks. You can premake these for storytime props, then set out glitter glue for children to decorate their “waves” during play time. You could also 3D print shark shapes in white filament and let children glitter them.

Paper Plate Jellyfish/Octopus Craft (Toddlers/Preschool)

Cut paper plates in half and punch holes along the cut edges. Use a bigger circle punch for toddlers. Children string yarn or string through the holes to make their own jellyfish! Staff or caregivers can help with tying the string once threaded through the holes. Googly eyes optional. You can also make an octopus by using a whole paper plate and attaching exactly eight streamers.



Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

Seahorse Camouflage (Preschool)

After reading and looking at photos of how seahorses camouflage themselves, children take their seahorse anywhere in the room and color it to blend in with its background. See Printables for a seahorse silhouette.

Sea Creatures Worksheets (Preschool)

See Printables for preschool worksheets to practice counting, matching, and handwriting. Optionally, enlarge and laminate the matching practice cards for reuse.

Printables

Five Little Starfish

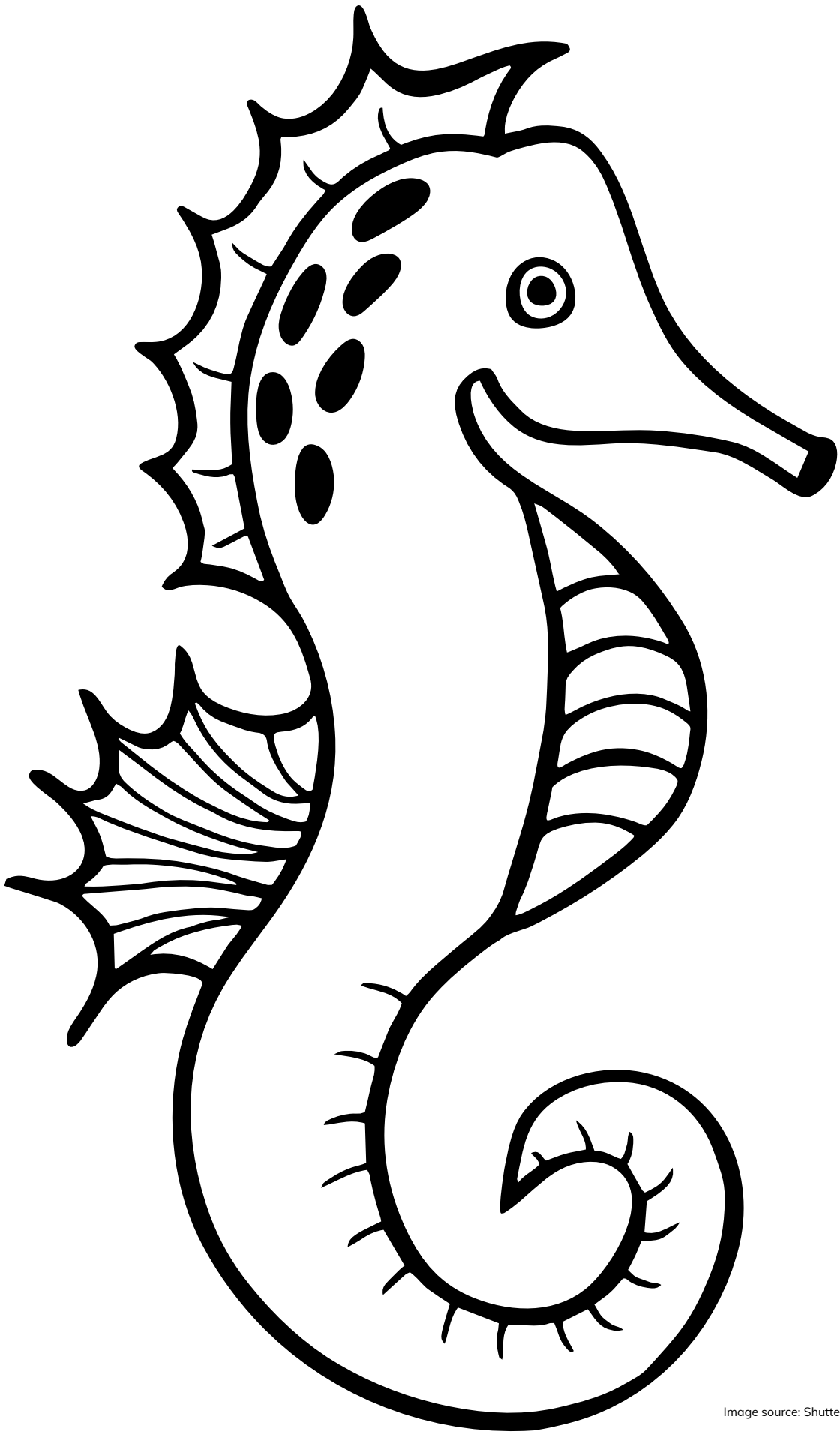
Seahorse Silhouette

Matching Practice

Handwriting Practice

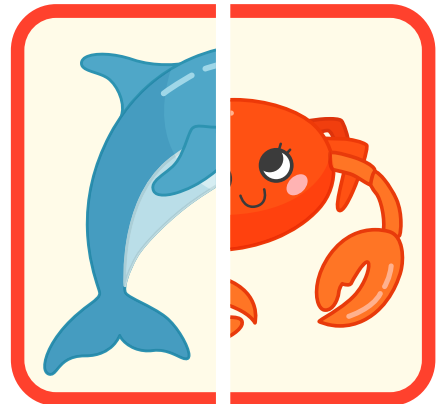
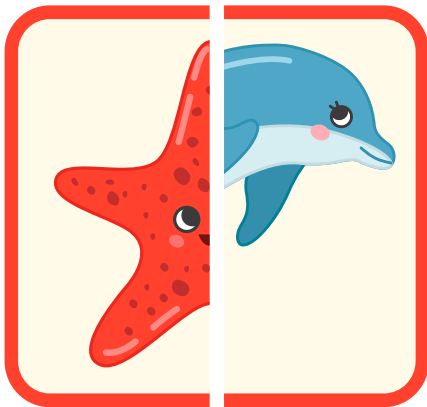
Counting Practice



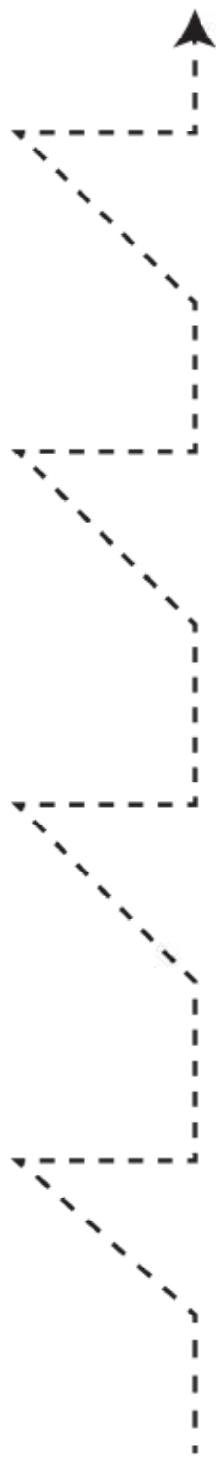


MATCH THE PICTURES

LEARNING
CARDS



HANDWRITING PRACTICE



How many?

