

# funnydaffer

# July



Theme

## Zany Zoo Animals

Letter

Zz  
Uu

Number

0

Shape



Color

AQUA



literacy...

### READING WORKSHOP CENTERS

1. Place out a three picture story and encourage the students to place them in order from beginning to end. Then encourage them to tell you all about the picture story.
2. Create letter finders (cut a hole inside a square, laminate and attach to a popsicle stick) Then, encourage the students to go around the room, frame letters with their finders and read each letter aloud.
3. Read a theme related book during circle time and then place out materials needed for them to make an illustration of their favorite part of the story.
4. Hide magnetic letters around the room and encourage the students to find all of them A-Z. As they find each letter encourage them to shout out its name and sound.

### WRITING WORKSHOP CENTERS

1. Write a variety of high frequency and/or sight words on pieces of sentence strips. Then encourage the students to trace the letters with their fingers and then write the word on their own piece of sentence strip.
2. Mud stories.... provide the students with a tray filled with mud. Encourage them to draw a picture in the mud using a pencil or stick. As they are working ask them to tell you a story about their picture. You can also encourage them to write words and letters.
3. Place out a variety of different zoo animal pictures and encourage the students to write and/or tell you a story about the picture.
4. Simply place out paper, blank books, crayons, markers, envelopes, stickers, stamps.... And encourage the students to write whatever they wish.

TIPS... You should be building a collection of Reading/Writing centers as each month passes! It is ok to repeat the centers over. This helps reinforce the skill and help the students master each one.

## active learning centers...

### art

Fill the art area with different materials for the students to make zoo animal puppets and masks. Place plastic zoo animals, paper and paint in the art area and encourage them to make different fun animal tracks!

### blocks

Encourage the students to build animal cages out of blocks! They can also build a giant zoo and use plastic animals to amaze the crowds.

### dramatic play

Place out different stuffed animals that represent animals found at the zoo. Encourage them to be zoo keepers, pretending that they are working with real animals. Model appropriate language and emphasize the care that must be given to animals.

### literacy

Place different animal masks and puppets along with theme related books inside the literacy center. Encourage the students to read the books using the fun animal puppets.

### sand & water

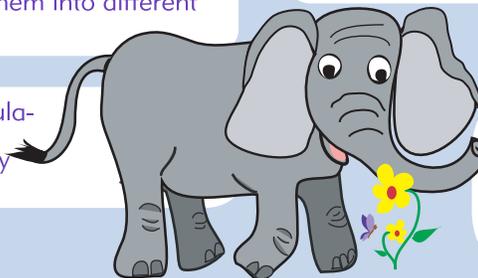
Create a wildlife lagoon by filling up the water table with sand, trees, leaves, and water. Place different plastic animals around the lagoon and encourage them to feed and bathe their animals.

### science

Place different zoo animals in the science center for the students to explore. Talk to them about the characteristics of each animal! Have them classify the animals by sorting them into different groups.

### table activities

Use different manipulatives found around the classroom to reinforce color recognition as well as counting aloud as high as they can go!



## teacher tips...

### TRANSITIONS

Transitional activities can be positive and exciting ways of moving children from one activity to another. They can make finishing one activity and moving on to another activity a learning experience and an adventure. Transitional songs, games, finger-plays and conversations can make the day flow more smoothly, occupying hands and minds while children wait to finish clean-up, or gather for a group activity or wait for lunch to be served. Transitioning from one activity to another is often a difficult time, however. These tips will help make transition time successful and FUN!

### EXAMINE YOUR SCHEDULE

- Determine the number of transitions in your schedule each day
- Determine how many minutes are spent in each transition (Begin timing at the end of one activity, and continue until a new activity begins.)
- By simple observation, determine which transition times are the most difficult for individual children; for the group; for staff
- Talk about why these transitions are more challenging than other transitions

### BEGIN TO MAKE CHANGES

- Consolidate activities so there are fewer transitions
- Try to reduce wait time
- Plan activities to do while waiting
- Write out lesson plans for difficult transition activities
- Plan ahead
- Anticipate wait times
- When children become bored with one transition activity, switch to another

## care tips...

### TRANSITIONING FROM HOME TO SCHOOL

#### CHILD IS ANXIOUS

because...

so...

Unclear expectations	Talk to the child constantly about what is happening and what is coming up next. Repetition is important.
Tired	Make sure you know the child's schedule and find out any changes from the parent.
Scared	Introduce the child to the other children. Use his/her name often and make sure they are busy.
Doesn't know anyone	Introduce the child to a playmate. Make sure that they have someone to comfort them always.
Developmental Stage	Accept that some separation anxiety is normal for little children. Pay close attention to how long the child is upset and alert a supervisor if it is excessive.
Language Barrier	Use simple words/signs to establish a base with which to communicate. Children pick up language quickly and hugs are understood in all languages.
Not feeling well	Determine if the child is just tired or if he/she is really sick and proceed accordingly.
Parent is anxious	Encourage the parent to make a quick drop-off and watch from the front desk monitors.

Take charge of the situation and calmly take the child from the parent. If a child tries to cling to a parent, try to walk away from the parent and get the child interested in something. Always inform the parent of what you are doing. Let the parent know that their anxiety plays into the situation. Have them give the child a kiss, smile and say goodbye...then LEAVE SMILING. If the child sees the parent is upset, then they will be more upset.

## instant lesson...

Below is a list of Instant Lessons that you can do at anytime through out the day. They are quick-and-easy activities that require NO preparation, use common classroom materials, and help you to make the most of EVERY moment of the day!! These activities will help you to eliminate down time and reduce classroom discipline by keeping your students continuously engaged. Be creative and have fun!

### Paint

- Cover the table with butcher paper, squeeze different colored paint onto the table, give each student a paintbrush and encourage them to make a group mural.
- Place out primary colors only and encourage them to see which colors they can make.
- Add texture to the paint!
- Paint with a variety of materials (blocks, combs, q-tips, cotton balls, plastic animals paw prints...)

### You!

The teacher is an amazing instant lesson tool. You can sing, dance, tell stories, and play simple games with the students. Take them on a tour of the school. Go outside and look for what you can find. HAVE FUN!!

### Magnetic Letters

- Put out a set of magnetic letters for the students to explore. You can have them identify different letters and sounds. They can sort them by color and by whether they are upper or lowercase.
- You can place out magnets and encourage them to explore the magnetic force between the rod and the letters.
- Place a small magnet on the end of a fishing pole and encourage them to go fishing for letters.
- If you have multiple sets of letters you can have them find matches.

### Cones

- Go outside and place the cones around the play ground. Encourage the students to weave in and out of the cones.
- Hide a secret treasure under one of the cones. Give the students clues to help them find the cone hiding the treasure.
- Place the cones opposite of each other, divide the class into teams and encourage the students to have a relay race.

### Cups & Spoons

- Use water cotton balls and make rain clouds
- Use jell-o and eyedroppers to make gumdrops
- Make their own play dough, own cup of shaving cream and mix with colors
- Add items to make an animal face
- Plant seeds, use to make own project of fake snow, sand art, or simply play with water and have them transfer water from one cup to the other.