

**DINOSAUR  
TRAIN**

WITFK 24/7  
M-F 10:30am

WITF TV  
M-F 12pm



*Dinosaur Train* will inspire your early learner to think like a scientist, learn about dinosaurs and explore the world around them.

**This week, explore the properties of light, darkness, and shadows with these *Dinosaur Train*-inspired activities!**

**ACTIVITY: MONDAY, JANUARY 3 - SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

**Managing  
fear of the  
dark**

Many things can be scary for young children whether real or imaginary. Is your child afraid of the dark? Talk about how sometimes things look different when the lights are off, but things are the same in the light and in the dark. Turn on different lights—for example, an overhead light, a bedside lamp and a nightlight—one at a time. Talk about how the room looks when the different lights are on or off. Try playing games safely in the dark such as a scavenger hunt or pretend to be nocturnal animals or dinosaurs and explore the dark together.

PA STANDARD: 16.1.PK.A – DISTINGUISH BETWEEN EMOTIONS AND IDENTIFY SOCIALLY ACCEPTED WAYS TO EXPRESS THEM. 16.1. PK.B – RECOGNIZE THAT EVERYONE HAS PERSONAL TRAITS WHICH GUIDE BEHAVIOR AND CHOICES.

**ACTIVITY: TUESDAY, JANUARY 4 - MATH THINKING**

**Shadow  
math**

Try a simple measuring game with shadows. First, look for shadows or make shadows using a flashlight and placing objects (toys, plastic dinosaurs, etc.) in front of the light. You can show that shadows happen when something blocks light from going straight. Try comparing the size and length of two shadows. Which one is bigger? Longer? Which one is smaller? Shorter? You can use nonstandard measurement tools (i.e. pencil, book, or your child’s foot) to measure and compare the shadows.

PA STANDARD: 2.4.PK.A.1 – DESCRIBE AND COMPARE MEASURABLE ATTRIBUTES OF LENGTH AND WEIGHTS OF EVERYDAY OBJECTS.  
3.3. PK.B.3 - PARTICIPATE IN SIMPLE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE OBJECTS FOUND IN THE DAY OR NIGHT SKY TO ANSWER A QUESTION OR TO TEST A PREDICTION.

**ACTIVITY: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5 - EARLY LITERACY**

**Letter hunt  
in the dark**

Use alphabet letter cards or cut out 26 simple nocturnal animals (i.e. bats, cats, owls) or dinosaur shapes and print a letter of the alphabet on each. Hide the letters around the room. Shut off most of the lights or play using a flashlight. Encourage your child to pretend they are outside at night searching for the “animal” letters. Every time your child finds a letter, ask them to name the letter. Once all the letters are found, try putting them in order. Are any missing? Try to spell together names of nocturnal animals or even the word “dinosaur” using the letters.

PA STANDARD: 1.1.PK.B – IDENTIFY BASIC FEATURES OF PRINT. 1.1.PK.D – DEVELOP BEGINNING PHONICS AND WORD SKILLS. 1.1.PK.C – DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING OF SPOKEN WORDS, SYLLABLES, AND SOUNDS (PHONEMES).

**ACTIVITY: THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 - SCIENCE THINKING**

**Daytime/  
Nighttime**

Talk with your child about daytime and nighttime and how it is light during the day and dark at night. Why is it light during the day? Why is it dark at night? What happens to the sun during the day? Night? You can explain that the sun is a natural source of light. Can they think of other sources of light? How do lights help us? You can talk about how humans and other creatures are awake during the day and sleep at night while other creatures are awake at night and sleep during the day. They are called nocturnal animals. Can they think of any animals or dinosaurs that are awake at night?

PA STANDARD: 3.3.PK.B.1 – IDENTIFY OBJECTS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN THE DAY OR NIGHT SKY. 3.3. PK.B.3 - PARTICIPATE IN SIMPLE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE OBJECTS FOUND IN THE DAY OR NIGHT SKY TO ANSWER A QUESTION OR TO TEST A PREDICTION. 3.1.PK.A.1 – RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING AND NON-LIVING THINGS. 3.1. PK.A.3 – RECOGNIZE THAT PLANTS AND ANIMALS GROW AND CHANGE.

**ACTIVITY: FRIDAY, JANUARY 7 - THE ARTS**

**Shadow  
puppets**

Try making simple shadow puppets with your hands and fingers or try making dinosaur hand shadows. You can also make simple shadow puppets with paper and craft sticks. Put your hands or craft puppets in front of a flashlight (in a dark room) and check out the shadows you create from the puppets. Try acting out a story or put on a shadow puppet play together.

PA STANDARD: AL.3.PK.C - USE MATERIALS AND OBJECTS TO REPRESENT NEW CONCEPTS. 9.1.D.PK.B – RECREATE A DRAMATIC PLAY EXPERIENCE FOR AN AUDIENCE.  
9.1.D.PK.E – USE IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY TO EXPRESS SELF THROUGH DRAMATIC PLAY.