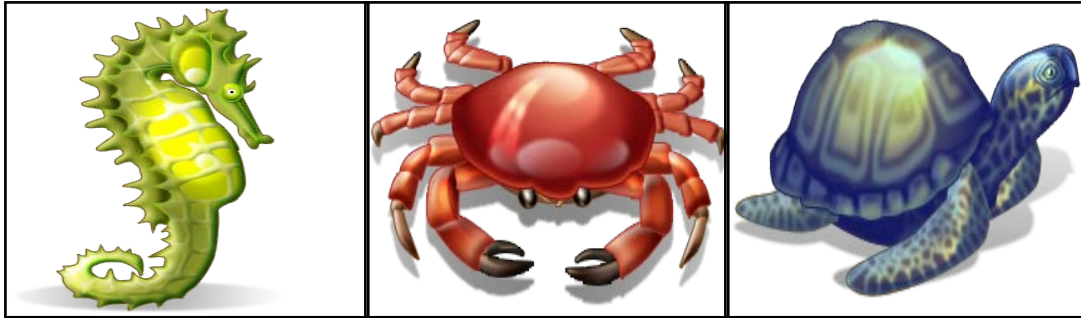


Sea Creatures



Suggested Group Size

Small Group

Objective

The children will use a non-standard reference (e.g., goldfish crackers) to measure the length of objects, with teacher support and multiple experiences over time.

Activity

Children will use goldfish crackers (e.g., a non-standard reference) to measure sea creatures.

Targeted Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds

- **V. Cognitive Knowledge and General Knowledge**
 - **A. Mathematical Thinking**
 - **A.f. Measurement**
 - **A.f.2.** Compares continuous quantities using length, weight, and height
 - **A.f.2.a.** Child measures or compares the length of one or more objects using a non-standard reference (e.g., paper clips), with teacher support and multiple experiences over time.

Materials

- Goldfish crackers (20 for each child)
- Small paper cups (snack size)
- Objects (e.g., small toys/paper cut outs of sea creatures)
- Optional Books:
 - *Ocean Life From A to Z Book and DVD* by Cynthia Stierle
 - *Simon & Schuster Children's Guide to Sea Creatures* by Jinny Johnson
 - *Sea Creatures (Look Closer)* by DK Publishing
 - *Wish for a Fish: All About Sea Creatures* by Bonnie Worth

Procedures

Before You Begin the Lesson

1. Use the *Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds* to review the Targeted and Related Standards for Four-Year-Olds included in this lesson.
2. Review the following vocabulary terms or concepts:
 - **Non-standard reference** – a *non-standard reference* (unit) may be a paper clip, hand, foot, pencil, goldfish cracker, crayon, block, etc. As long as the items used to measure with are all the same size (e.g. paper clips, hands, feet, pencils, goldfish crackers, crayons, blocks) they are suitable to use.
 - **Standard reference** – a *standard reference* (unit) for measuring length is an inch, foot, yard, centimeter, or meter, and is measured using rulers and other measuring devices.
3. Select a variety of objects (e.g., sea creatures) for the children to measure.
4. Measure each of the objects that you have selected with the goldfish crackers. If any of the objects are longer than 20 goldfish crackers, you will need to provide each child with more goldfish crackers or choose objects that shorter than 20 goldfish crackers.
5. Count out 20 goldfish crackers for each child and place them in a paper cup.
6. Choose a book about sea creatures to share with the children. See the optional books listed under **Materials** for ideas.

Sea Creatures (Small Group)

1. Read one of your favorite books about sea creatures or choose one of the optional books listed under **Materials**.
2. Place the objects (e.g., sea creatures) you have selected on the table in front of the children. Explain to the children that sea creatures come in many sizes and they will each have a chance to measure one of the sea creatures using goldfish crackers.
3. Choose a sea creature and show the children how to measure it by lining up the goldfish crackers (e.g., a non-standard unit of measure) side-by-side next to it. After you have measured the sea creature, count the goldfish and describe how long it is (e.g., “The whale is 11 goldfish long.”).
4. Give each child a cup with 20 goldfish crackers.
5. Allow each child to choose a sea creature and measure it with the goldfish crackers. After the children have measured their sea creature ask them to count the goldfish and describe how long their sea creature is (e.g., “My jellyfish is 20 goldfish long.”). Assist the children with measuring, counting the goldfish, and describing the length of their creatures, as needed.
6. Repeat step five until all of the children have had an opportunity to measure at least two different sea creatures.
7. Allow the children to eat their goldfish crackers.

Adaptations

- Use verbal, visual, and physical cues to help children know what to do.
- As each child begins his/her turn, the other children can sing the following song to the tune of *Mary Had A Little Lamb*.

(Child's name) had a little goldfish, little goldfish, little goldfish,
(Child's name) had a little goldfish,
That (he/she) could use to measure.
Everywhere that goldfish swam, goldfish swam, goldfish swam,
Everywhere that goldfish swam,
(Child's name) was sure to measure.

Extensions

- Add related materials to classroom centers:
 - **Literacy:** Include a variety of sea creature puppets and related books.
 - **Science:** Add non-fiction books about sea creatures, magnifying glasses, objects to measure (e.g., plastic toys/paper cut outs of sea creatures) and a non-standard reference (e.g., linking chains or large paper clips). Encourage children to explore the objects and measure the sea creatures using the non-standard reference.

Checking for Understanding

Children will demonstrate their understanding of the lesson by:

- using a non-standard reference (e.g., goldfish crackers) to measure sea creatures.

Related VPK Education Standards

- **II. Approaches to Learning**
 - **A. Eagerness and Curiosity**
 - **A.1.** Shows curiosity and is eager to learn new things and have new experiences
- **I. Physical Development**
 - **D. Fine Motor Development**
 - **D.1.** Demonstrates increasing control of small motor muscles to perform simple tasks
 - **D.2.** Uses eye-hand coordination to perform fine motor tasks