

Fine-Motor Center Eggs Aplenty!

Developing fine-motor skills

The results of this fine-motor practice make an “egg-stra” special addition to a pond display! Provide randomly cut pieces of bubble wrap and two or three black fine-tip permanent markers at a table. Little ones transform the bubble wrap pieces into frog eggs by carefully drawing a black dot in the center of each bubble! Plan to display the eggs at a pond display like the one shown on page 35.

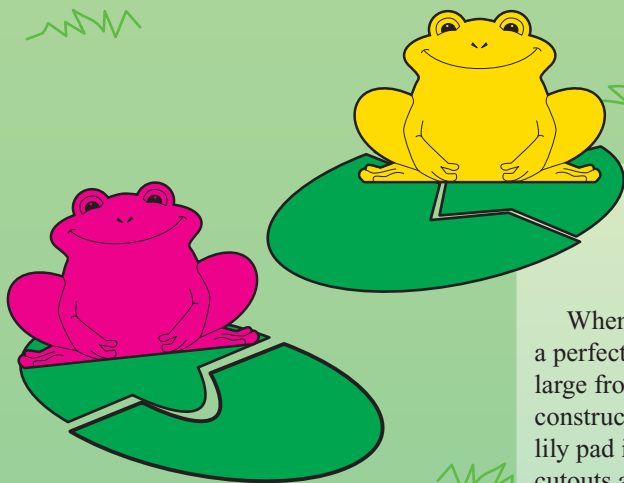
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Puzzle Center Lily Pad Puzzlers

Developing spatial awareness

When each of these lily pad puzzles is put together, a lucky little frog has a perfect place to perch! Make five colorful construction paper copies of the large frog pattern on page 7 and draw an equal number of lily pads on green construction paper. Laminate the patterns and cut them out. Then cut each lily pad into two pieces, using a different puzzle cut each time. Place the cutouts at a center. A youngster completes each lily pad puzzle and tops it off with a frog cutout. Ribbit!



Literacy Center Frogs and Logs

Identifying rhymes

What better way to practice rhyme identification than by setting frogs on logs? Make eight green construction paper copies of the large frog pattern on page 7 and one copy of the rhyming cards on page 8. Color the cards, cut them out, and then sort them into four sets of three rhyming cards each. Glue one card from each set onto a 3" x 12" strip of brown construction paper. Glue each remaining card onto a different frog. Laminate the pieces for durability, cut out each frog, and trim each brown paper strip into a log shape. A youngster chooses a frog and names its picture. Then he sets the frog on the log that has a rhyming picture. He continues until each frog is sitting on a log.



Singing Sounds

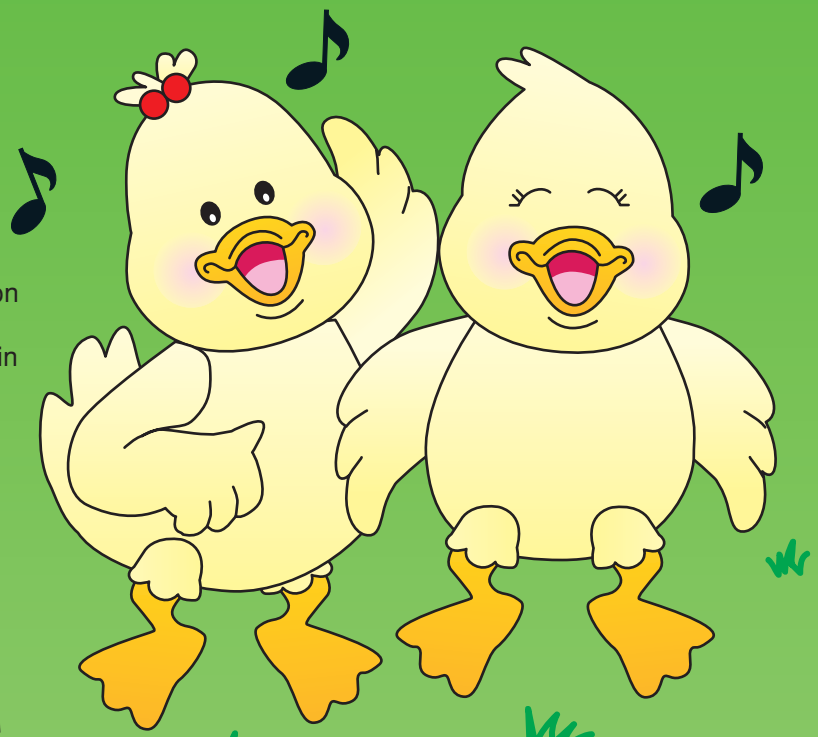
Identifying sounds

Put the knowledge of the sound of the letter *d* to music with this quick and catchy tune. Write the verse on sentence strips and place them in a pocket chart. Have index cards on hand to create word cards to substitute in the last line of the song. Ready, set, sing!

(sung to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

The first sound of *duck* is /d/, /d/, /d/,
/d/, /d/, /d/,
/d/, /d/, /d/.

The first sound of *duck* is /d/, /d/, /d/
Just like [*doctor*].

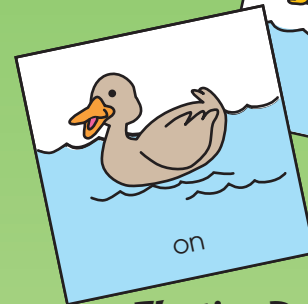
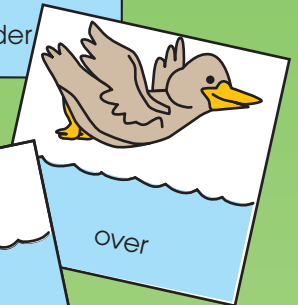
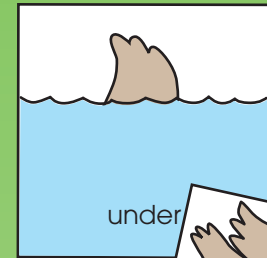


Under, Over, and On

Understanding positional words

Use a duck's ability to dive under the water, paddle on the water, and fly over the water to practice positional words with youngsters. In advance, purchase or borrow a toy duck. Make a copy of the position cards on page 15, color them, and then cut them out. Put the pictures in a bag.

Have a child draw a picture card from the bag and tell the group the positional word on it. Then give her the duck and have her use it to demonstrate the position shown on her card. For example, if she chooses the card showing the word *under*, she may position the duck under a table, under a chair, or under a book. Continue in this manner until each child has had a turn. Then place the materials in the math center so students can do the activity again on their own.



Floating Ducks

Sorting

These fine-feathered friends provide fine-motor fun in addition to lots of sorting opportunities. To prepare, cut a supply of duck shapes in three different sizes from three colors of craft foam. Use a permanent marker to program each duck with one of these shapes: triangle, square, or circle. Cut out three lily pads from craft foam to use as sorting mats. Float the ducks in your water table. When a child visits the center, give him a pair of tongs. Instruct him to use the tongs to pick up the ducks and sort them onto the lily pad mats. Challenge students to sort the ducks by color, size, or shape attributes. It's a feathered frenzy!

