



## DINOSAUR DIG



The following activities are linked to the Early Start Discovery Space '**Dinosaur Dig**' excursion program.

The activities within this guide are designed to further engage children in learning through play and enhance the knowledge and skills developed during their Early Start Discovery Space visit.

### Excursion Support Materials

# PRESCHOOL EXCURSIONS



## Contact Us

Our Education Coordinators are available from 9.00am - 4.00pm, Monday - Friday via email [discovery-ed@uow.edu.au](mailto:discovery-ed@uow.edu.au) or telephone 02 4221 3777 to discuss your requirements.

## OUR LOCATION

University of Wollongong, Main Campus  
Ground Floor, Building 21  
Northfields Ave, Wollongong, NSW, 2522

## Our own dinosaur dig

EYLF LINKS	MATERIALS
<p><b>OUTCOME 1:</b> Children have a strong sense of identity</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 2:</b> Children are connected to and contribute to their world</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 4:</b> Children are confident and involved learners</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 5:</b> Children are effective communicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinosaur figures</li> <li>• Sandpit</li> <li>• Digging equipment i.e. brushes, trowels</li> <li>• Magnifying glasses</li> <li>• Paper</li> <li>• Pencils</li> <li>• Images from the excursion</li> </ul>
RISKS ASSOCIATED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand in eyes</li> </ul>	

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remind children of their visit to the Early Start Discovery Space where they participated in a dinosaur dig by using photos taken from the excursion and asking open ended questions.
2. Explain how children will be participating in their own dinosaur dig at school. Children will be digging up dinosaur figures.
3. Provide children with digging equipment. Ask children what they think the rules should be for this activity i.e. no flicking sand in eyes.
4. Provide children and educators with time to dig up dinosaur figures together. Encourage children to talk about their dinosaur findings and/or draw their dinosaurs. The following questions can be used as prompts to help describe the dinosaurs:
  - What dinosaurs have you found?
  - What is special about your dinosaur?
5. Children can share their findings with the group.

### EXTENSION

Use the dinosaur figures discovered in the sandpit to discuss fossils. A fossil is something that is left behind when an animal dies. Sometimes the hard part of the animal such as the bones and teeth might not break down. These hard parts are either left behind or their print is left behind in the ground. Provide children with clay or plasticine and encourage them to make their own dinosaur imprints. Press the dinosaur figures into the clay and see what imprints are left behind. Dinosaur imprints can then be buried in the sandpit and children can match the imprint to the dinosaur figure.

## Dinosaur making

EYLF LINKS	MATERIALS
<p><b>OUTCOME 2:</b> Children are connected to and contribute to their world</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 4:</b> Children are confident and involved learners</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 5:</b> Children are effective communicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinosaur images /figures</li> <li>• Clay/plasticine</li> <li>• Story, examples 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp' by Margaret Mayo, 'Dinosaur Roar' by Paul Stickland &amp; Henrietta Stickland or 'If you happen to have a dinosaur' by Linda Bailey &amp; Colin Jack</li> <li>• Images from the excursion</li> </ul>
RISKS ASSOCIATED	
N/A	

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remind children of their visit to the Early Start Discovery Space where they participated in a dinosaur dig by using photos taken from the excursion and asking open ended questions.
2. Read a story about dinosaurs.
3. Explain children will be making their own dinosaurs.
4. Present children with images and/or dinosaur figures. Allow children time to explore the dinosaur images/figures. Prompt children with questions such as what is interesting about this dinosaur? Does it remind you of an animal that is alive today?
5. Provide children with clay or plasticine. Educators and children work alongside each other to create dinosaurs. Note children can use the images/figures to assist them or create their own dinosaur using their imagination.
6. Children can share their dinosaurs with the group. Encourage children to share why they created their dinosaurs the way they did i.e. why does your dinosaur have large spikes on its back?

## EXTENSION

Ask children to create a home for their dinosaurs. Prompt children to think about the features of their dinosaurs and where they could live. Children can construct their dinosaur homes using recycled materials i.e. boxes, cardboard and natural material (leaves and sticks etc). Dinosaur homes can be used to form the basis of an imaginative play area in the room or the playground.

## Dinosaur nests

EYLF LINKS	MATERIALS
<p><b>OUTCOME 2:</b> Children are connected to and contribute to their world</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 4:</b> Children are confident and involved learners</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 5:</b> Children are effective communicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Images of dinosaur nests</li> <li>• Natural resources               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dirt/mud</li> <li>• Sticks</li> <li>• Leaves</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grass</li> <li>• Rocks (to act as dinosaur eggs)</li> <li>• Images from the excursion</li> </ul>
RISKS ASSOCIATED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slipping on mud</li> <li>• Allergies to natural resources</li> </ul>	

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remind children of their visit to the Early Start Discovery Space where they participated in a dinosaur dig and discovered that dinosaurs laid eggs by using photos taken from the excursion and asking open ended questions.
2. Explain children and educators will make dinosaur nests. Discuss with children the purpose of a dinosaur nest. Images of dinosaur nests and the following questions can be used as prompts:
  - Why did dinosaurs build nests?
  - If you were a dinosaur what materials would you use to build a nest?
3. Provide children with time to gather natural resources from the playground to build their dinosaur nests. Pre-gathered resources may also be used i.e. larger sticks, mud, grass clippings etc.
4. Encourage children to build nests with materials. While building nests ask children to explain why they used certain materials and not others i.e. did some materials work better than others? Did any materials act as glue?
5. Place dinosaur nests in the playground for children to play with or add/build further.

## EXTENSION

Children can roleplay the actions of a baby dinosaur hatching from its egg. The following pretend play prompts can be used:

- How would you hatch from your egg?
- How would you move if you're learning to walk for the first time?
- How would you act if you saw water for the first time?

## I am a dinosaur

EYLF LINKS	MATERIALS
<p><b>OUTCOME 1:</b> Children have a strong sense of identity</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 4:</b> Children are confident and involved learners</p> <p><b>OUTCOME 5:</b> Children are effective communicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound clips of dinosaurs noises i.e.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleeping dinosaurs</li> <li>• Roaring dinosaurs</li> <li>• Eating dinosaur</li> <li>• Swimming dinosaur</li> <li>• Flying dinosaur</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Images from the excursion</li> </ul>
RISKS ASSOCIATED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slip, trip or fall while moving/acting like dinosaurs</li> </ul>	

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Remind children of their visit to the Early Start Discovery Space where they moved like dinosaurs by using photos taken from the excursion and asking open ended questions.
2. Explain that children and educators will become dinosaurs by listening to dinosaur sounds and moving to these sounds.
3. Engage children in the activity:
  - a. Play dinosaur sound clip
  - b. Ask children what the sound could be i.e. dinosaur eating.  
Share children's different responses with group.
  - c. Encourage children to make the dinosaur sound and perform a dinosaur movement
  - d. Repeat steps a-c with other dinosaur sounds
4. Conclude by asking children to share their favourite dinosaur sounds and movements.

## EXTENSION

Provide children with a range of musical instruments and materials from around the room that make sounds. Ask children to see which instrument/material makes the same or similar sounds as the sound clips.